George Singleton Longbottom





Rank: - Private

Number: - 20287

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 8th July 1916 aged 19 years

Cemetery: - London Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, Somme, France 3.E.20

Family Details

George Singleton was born in Batley in 1896 the son of Edward and Martha Longbottom nee Singleton. They had married at St. Paul's Hanging Heaton on 27th March 1886.

Charlie was born in 1886 followed by Elizabeth Ann 1888, Clara 1890-1904, Arthur 1892, George, Benjamin 1899 and Alice Jane 1902.

In 1891 the family lived in Soothill Lane and Edward gave his employment as a miner but they had moved to live at Quarry Street, Soothill within the next decade.

George attended Mill Lane Council School where he was a popular member of the cricket and football teams. After leaving school he worked in the spinning department of Messrs. Wrigley and Parker's, Valley Mills but continued his interest in sports. He was a very popular young wrestler and boxer, entering many local competitions. He was also well known in the junior football world. George was also associated with Soothill Congregational Church and Sunday School.

Service Details

George enlisted in May 1915 soon after war broke out and disembarked in France on 14th October 1915. The 6th Battalion was in 28th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division but on the 6th May 1916, they transferred to 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division.

In November 1915 he was wounded quite badly and sent a letter to his parents full of cheerfulness and courage. He wrote: -

"I was wounded early after dinner on Sunday but I am going on quite well under the circumstances, although I cannot walk. I was sent straight away to hospital. The same day as I was wounded, we were about to be relieved for an eight days rest. Shells and bombs were flying over like peas but we did not take any notice. I was eating jam and bread when I was thrown straight on to my face. I thought the world had come to an end. There was rain incessantly for three days and three nights last week."

He came home on leave and married Hilda Hardy at St. Andrew's, Purlwell on the 17th February 1916. George was born on the 31st May 1916. His father never saw him.

George returned to the Front in March 1916 and saw action on the Somme.

A friend who was at the Front wrote home to say that George had been killed but official news did not arrive until a week later.

George was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Batley War Memorial, Soothill Working men's Club, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's).



Researched by members of
Batley History Group