William Watson Longbottom





Rank: - Private

Number: - 201899

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 9th October 1917 aged 24 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108 to 111.

Batley News, 3 Nov 1917 (photo)

Family Details

William Watson was baptised at St. Philip's Church Leeds on 22nd October 1893 the son of Ada Longbottom when they were living at West Street, Leeds.

As a boy he was under the care of childless couple, Mr. & Mrs. Brown of Carlinghow Old Hall.

He was a farm labourer for Mr. & Mrs. Brown at Carlinghow Old Hall Farm in 1911. He was in charge of an important milk round in the Batley and Dewsbury area and was very well known.

William married Hilda Oldroyd at St. John's Church, Carlinghow on 27th July 1914. Alice was born in 1914 and William in December 1916. After his marriage he went to live at 3, Cross Street, Batley Carr.

His mother Ada Longbottom lived at 40, Grove Street, Leeds.

Service Details

William enlisted in February 1915 and went to France in February 1916.

In 1916he would have fought at the Battles of the Somme1916: -

The Battle of Albert (1-13 July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17 July)
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23 July – 2 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)

In 1917 they fought at: -

Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush)
The Battle of Poelcapelle (9 October) which was a phase of the Third Battles of the Ypres.

He had his last leave in September reaching Batley on Feast Saturday. On returning to France he had some difficulty finding his unit and had only reached them a week before he was killed. When he was fighting on the Somme, he was gassed on July 22nd

The first disturbing news about William was received by Mrs. Brown from a relative at the Front he said William had been reported missing. He was killed

on the same day as Major Moorhouse in whose Territorial unit he and many other local lads served.

William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group