Frank Loughead





Rank: - Private

Number: - 204340

Regiment: - Norfolk Regiment 7th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 26/09/1918 Age: 19 years

Cemetery: - St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France R.11.N.11

"REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 28 Sep 1918, 5 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Frank was born in Batley in early 1899 the son of William Herbert and Clara Loughhead (nee Bailey). His Dewsbury born father was a shopkeeper and butcher, working on his own account in 1901, when the census was taken, and living at 16, Bradford Road, Batley. He was baptised at St. Saviour's Church Brownhill on the 24th April 1901 on the same day as his brother, Arthur, born 1901. They gave their address as 16, Brookroyd Lane, Batley. Willie was born in 1903.

William Herbert died in February 1912 at the General Infirmary, Leeds.

Frank worked for Messrs. Hall, Tankard and Co. before enlisting and had attended Brownhill St. Saviour's Church.

Service Details

Frank enlisted about March 1917 and went to France in August 1918.

After a brief rest, the Division attacked again on 22 August, pushing right across the wilderness of the old Somme battlefield, capturing Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, Hardecourt and Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week's continuous fighting. The Division had made an advance of another 15000 yards. It was relieved on 30 August by 47th (London) Division and moved back to the Carnoy-Briqueterie area.

On 4-5 September 1918 the Division relieved 18th (Eastern) Division east of the Canal du Nord and just south of Manancourt, for an attack on Nurlu. Formidable wire defences and German counter attacks were overcome, Nurlu was taken. The German army retreated in haste for several miles, pursued by the Division which reached the line Sorel Wood – Lieramont cemetery. The advance was continued early on 8 September, capturing Guyencourt although in spite of heavy casualties. The movement halted 1,000 yards west of Epehy and Pezieres, where the Division was relieved. It was now some 17 miles ahead of where the offensive had opened on 8 August. More than 1,000 prisoners had been taken, as well as 17 artillery pieces and dozens of smaller weapons.

The battles of the Hindenburg Line: -

The Battle of Epehy

After a rest in the area of Manancourt, the Division was ordered to renew the attack on Epehy. This took place on 18 September. Enemy strongholds at Malassise Farm and Fishers Keep held on stubbornly and caused heavy casualties but gradually resistance was overcome. Over the next few days further attacks were made against heavily defended posts and trenches; fighting was intense and progress slow.

Frank was wounded and taken to a hospital at Rouen where his mother received a message from a nurse to say he was seriously wounded. He died from these wounds on the 26th September.

Frank was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Brownhill St Saviour's Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group