Ernest Mason





Rank: - Private

Number: - 202383

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/4th Battalion

Died of Wounds, sustained 22 March 1918:-1st April 1918 aged 33 years

Cemetery: - Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 1, Somme, France V.A.37

"SOME TIME, SOME DAY OUR EYES SHALL SEE THAT DEAR FACE KEPT IN MEMORY "

Batley News, 11 May 1918. Dewsbury Reporter, 11 May 1918 (phot

Family Details

Ernest was born in Batley on the 23rd May 1884 the son of Henry and Eliza Mason (nee Hirst, m. 24 Jul 1874, Batley, All Saints).

He was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on the 15th December 1886 on the same day as his siblings, Ethel 7th July 1884 and Percy 22nd November 1886 when the family lived at Shoulder of Mutton Hill, Batley Carr.

In 1891 he was living with his family which included his parents and siblings Emma Jane 1876, James Joseph 1878, Henry 1881 at 5, Carr Top Batley Carr and his father Henry was employed as a stationary engine driver. In 1901 Ernest was employed as an assistant draper.

By 1911 only three of the six children were still at home living at 5, Upper Road, Batley Carr. Henry had become a newsagent (shopkeeper) and Ernest was a general draper (shop keeper).

Ernest had attended Purlwell Council School and was a member of Talbot Street United Methodist Church at Talbot Street. He had at one time been in business at Frost Hill, Liversedge as a draper.

His father died on the 2nd March 1915 and his mother continued to live at Upper Road, Batley Carr.

On the 11th March 1916 Ernest married Edith Alice Bamford at Talbot Street U.M. Church and Geoffrey was born on 11th October 1917. Ernest never got home leave once he had gone to France and never saw his son.

She returned to live with her parents after he enlisted at Forest House, Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees.

Service Details

Ernest enlisted at Heckmondwike in March 1916 two weeks after his marriage.

In January 1916 his Battalion was at Larkhill and June 1916 moved to Flixton Park near Bungay, moving again in October 1916 to Wellingborough. They landed at Le Havre on 15 January 1917.

In 1917 they took part in

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)
The Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November)

In 1918

The Battle of Bapaume (25 March)

The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March)

which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

On the 22nd March Ernest was injured so would have missed the last two battles. He was taken to a French hospital where he died from his wounds on the 1st April 1918.

Sadly, he never saw his son because he had not been home on leave.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group