Edward Milner



Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 16247

Regiment: - Kings' Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 1/7/1916

Memorial: - Thiepval, Somme, France

Family Details

Edward was born in c 1880 in Gateforth near Selby the son of Robert and Myra Milner nee Heptonstall who had married in 1874. In 1881 he was living at Gateforth with his parents and elder siblings Elizabeth born 1876 and William 1879 where his father was an agricultural labourer. Before 1891 the family had moved to live at 10, Bond Street, Hunslet and Robert was working as a cart man. Tom, born 1872, who was registered as the son of Myra, was also with them. In 1901 Edward was a Sergeant in the K.O.Y.L.I. stationed at Walmgate, York when the census was taken.

In the latter part of 1907, he married Emma Valentine in Barnsley District. Myra was born in 1908 followed by Ellen 1910-1912, Emma 1914. Rachel Annie Valentine was born in January 1906.

In 1911 the family were boarders at the home of Ben Bolton at 5, Daw Green Avenue, Crigglestone and Edward was working as a coal miner hewer.

At some stage after 1914 the family moved to Batley. Walker Milner Parkinson was born in 1919 and Clifford Milner in 1925. However, Emma did not marry again and died in Batley in 1964.

Service Details

Edward having been in the army may have been called up at the outbreak of war but his records have not survived to confirm this.

The 10th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was formed at Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. They moved to Berkhamsted and then to Halton Park (Tring) in October 1914, going on to billets in Maidenhead in November, returned to Halton Park in April 1915 and went on to Witley in August. In September 1915 they landed in France.

Advanced parties embarked for France began on 2 September and the main body began to cross the Channel five days later. Units moved to assemble near Tilques, completing concentration on 13 September. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days,

lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26 September, whereupon it suffered over 3,800 casualties for very little gain.

The Division served on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, taking part in many of the significant actions:

In 1915

The Battle of Loos

In 1916

The Battle of Albert (1st-13th July). Edward was missing on the first day of this battle which saw huge losses and was one of the worst days in British war fare.

His brother, William, was a Company Sergeant Major with the 10th K.O.Y.L.I. and died on the same day. Family stories suggest that in total four relatives died in the same skirmish but to date we have not been able to confirm this.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group