James Mitchell





Rank: - Private

Number: - 52703

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

Died of Wounds: - 28th September 1918 aged 20 years

Cemetery: - Thilloy Road Cemetery, Beaulencourt, Pas de Calais, France E.17

"GOD'S GAIN-OUR LOSS"

Family Details

James was born in Batley on 1st October 1897 the son of Friend and Elizabeth Mitchell nee Ineson who had married at Christ Church, Staincliffe on the 19th April 1897.

He was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on Wednesday,27th October with his father giving his occupation as a miner living at Cullingworth Street, Chapel Fold. In 1901 with the addition of Charles born 1900 the family was living at 25, Cullingworth Street with his widowed maternal grandmother Frances Ineson. Ruth born 1899 had died in infancy.

John was born 1901, Rose Ella 1903 and Frances who was born in 1905 also died in infancy. The family was still living in the three roomed home at Cullingworth Street in 1911.

James attended Staincliffe Church School and was later a spinner for Messrs. Joe Auty and Co. Clerk Green Mills, Batley.

Service Details

James enlisted on the 19th April 1918 and trained at Patrington before going to France on 3rd August. He was wounded in the right jaw on the 27th August but not severely which would have been at the Battle of the Scarpe 26th -30th August. The Battalion fought at the Battle of Drocourt-Queant Line as a phase of the Second Battle of Arras on 2nd September.

They then fought at the Battle of Havrincourt on 12th September and the Battle of the Canal du Nord 27th -30th September.

He was soon back in the line but was severely wounded in the abdomen and never regained consciousness and died of his wounds on 28th September 1918 at the 4th Casualty Clearing Station, France

News was received from a Chaplain who said: -

"I grieve to write to say that your son was brought to our hospital suffering from a wound to the abdomen and died soon afterwards. He was buried in our cemetery this morning. Truly I sympathise with you for my own boy has been killed too."

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group