Godfrey William Edgar Moore





Rank: - Private

Number: - 53693

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 8th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 10th June 1918 aged 18 years

Cemetery: - Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France XX1. C. 11

"SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS"

Batley News, 29 Jun 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Godfrey was born in Batley on 13th September 1899 the son of Charles William and Florence Ann Moore (nee Ibberson). Godfrey William Ernest was baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 15th October 1899 when his parents address was given as Caledonia Road, Batley and his father's occupation was a labourer. The couple had married on 29th October 1892 and Miriam was born in 1894.

When the 1901 census was taken Florence and the two children were living with her parents in Lady Ann Road, Batley with her parents and Charles was staying with his widowed mother in Heckmondwike giving his occupation as a tripe merchant on his own account.

Before 1911 the couple and their family had moved to live at 10, Yard 1, Fox's Yard, Commercial Street, Batley and Charles was working as a condenser minder and Florence was a weaver.

Godfrey attended Park Road Council School and also Zion Sunday Schools.

After leaving school he works at J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills as a tenterer.

Miriam married Percy Hill in June 1913.

Percy died of wounds on 30th September 1916

Service Details

Godfrey joined the forces at Dewsbury in October 1917 when he was eighteen years old. He was medically examined at Pontefract on 13th October giving his occupation as a cloth tenterer, weighing 112 lbs. Being 5 feet and 4 ½ inches tall and having a good physical development.

He was sent for training and on the 28th December 1917, he committed the offence of inattention on parade and was given three days C.B.

He left Folkestone for Boulogne on the 6th April 1918 arriving at Etaples on the 7th April where he joined the E. Depot being transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment 8th Battalion and given the number 53693 on the 9th April. He joined the Battalion on the 13th April 1918. The 8th Battalion (Leeds Rifles) was part of 185th Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

Godfrey would not have encountered any major battles but minor skirmishes the battalion probably being at Ablainzevelle when he joined them. On the 3rd June 1918 the battalion joined the front line near Essarts and it was rather quiet with the battalion strengthening their trenches and only intermittent shelling from the enemy for several days.

On the 10th June at about 8 am about a dozen medium trench mortars were fired on the front-line causing casualties. A barrage of 77mm and medium trench mortars were also fired at about 3.30 pm. Godfrey was one of these casualties.

In breaking the news to his parents his Captain said: -

"I should like to tell you what a splendid fellow he was and how sorry I am to lose him."

His Chaplain also wrote a letter of sympathy and his pal said: -

"*All the boys of his section wish me to give you their deepest sympathy, as he was one of the best."*

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

Godfrey is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and on an addendum at Zion Methodist Church.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group