Orlando Morrison





Rank: - Private

Number: - 2375

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion

Killed in Action by a sniper: - 28/12/1915 Age: 44 years

Cemetery: - Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1.H.11

Batley News, 22 Jan 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Orlando was born in Liversedge in 1871 the son of William and Caroline Morrison nee Clayton who had married on the 19th January 1862 at Hartshead. William had been previously married to Elizabeth Booth who died 1861.

In 1881, Clifton born, William Morrison had a cottage and grocer's shop at Rawfolds, Liversedge where he lived with his wife and children Alice 1859, Ruth 1862, Sarah Elizabeth 1869-1895, Orlando and Harry 1877. Caroline died in 1884. Orlando was educated at Batley Grammar School starting at the school in 1884.

In 1891 William, who was described as a book-keeper, Alice, Sarah, Orlando and Harry were living at Malvern Terrace, Huddersfield Road, Liversedge and Orlando was employed as a warehouseman.

In 1895 Orlando married Batley born Eugenia Hey and Olive was born in September 1895 when they lived at Bridge Street followed by George William 1897 and Alice Maud 1899. In 1901 they had moved to live at 3, Ings Road, Carlinghow, Batley, living with them were his mother-in-law and sister-in-law. He states he was working as a rag merchant's clerk. Before 1905 Orlando had left his family and between 1905 and 1909 spent at least 7 visits at Wakefield Prison for not paying his wife's maintenance for his family.

In 1911 Orlando was living at 4, Cobden Street, Batley with Mrs Mary Ann Boothroyd as his housekeeper and their son, Walter Cyril aged 3 months. Eugenia was living with her sister Paulina and their three children in a two roomed home at 33, Grafton Street, Batley and working as a waste sorter. Eugenia died in 1911 and George William in October 1914 aged seventeen years.

Orlando had served three years in the Regular Army and before the war was a rag grinder at Messrs. G.H. Hirst & Co., Bright's Mill, Batley. He was a staunch Unionist and was formerly associated with Batley Conservative Club. He was a popular s of Batley Trades and Friendly Club and a member of the local Textile Workers' Union.

Immediately on the declaration of war he re-joined the Colours and went to France in April 1915 with the local Territorial's.

Service Details

The 1/4th K.O.Y.L.I. landed at Boulogne on the 12th April 1915. They fought at the Battle of Aubers Ridge on the 9th May 1915. On the 19th December the Germans launched an attack on the British positions. Many casualties were sustained on the first day and four DCM's were won by the men of the regiment fighting off the attacks that followed the gas clouds. This was the first time the Germans had used a combination of phosgene and chlorine gas in the First World War although other types had been used in April 1915.

On the 19th December the 1/4th were in the Ypres Boesigne Line. On the 26th they were in brigade reserve on the canal bank and on the 27th relieved the 5th York and Lancaster Regiment in the front line, in a position known as the "Skipton Road" trenches. The diary for the 1/4th gives an account of 28th December

"Enemy's machine guns were particularly active up to 10pm. Some sniping all through the night and heavy sniping this morning. Relieved by 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade. Casuaties 4 OR's killed 5 wounded.

Orlando was one of the men killed by sniper fire.

His relatives received sympathy from the War Office and also condolences from Mr. Walter Runciman M.P. and Batley Trades and Friendly Club.

His effects were left to Mary Ann Boothroyd.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group