Robert Mortimer





Rank: - Private

Number: - 12/1041

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 12th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 13/04/1918 Age: 25 years

Memorial: - Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium Panel 8

Batley News, 1 Jun 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Robert was born in Dewsbury in c.1893 the son of Arthur and Harriet Mortimer nee Templeton of 71 Taylor Street, Batley. The couple implied they had married in 1886 on the 1911 census.

Harriett Templeton married John Fitzgerald on the 18th May 1879 at Batley Parish Church. Jane Elizabeth was born in 1880 in Batley Carr but baptised at Wakefield, All Saints Church, Wakefield because her father was in prison. She sadly died in December 1884. In 1901 John was living in Dewsbury.

In 1901 Robert and his family were living at 58, Back Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr and his father was employed as a woollen rag grinder. Frances (Fitzgerald) 1882, Emma Jane was born in 1886-1912 followed by Elizabeth 1890, William Edward 1891, Robert, Jane 1896, Lucy 1898 and Annie 1899. Elizabeth had been born in 1888 but had only survived 6 weeks.

In 1911 the family was living at 71, Taylor Street, Batley in a four roomed home. Arthur died in February 1915 when the family lived at 27, Taylor Street.

In 1913 Robert married Olga Emma Siswick, registered Dewsbury). Emma Jane was born in 1913 and Robert in 1915 but sadly he lived only a few months. The couple lived at 12, Albion Street, Batley.

Robert had worked most of his time at C.W.S. Livingstone Mills, Batley but for twelve months before he enlisted, he had been employed at Shaw Cross Colliery. He was a Batley Clarence full-back.

Service Details

Robert enlisted in the first Miners Battalion, raised locally, a month after war broke out. He went to Egypt in 1915 and later transferred to France.

The 12th (Service) Battalion (Miners)(Pioneers) was formed in Leeds on 5 September 1914 by the West Yorkshire Coal owner's Association they moved to Farnley Park (Otley).

In May 1915 they moved to Burton Leonard (Ripon) and attached as Pioneer Battalion to 31st Division, moving to Fovant in October 1915. In December 1915 they moved to Egypt and moved to France in March 1916.

Between 1 July and 30 November 1917, attached to Fifth Army Troops for work on light railways.

In 1918 they took part in: -
The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March)
The Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March)
The First Battle of Arras (28 March)
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battle of Estaires (9-11 April)
The Battle of Hazebrouck (12-15 April)

Robert was reported missing on the 13th April 1918 and it was presumed he had been killed in battle.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group