Herbert Morton





Rank: - Private

Number: - 242302

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Formerly 5527) 2/5th Bn.

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 27/11/1917 Age: 22 years

Memorial: - Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France Panel 8

Batley News, 12 Jan 1918, 19 Jan 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Herbert was born in Staincliffe, Batley in 1895 the son of Edward and Emma Morton nee Cordingley who had married on the 23rd December 1893 at Christ Church, Staincliffe.

In 1901 he was living with his parents and siblings Anne Elizabeth 1897 and Ada 1901 at 35, Dewsbury Gate Road, Staincliffe, Dewsbury and his father's occupation was a coal miner hewer. In 1911 Herbert was working as a woollen mule piecer and the census shows they were living in a two roomed home.

Herbert attended Staincliffe Schools and was connected with Staincliffe Baptist Church. Before enlisting he worked at Messrs. T. Carr and Sons, Highfield Mills, Staincliffe.

Service Details

Herbert enlisted in about early 1916 and went to France in July 1916 but was wounded in September 1916 and returned home. He went to France once again in May 1917. In 1917 the 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division took part in: -

The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)
The Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November)

Herbert went missing on November 27th and a Lieutenant wrote: -

"He was wounded in the thigh and was last seen lying in a shell hole behind our front line but it appears he was not brought in from there as no reports have been received of his admission to hospital. The shelling was very heavy at the time. About seven days later, owing to our withdrawal the ground where he was last seen fell into the Bosche hands but I fear if he was not brought in the intervening days, as seems to be the case, he would not have survived without food and water. It is very difficult to obtain reliable information. I should like to express my deepest sympathy with you in your anxiety but I fear I cannot hold out much hope that he alive and a prisoner."

Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group