Arthur Newsome (21 Sep 1916)





Rank: - Private

Number: - 25097

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion "Y" Company

Died of Wounds: - 21st September 1916 at No12 General Hospital, Rouen

Cemetery: - St. Sever Extension, Rouen, Seine-et-Maritime, France. B.17.39

"UNTIL THE DAY BREAKS AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY"

Batley News,30 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Arthur was born in Batley on 30th January 1893 the youngest son of Sam and Dinah Newsome (nee Gibson). He was baptised on 6th March 1893 at the Mission Room, Track Avenue, Batley Carr when the family gave their address as Beckett Road, Batley Carr and Sam was employed as a finisher. The couple had married at Dewsbury Parish Church on 12th April 1876. Sarah Ellen was born in 1878, Henry 1879, Clara 1880, Edith 1883, Isaac 1884, Thomas 1886, Louisa 1888, Herbert 1891 and Arthur.

In 1901 the family was living at Commonside, Hanging Heaton. Before 1911 Sam had retired from work, two of the children had died, and 18-year-old Arthur was working as a tier on. Sam died in September 1911.

Arthur when he was a boy attended Mill Lane Council School where he was known to have a genial disposition and was very popular. He attended Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School. Prior to enlisting he worked at J. Auty & Sons, Clerk Green Mills, Batley.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted in August 1915. He went to the Front in about April 1916, five months before he was fatally wounded. The 6th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under the command of 43rd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division.

Between 15th July 1916 and 3rd September, they took part in the Battle of Delville Wood. This was followed by the Battle of Flers-Courcelette between 15th -22nd September 1916. This was a large-scale general renewal of the offensive after the weeks of attrition fighting for the third German system at Pozieres, High Wood, Delville Wood, Guillemont and Ginchy. It is historically noteworthy for being the first time that tanks were used in battle.

Few in number, mechanically unreliable and as yet without proven tactics for their best use, the small numbers of tanks that actually went into action had an important positive effect. High Wood and Delville Wood were finally cleared and a deep advance was made to Flers and towards Combles. The Canadian Corps entered the Somme fighting for the first time

His mother had received a letter from him on 16th September stating that he was quite well, but on Sunday morning a War Office notification arrived at his home saying "died of wounds on September 22nd ".

His mother received a letter from his chaplain which said: -

"I am very sorry for you in your sad bereavement. I saw your dear boy, Private A. Newsome when he was brought into the hospital. He was very badly wounded and seemed exhausted. Everything possible was done for him by the doctors and nurses. I had a nice talk to him and prayer. He put his trust in God. As time went on he became gradually weaker and passed away on the 21st. He was buried with full military honours in the little cemetery of St. Sever near Rouen where many of his comrades lie sleeping. Each grave is covered with a little cross and covered with grass and flowers. A special staff of men tend them. God bless and comfort you. "

William Edward Granger of Grange Road, Batley wrote to his mother on behalf of Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Sunday School.

"*I was sorry to learn on getting to school this afternoon of the death in action of your dear son. Seeing that he passed through my class, in the school, I thought I would tend my deepest sympathy to you in your heavy loss. I am deeply grieved to hear of your son's death. I am also writing on behalf of the Bible Class, as he was one of our members, and also to express the sympathy of the Young Men's Bazaar Committee. Believe me, I am deeply sorry."*

His brother, Henry (Harry), was with the Royal Field Artillery at this time.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group