Arthur Newsome (8 Jul 1916)





Rank: - Private

Number: - 2656

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th (148 Trench Mortar Bty.)

Killed in Action: - 8th July 1916 aged 32 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 11 C and 12 A.

Batley News, 5 Aug 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Arthur was born in Heckmondwike in 1884 the youngest son of Frank and Martha Newsome nee Popplewell who had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 15th July 1868.

His father was an oil extractor and his family which included William 1868, Fred 1871, Jane 1875, Ada 1877, Emily 1879, Firth 1882 and Arthur was living at Common Road when the 1891 census was taken.

Edward born 1869 had died in 1869 and Ann born 1873 was a servant at 44, Thornhill Road, Dewsbury.

Martha died in the 2nd Qtr. 1891. On the 17th August 1895 Frank married widow Mary Exley nee Robinson at Christ Church, Staincliffe.

In 1901 Firth and Arthur were living with Frank and his new wife Mary at 3, Thornton Street, Staincliffe. Frank was living on his own means and Arthur was working as a woollen

In 1911 he and his sister Jane were boarders at the home of widow, Harriett Ellis of 6, Pynate Road, Batley. Arthur was working as a piecener for a woollen manufacturer.

Before he enlisted, he was in the employ of the Staincliffe Mill Co.

He came home on leave at Christmas 1915 and married Beatrice Fisher at St. John's Church, Carlinghow on the 22nd December. They lived at 77, Mount Pleasant, White Lee Road, Batley

Service Details

Arthur enlisted in Batley at the outbreak of war and went to France in 1915.

The 1/4th KOYLI landed at Boulogne on the 12th April 1915 and became 148th Brigade 49th (West Riding) Division on 15th May 1915.The Division had concentrated in the area of Estaires – Merville – Neuf Berquin then took part in the following engagements:

The Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May)
The defence against the first Phosgene attack (19 December).

When Arthur had been in France for only seven weeks, he wrote to the Batley News: -

"Dear Mr. Editor—I am a lonely soldier and wish you to publish this letter in your column to see if any kind person would take the trouble to write to me. I have been out here nearly seven weeks now and have only received two letters. It makes one feel a bit lonely when all the fellows are receiving letters and I receive none, so I hope you will be kind enough to publish this,"

In 1916 the first major battle which the 1/4th KOYLI took part was the Battle of Albert which started on July 1st. Arthur was killed on the third day. An Officer wrote to his wife: -

"I much regret to have to notify you of the death of your husband Private Newsome, which occurred whilst in action on 3rd July. His death was instantaneous. Kindly accept the deepest sympathy of the officers and men of this battery in your sad bereavement. His loss is felt by all."

Arthur was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and White Lee Working Men's Club.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group