Lionel Maurice Newsome





Rank: - Private

Number: - 205036

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Presumed, killed in action: - 10th July 1917 aged 21 years

Memorial: - Nieuport Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

Batley News, 27 Oct 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Lionel Maurice was born in Dewsbury in C. January 1896 the son of William Arthur and Martha Newsome (nee Robinson). The couple had married in 1880 in Dewsbury and Elsie was born in 1884 followed by Hilda in 1885, Effie Rebecca 1889, Cyril Mortimer 1894, Lionel Maurice and William Denzil 1904. Before 1901 the family moved to live at 13, Purlwell Hall Road, Batley and Lionel Maurice attended Purlwell and then Warwick Road School. The family moved to live at 13, Mount Terrace, Warwick Road, Batley.

The 1911 census shows that his father was a cloth drawer and the couple had 11 children since 1880 but 5 had died in infancy. Lionel was an apprentice cloth drawer.

Lionel Maurice was connected with Talbot Street Methodist Church and prior to joining the Forces worked at Messrs. R. Brearley and Sons, Queen Street Mills where he served his apprenticeship as a cloth drawer.

Less than a month after he joined the Forces his mother died after undergoing an operation at Batley Hospital.

Service Details

Lionel enlisted in February 1917 and embarked for France May 1917. The 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was in 97th Brigade, in 32nd Division at this time. They took part in operations on the Ancre.

Lionel Maurice had been in France for only two months and in the platoon for only a few days when he was killed. Nothing had been heard from him since July 13th and after enquiries by his family an officer wrote: -

"I have made enquiries about your son and I am very sorry to tell you he lost his life in our last engagement. Another officer, who was wounded, was in command of the platoon at the time, but I have spoken to several men who were with your son and they say he was killed instantaneously. I offer you my sincere condolences in your bereavement."

A pal wrote: -

"Really, I don't know how to start this letter. We were billeted in a town just behind the firing line and the Germans were shelling us very heavily at the time, so we were living in cellars. Lionel had only been in my platoon for a few days and I was in Company Headquarters in the next cellar to him. About 11 o'clock in the morning on July 13th a large shell knocked their cellar in, burying eight men, Lionel being one of them. Everything was done to get to them, but it was found the fall of roof had killed them. It was too dangerous to go on digging them out, so a wooden cross was erected over the cellar to mark the grave. Lionel had only been with us a short time, but he was a good lad and well liked. One of the other men killed was Corporal Percy Sykes Shaw of Batley."

At the time of his death his brother Signaller Cyril Mortimer was in France with a different battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Lionel Maurice is remembered with Honour at Talbot Street Methodist Chapel and Batley War Memorial.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group