James Oldroyd



Rank: - Private

Number: - 25814

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

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 18th November 1916 aged 36 years

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

Batley Reporter, 12 Jan 1917. Batley News, 8 Dec 1917

Family Details

James was born in Hunslet, Leeds in c. 1880 the son of James and Mary Ann Oldroyd (nee Wild). The couple had married in 1869 and Alice was born in 1870, William Henry (1873), Mark 1878 and James 1880.

James (snr.) was a chemist and died in Batley in March 1888 and buried at St. Mark's Church, Woodhouse, Leeds. In 1891 Mary Ann and her family were living at 57, Queen Street, Batley and Mary Ann was working as a woollen cloth burler. Before 1901 Mary Ann and James had moved to live at 39, Bradford Road, Batley and James was working as a cloth finisher.

Before 1911 Mark had returned to live with his mother and James who were living at 12, Providence Street, Batley when James was working as a willeyer.

Before enlisting James was employed as a rag grinder by Mr. John Ward, Alexandra Road, Batley.

Service Details

James enlisted in November 1915 and went to France in July 1916. At this time the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was in 97th Brigade in 32nd Division.

In July 1916 they took part in the Battle of Albert on the Somme followed by the Battle of Bazentin 14-17th July and the Battle of Ancre 13th -18th November 1916.

James was missing on the last day of this battle. This was not confirmed to his mother for almost a year.

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

James is remembered with Honour at Thiepval Memorial, Batley Town Mission and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group