Edward Arthur Parkes



Rank: - Private

Number: - 47685

Regiment: - Essex Regiment (formerly 45729 East Staffs.) 10th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 21st September 1918 aged 20 years

Cemetery: - Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile, Aisne, France. 1. B.6

Batley Reporter, 25 Oct 1918

Family Details

Edward Arthur was born in Batley in October 1898 the son of Edward Arthur and Emma Parkes nee Booth. The couple had married in 1892. Frank was born on 15th July 1895 when the couple was living at Field Hill, Batley but sadly his father died in April 1899 when he was living at 10, Charles Street, Batley which was the home of his in laws. He had been a gardener and was only 30 years old when he died. In 1901 Emma with her two sons was living with her parents and siblings at 10, Charles Street, Batley and was working as a dressmaker.

His mum, Emma, married widowed stone mason Fred Baines in 1906 and the family moved to 84, Dark Lane with Fred and his children.

Edward worked at Howley Mills as a hair drawer before working for his step father Fred Baines as a milk vendor prior to enlisting. Fred Baines was the uncle to Frederick Butler Baines who was presumed killed on 31st July 1915.

He attended Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and was a member of the Boy's Brigade.

Service Details

Edward Arthur enlisted in March 1917 and went to France around September 1917.

The 10th Battalion came under the orders of 53rd Brigade 18th (Eastern) Division.

In 1917 after Edward had joined them, they fought at the 1st and 2nd Battles of Passchendaele.

In 1918 they took part in the Battles of St. Quentin, Avre, actions of Villers-Brettoneux, Battles of Amiens, Battle of Albert in which the Division captured Tara and Usna Hills near Boiselle and once again captured Trones Wood, Second Battle of Bapaume and Epehy.

On the 6th September the battalion moved into Faviere Wood and on the 21st the battalion moved to have battalion headquarters at Yak Post. The attacking parties moved up the line and the barrage opened at 5.40 a.m. and A and B companies got within 200 yards of Tombois Farm when they were held up by machine gun fire from the two flanks and Tombois Farm. Four of the tanks had

been put out of action and the other three had got too far in advance of the attacking troops to be of any assistance. At 8 p.m. the order was received to withdraw and this was complete by 10 p.m.

Edward Arthur was killed in these attacks.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group