Willie Porter





Rank: - Private

Number: - 38628

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment 9th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 12/10/1917 Age: 18 years

Cemetery: - Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Belgium 11.A.8

Batley News, 5 Jan 1918, 12 Oct 1918 (photo)

"REST IN PEACE FROM MOTHER, FATHER SISTERS AND BROTHERS"

Researched by members of Batley History Group

Family Details

Willie was born in c. 1898 in Batley Carr the son of Albert Henry and Ada Porter nee Thompson who had married at Batley Parish Church on the 3rd March 1887. Annie was born in 1887 followed by John Henry 1889, Florrie 1891, Edith 1893, Amy 1895, Willie, Gilbert 1900. Albert Henry was a woollen spinner from Dewsbury and in 1901 he and his family were living at Dale Street, Batley Carr.

Willie attended Warwick Road Council School and was connected with Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel. Before enlisting he was employed by Messrs. Russum and Wilkinson in the spinning department.

Service Details

Willie enlisted at Dewsbury under the Derby Scheme on the 31st October 1916 when he was aged 18 years and 10 months, 5ft. 6 inches tall, living at 15, Victoria Street, Batley Carr and employed as a woollen piecener, however the family moved to 1, King Street, Batley Carr, 17a, Cross Cobden Street, Batley and 69 Cross Cobden Street, Batley.

Willie was posted to the 2nd Battalion on the 29th January and departed from Folkestone to Boulogne on the same day. He was posted to the 9th Battalion on the 21st February 1917 and joined the field the following day.

In 1917 his Battalion fought at: -

The Battle of Messines (7-14th June)
The Battle of the Menin Road (20-25 September)
The Battle of Polygon Wood (26 September- 3rd October)
The First Battle of Passchendaele (12th October)

Willie went missing during this last battle. His brother, Gilbert, was in training in the south of England and John Henry K.O.Y.L.I. who had been in the Army since the commencement of the war had been wounded once, shell shocked twice and gassed once was in hospital in Bradford suffering from the effects of gas.



Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.