Fred Poskitt





Rank: - Private

Number: - 24174

Regiment: - North Staffordshire Regiment (Formerly 20384 King's Own Scottish Borderers) "B" Coy. 1st /5th Bn.

Killed in Action: - 26/06/1917 Age: 26 years

Cemetery: - Loos British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France X1X. A.4

"REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 14 Jul 1917 (photo), 8 Sep 1917, Batley Reporter, 7 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Fred was born in Soothill on the 25th December 1890 the son of George Richard and Mary Elizabeth Poskitt nee Ingelson who had married on the 11th June 1887 at Batley Parish Church.

He was baptised at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on the 8th February 1891 which was the same day as his sibling John William 11th October 1888 and cousins Lewis Ernest 26/8/1889 and Elsie 28/12/1890 were also baptised. Their fathers were coalminers and both families gave their abode as Chidswell.

In 1891 the family was living at Leeds Road, Chidswell. Robert was born in 1893 followed by Mary Ellen 1895, Sarah Ann 1898 and Harry 1900. In 1901 they were living at Back Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton. George Arthur was born in 1903 in Hanging Heaton before the family moved to 41, Taylor Street and the births of Ida May in May 1905 and Albert in January 1907.

Fred attended Mill Lane Council School and later worked as a spinner for Messrs. G.H Hirst and Co. Alexandra Mills, Batley. He was a member of Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and also Carlinghow Working Men's Club.

On the 13th May 1916 he married Beatrice Noble at Hick Lane, Wesleyan Chapel.

Service Details

Fred enlisted in the King's Own Scottish Borderers in June 1915 and was sent to the Dardanelles after three months training but was invalided home after suffering dysentery. When he had recovered, he joined the North Staffordshire Regiment and went to France in May 1916 being with a garrison battalion until a few weeks before his death.

News of his death reached his wife from a Company Quarter master sergeant who wrote: -

"*Just a few lines to express my deepest sympathy with you in the loss of your husband. I am his QMS and although he been with us only a short time he was very popular with the men and a very good soldier. I received the parcel you sent for him and I have issued it to his pals, hoping this meets with your approval. Anything I can do for you with regards to his personal effects etc. I shall be only too pleased to do.*"

At this time his wife lived at 8, Taylor Place, Taylor Street, Batley.

In early September she received official notification from the War Office.

She had also received a letter from one of his friends: -

"Just a few lines to express my deepest regret in your husband's death. Freddy and I were great chums. We first met at Boulogne and we were transferred into the trenches together. It was on the night of June 26th that your husband met his death. He was a good soldier and was well liked by all ranks of his company, all of whom wish to express their deepest sympathy with you. He was killed by a shell and suffered no pain."

His wife returned to live with her mother at 64, Taylor Place at this time.

His brother of John William Poskitt was Killed in Action on the 4th October 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Carlinghow Working Men's Club; Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group