Charles Purdy





Rank: - Private

Number: - 26374

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

Died of Wounds: - 15th April 1917 aged 22years

Cemetery: - Nesle Communal Cemetery, Somme, France B. 10

Batley News, 5 May 1917

Researched by members of Batley History Group

Family Details

Charles was born in Batley on the 2nd August 1894, the son of Fred and Essie Purdy nee Simpson who was married on 17th June 1893 at Christ Church, Staincliffe. He was baptised at Christ Church on 23rd February 1898 on the same day as his siblings George born 27th June 1896 and Annie 20th June 1893. Fred gave his occupation as a machine mender living at Occupation Lane, Staincliffe.

In 1911 the family was living in a three roomed home at 70, Occupation Lane and Charles was employed as a piecener at a woollen mill.

Charles attended Staincliffe Church School and the Church. Before he enlisted, he worked at Highfield Mills.

Service Details

Charles was called up in January 1916 and after training went to the Front in June 1916. The 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was at this time part of 97th Brigade in 32nd Division.

They fought at the Battle of Albert 1st July-13th July 1916, Battle of Bazentin 14th -17th July. He was wounded in both legs in September 1916 and sent home to England where he recuperated at Birkenhead. He returned to France in early 1917. In the meantime, his battalion moved to fight at the Battle of the Ancre.

From 11th January 1917 until 13th March 1917 his battalion took part in Operations on the Ancre and from 14th March until 5th April they took part in the pursuit of the Germans to the Hindenburg Line.

Charles was injured and died in 107th Field Ambulance of his wounds.

News of his death was received the day after the news that another pupil at Staincliffe School, Bomb. W. Oldroyd had won the Military Medal. The flag at the school was flown at half-mast.

Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe; Staincliffe C of E Junior School and Batley War Memorial.

