Thomas Stafford Race





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4903

Regiment: - West Yorkshire (Prince of Wales's Own) 1/8th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 15th August 1916 aged 19

Cemetery: - Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France 11.D.53

Batley News, 9 Sep 1916, 16 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas was born in Batley on 19th July 1897 the son of Fred and Alice Ann Race (nee Stafford) Race who had married at Batley Parish Church on 16th March 1895.He was baptised at (Broomhill) Taylor Street Chapel on 15th August 1897 when the address was given as Queen Street, Batley. Gertrude was born in September 1895 but had sadly died aged 6 months in March 1896.

In 1901 the family was living at 42, Queen Street and Fred gave his occupation as a rug raiser and Alice was a rug picker. Before 1911 the family had moved to 44, Back Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton and Amy was born in 1901, also baptised at Broomhill Chapel. This census also shows that another child had died in infancy.

Thomas was well known in Hanging Heaton and was connected to the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. Before enlisting he worked at Messrs. Fenton's at Batley Carr.

Service Details

He enlisted in Bradford on September 21st 1915 at the same time as Harry Richardson (Killed 20/11/1917) and Tom Nettleton who lost a leg and was discharged. He disembarked in July 1916.

He had been in France less than a month when the battalion was moved from the trenches to Martinsart Wood on 15th August 1916.

His parents received a notification that he had been wounded on August 15th but after that there was no further news. They wrote to his Commanding Officer of the Battalion asking if he could supply further information. They received the following reply: -

"I *regret I am unable to give you any further information than that notified already that your son was wounded as no hospital report has today been received. Any further information here will be communicated to you immediately."*

Hoping that someone may know his whereabouts they appealed in the Batley News of the 9th September 1916 asking for news from any of his battalion. Sadly,

they received notification from the War Office on Sunday 10th September that he had “died of his wounds on August 15th “

He is remembered with Honour at Ebenezer Chapel, Batley War Memorial and Broomhill Chapel (Taylor Street).



Researched by members of
Batley History Group