Arthur Redfearn





Rank: - Private

Number: - 41435

Regiment: - Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own (Yorkshire Regiment) 8th /9th Btn (formerly 38180 Durham Light Infantry).

Died of wounds: - 22nd July 1917 aged 32

Cemetery: - Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium XV1. C.22A

"THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS"

Batley News, 4 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details:

Arthur was born in Batley in 1884 to Batley born Sam and Ossett born Susannah (Nee Whittaker) Redfearn. The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 18 July 1874. Clara was born later the same year followed by George William (1876) and Walter (1880). The family was living in Carlinghow Hill in 1881 but sometime during the next 10 years the family moved to 16, Back Upton Street, where Arthur (1884), Ernest (1885), and Jane (1888) were born. Sam was working as a cloth finisher in a woollen mill. The family moved again to 1, Beck Lane, Carlinghow, Batley where Leonard (1893) and Albert (1894) were born and Sam was now a cloth raiser.

Arthur attended Batley Parish School and on leaving school became a house painter working for Batley Co-operative Society.

On 26th March 1910 Arthur married Ellen Jane Bird at St Thomas's Church. She was a domestic servant living at Elmdene, Batley and they went to live at 5, Sandyfield Terrace, Bradford Road, Batley.

Frank Arthur was born in 1911 followed by Freda Annie in 1913. The family moved to Healey Fields, which would have been the Towngate area of Healey. By the time the Commonwealth War Grave Commission was compiling their grave records in the 1920's Ellen Jane had moved to Healey Cottage, Kingston, Kingsbridge, Devon.

Service Details

Arthur joined up in Batley in July 1916 as a Derby Recruit. He embarked June 1917 and had only been at the Front for five weeks when he was killed.

The 8th/9th Yorkshire Battalion were formed in Richmond in 1914 and came under the command of 69th Brigade, 23rd Division who had been in France since 26th August 1915 but Arthur did not join them until June 1917.

His first taste of the conflict could have come with the Battle of Messines 7th-14th June. There were associated actions to this battle in the area.

On the 19th July the battalion moved to the front line relieving the 10th West Yorkshire Regiment at Hedge Street Tunnels where they remained until the 23rd July when they were relieved by the 9th Royal Sussex Regiment.

A report came that Arthur had received serious wounds to the chest and arm followed by a report from an Army Chaplain that he had died on 22nd July and buried the next day.

In the month of July 1917, the battalion had six soldiers killed, twenty wounded and two missing.

At the time of his death his youngest brother, Private Albert Redfearn, King's Royal Rifles, had just come out of hospital after being in an accident with a motor cycle. Three months later his parents received the news that Albert had been commended for gallantry and devotion to duty in action and in early April 1918 they received the news he had been awarded the Military Medal. They believed it was because he brought in an injured man under heavy machine gun fire. Before the war Albert had worked for Mr. T. Firth of Gomersal as a painter and paperhanger. His brother, George William, was killed at Critchley's, Batley Colliery in March 1918.

During the First World War the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915 it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces.

Arthur was awarded the British War Medal 1914-20 and the Allied Victory Medal.

He is Remembered with Honour: - Batley Parish Church, St.John's the Evangelist Church Carlinghow, Christ Church Staincliffe, Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel , Staincliffe Junior School, Batley Co-operative Roll of Honour, Batley War Memorial and The Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Another 33 were buried on the same day at this cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group