Ben Redfearn





Rank: - Private

Number: - 38829

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment 9th Battalion

Killed in Action, France: - 22/10/1917 Age: 22 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panels 125-128

Batley News, 3 Nov 1917. Batley Reporter, 4 May 1917

Family Details

Ben was born in Dewsbury on the 1st March 1893 the son of Samuel Redfearn and Martha Redfearn nee Street who had married on 25th July 1883 at Dewsbury Parish Church. He was baptised at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green, Dewsbury on 2nd October 1895.

His father died in 1899 aged 37 and in 1901 Ben was living at 31, Tweedale Street, Dewsbury with his widowed mother and siblings Sarah Elizabeth 1884, Ada 1889, and Sam 1892;

In 1911 the family was still living at these two roomed homes but with the addition of his aunt Eliza Street and uncle Tom Roberts Street. Ben was working as a packer at a soap works. Two other siblings had died in infancy. Martha 1886-1886, Amy 1887-1891.

Ben had attended Boothroyd Lane Council School and was connected to St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green.

On the 13th May 1916 he married Doris Ann Smith at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. Smith Redfearn was born in the latter part of 1916.

They resided at 7, David Lane, Batley Carr and he was employed by Messrs. Frederick Duble and Sons. Ravensthorpe before enlisting.

Service Details

Ben enlisted at Heckmondwike (Dewsbury) on the 13th November 1916 and went to France on 13th February 1917. The 9th Battalion came under the orders of 70th Brigade in 23rd Division.

In 1917 they 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
The Second Battle of Passchendaele 26th October –10th November
the last four being phases of the Third Battles of Ypres.

Unofficial news came from a soldier in a letter to his wife saying he had been killed in action on 22nd October. His widowed mother lived in Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and his brother Sam had been killed on the 16th August 1917.

Ben was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group