Joseph Redgwick





Rank: - Private

Number: - 41217

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 14th (Service) Battalion "B" Coy

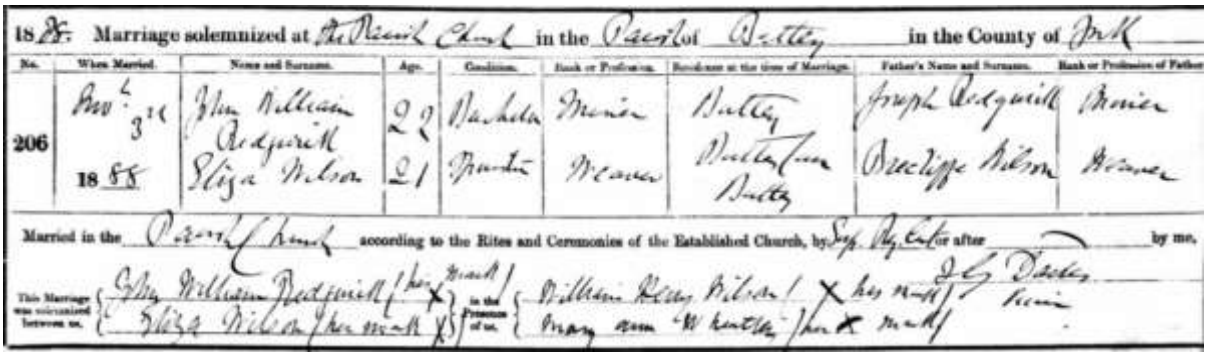
Killed in Action: - 9th April 1918 aged 29 years

Memorial: - Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainault, Belgium panel 9

Batley News, 31 May 1919

Family Details

Joseph was born in Batley Carr in 1889 the son of John William and Eliza Redgwick (nee Wilson). He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 20th April 1889. John William was a coal miner and they had married at Batley Parish Church on 3rd November 1888 when neither they nor their witnesses could sign their names.



18 88 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Batley in the County of Ink

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
206	Nov. 3rd 1888	John William Redgwick	22	Bachelor	Miner	Batley	Joseph Redgwick	Miner
		Eliza Wilson	21	Spinster	Weaver	Batley Carr Batley	Brecliffe Wilson	Weaver

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Sup. Reg. Entr. or after by me, J. G. Dades Minr.

This Marriage was solemnized between us. John William Redgwick (his mark) X Eliza Wilson (her mark) X in the Presence of us. William Henry Wilson (his mark) X Mary Ann Whentley (her mark)

In 1891 they were living at 61, Upper Road, Batley Carr and Flockton born John William was working as a miner and Batley Carr born Eliza as a weaver. Within the next decade they had moved to live at 1, Robin Lane, Batley Carr near Upper Road with the additions of Wilson 1894, Harry 1896 and Charlesworth 1909.

Mary Elizabeth was born 1898 but sadly died in March 1899 when she was 14 months old and John William was born in 1901 but sadly died in July 1907.

Joseph's father died in September 1903 leaving her to bring up her young family and she continued working as a weaver.

When the 1911 census was taken Eliza and her four children were still living in the four roomed home at Robin Lane, working as a weaver but she was able to sign the census form. Joseph was working as a willyer, Wilson as a piecer and Harry was working as a cotton spinner.

The family moved to live at 100, Upper Road, Batley Carr before 1919.

Before he enlisted, he worked as a raiser for John Fenton and Sons, Batley Carr and was a popular member of Batley Carr Working Men's Club.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted in March 1916 but it is not known when he went to France.

At the end of March 1918, the battalion was at Sailly-sur-la-Lys and moved into the front line in the Fleurbaix sector in the evening of the 31st. On the night of the 6/7th April they were relieved and moved to billets at Nouveau Monde where they spent the following day.

At 4 am there was a bombardment and 30 minutes later the battalion was ordered by the Brigade to stand to. At 6.15 am they were ordered to move into positions before moving off at 6.25am. to Laventie. At just after 10 am all companies moved off and 3 companies in the front line were deployed in depth from Laventie East Post to Charred Post with one company in support. Nothing more was heard from these three companies who went forward to occupy the front line.

At 12.30 pm the enemy had pressed back the support company and were in line with the railway and within 30 minutes were pressing on battalion H.Q. By 3 pm the enemy was pressing round on front and flanks and a decision was made to withdraw under mutual fire support and machine gun fire. By 4 pm the battalion had crossed the River Lys and occupied the trench system and holding the bridgehead against the enemy who were on the other bank. Before 6 pm their ammunition was running short but they were relieved by the 50th Division at 10 pm and withdrew to Le Petit Mortier.

Joseph went missing during these attacks and it was not until May 1919 that his mother received official confirmation that he had not been seen since 9th April and he was presumed killed in action.

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

Joseph is remembered with Honour at Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group