Arthur Roberts



Rank: - Private

Number: - 268370

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 2/6th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 03/05/1917 Age: 30 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Bay 6

Batley Reporter, 2 May 1919 (classifieds)

Family Details

Arthur was born in Liversedge in c.1886 the son of George Barnes and Ada Roberts nee Carter who had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 30th October 1879.

George Barnes was born in Cleckheaton whilst Ada came from Drub and the family moved around the district, Adeline 1880, being born in Hunsworth and Arthur in Liversedge and living at Colbeck Road alias Blackburn Road, Birstall in 1891. George Barnes was a power loom tuner and by 1901 he had moved his family to live at 6, Bond Street, Batley. Fourteen-year-old Arthur was working as a cycle repairer when the 1901 census was taken. The 1911 census shows that another sibling who died in infancy.

On the 2nd October 1909, Arthur, now a grocer's assistant married Laura Craven at St. Matthew's Church, West town, Dewsbury and they went to live in the three roomed home at Bond Street, Batley with his parents. Marjorie was born in 1910 followed by Winifred in 1914.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted at Mirfield.

The 2/6th Battalion was formed at Skipton in Craven in September 1914 as a home service ("second line") unit. They moved to Derbyshire on the 1st March 1915 where they came under orders of 186th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. They moved to Thoresby Park (Ollerton) in May 1915, moving in October 1915 to Retford, November 1915 to Newcastle, January 1916 to Salisbury Plain, June 1916 to Halesworth, October 1916 to Bedford. They landed in France in January 1917.

The Divisional Ammunition Column sailed from Avonmouth for Rouen on 30 December 1916; the rest crossed from Southampton to Le Havre from 5 January 1917 and by 18 January concentration was completed in Third Army area between the rivers Canche and Authie.

In 1917 they took part in: -

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)

The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May).

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.

