Ernest Robinson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 45299

Regiment: - Kings' Own Yorkshire Light Infantry "A" Company 2nd/4th

Died in Captivity: - 25th July 1918 aged 38

Cemetery: - Hamburg Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany. 1V. A. 8

"REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 18 May 1918, 15 Jun 1918, 28 Sep 1918 (photo), 1 Feb 1919. Batley Reporter, 27 Sep 1918 (photo), 4 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Ernest was born in Leeds is 1880 the son of Leeds born George Robinson and his wife Susan (nee Balls) who came from Pontefract. The couple had married at St. Stephen's at Burmantofts, Leeds on 26th January 1874.

Their first-born child was Mary Elizabeth (1875) followed by John (1877), George (1879), Ernest, and twins Arthur and Ada born in 1886.

In 1881 the family was living at 3, Viceroy Street, Leeds and George was working as a Cooper.

George died in 1888 and the family was living at 26, Ark Street, Leeds in 1891 but in 1892 Susan married Michael Clines, who came from Ireland and was a painter. At some time between this time and 1901 Michael, Susan, Ernest and Ada moved from Leeds to live at 7, Hume Street, Batley. Ernest was working as packer in a woollen mill.

On the 12th September 1908 Ernest married Amy Holmes at Batley Parish Church. They gave their address as living at 1, Wilton Street, Batley and the witnesses were Ada Clough (nee Robinson) and John William Hurst. Ada had married Ezra Clough at St. John's, Carlinghow in June 1908.

In 1911 the couple were living at 25, Crescent Street, Cross Bank and were both described as mill hands.

The couple had one child Gladys 1913 or William 1916 and before 1918 had moved to live at 45, Richmond Street, Batley.

Before Ernest enlisted, he worked for Frank Townend at Spring Mill, Carlinghow as a rag grinder. He was also a Member of the Ancient Order of Druids which met at the Wilton Arms, Batley.

Michael Clines died June qtr 1918 and Ernest's mother, Susan, in 1929.

Service Details

Ernest joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 13th April 1917 and went to France in December 1917. The 2/4th Battalion was attached to 182nd Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

On 25th March 1918 the Battalion fought at the Battle of Baupaume. On the 28th March they fought at the First Battle of Arras.

Ernest was posted missing from the 27th March and it was reported in the Batley News on 15th June 1918 that his wife had not heard from him for seven weeks although his last letter did say that he was in the trenches.

His wife later received a field postcard written on the 30th April saying he was a prisoner and wounded and ill were crossed out but "sound and well "remained. In the next message he reported he had "a bad leg" followed by another which said both legs were "bad".

The next news his wife received was from Corporal Charles Brefield, who was the President of the English Committee in the German camp at Saltou, the headquarters of the German 10th Army Corps in the province of Hanover wrote on July 28th 1918:

"Dear Mrs Robinson, It is with deep regret I have to report the death of your dear husband, Private Ernest Robinson,2/4 KOYLI who died in hospital on July 25th at 3.55 p.m. You will find enclosed his personal property. He died from dysentery. I hope you will accept my deepest sympathy".

A will made by Private Robinson and his photograph were enclosed with the letter which had been forwarded from the War Office.

Amy made an appeal in the Batley News on the 1st February1919 asking if any local repatriated soldier could throw light on the circumstances of the death of her husband Pte. E. Robinson (38) 5299 "A" Coy 2/4th KOYLI. She had moved to live at 7, Birch Street, Carlinghow, Batley.

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

He is remembered on Batley War Memorial, St. John's Church, Carlinghow and Hamburg Cemetery, Germany.



Researched by members of Batley History Group