William Robson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 201800

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers 1/4th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 26/10/1917 Age: 28 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 19 to 23 and 162.

Batley News, 15 Dec 1917 (photo), 17 Aug 1918 (photo)

Family Details

William was born in Kirkstall, Leeds in c, 1881 the son of William Edward and Elizabeth Robson (nee Watts, m. 1874, registered Guisborough). William Edward, a tailor, was born in Bedlam and in 1891 was living at 10, Beecroft Street, Headingley, Leeds with his wife and children Ada 1876, Edith Ann 1878, William, Elizabeth 1883, Annie 1886, and Isabella 1887. Unusual for this time 14-year-old Ada was still a scholar. William Edward and Elizabeth continued to live at Beecroft Street, Leeds.

In 1903 William married Elizabeth Hart (registered Leeds). William was a tinner's labourer and in 1911 he and Elizabeth and their children Annie born 1905 and William 1907 were living at 24, Beecroft Street, Kirkstall in a two roomed home. Nellie was born in 1911 in Leeds. Elizabeth was a Batley girl and they went to live at Wainwright's Yard, Batley Carr and William was employed by Joseph Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr.

Service Details

William enlisted in September 1916 and went to France in June 1917.

William went missing on the first day of the Second Battle of Passchendaele 26th October – 10 November) which was a phase of the Third Battles of Ypres. His wife made enquiries when she had not heard from him and she received a letter from a Corporal: -

"*I am very sorry to inform you that we have lost trace of him, and he has been posted missing since October 26th. He went into action with me and was in my section."*

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group