Ripley Schofield



Rank: - Private

Number: - 18146

Regiment: - Border Regiment 2nd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 4th October 1917 aged 42 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 85to 86

Batley Reporter, 26 Oct 1917

Family Details

Ripley was born in 1876 in Dewsbury the son of Samuel Schofield and his wife Harriet nee Ripley who had married on 11th July 1874 at Dewsbury Parish Church.

In 1881 he was a boarder with his mother at Town Street, Horsforth at the home of Jane Hanson and her two sons. His mother was working as a woollen weaver. His father who was a widower hen he had married Harriet was living at 17, Spring Street, Idle, Bradford with his two children Rhodes and Martha who were from his first marriage. His father, who came from Sheepridge, was a sanitary tube maker and he sadly died in 1882.

Ripley returned to Dewsbury and attended Eastborough Council School

Ten years later fourteen-year-old Ripley was living with his maternal grandparents at 24, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and was working as a carpet weaver like his 71-year-old grandfather.

On the 20th June 1896 he married Sarah Emma Lomas, who was born in Staleybridge at Batley Parish Church and they went to live at 17, Track Road, Staincliffe. He gave his occupation as a confectioner. In 1901 Ripley was working as a rag grinder and Sarah as a cotton reeler.

Esther was born in 1902 when they lived at 22, Track Quarry, Batley.

On 30th 1905 he arrived in Boston, Massachusetts without a penny in his pocket saying he was a rag grinder and his passage had been paid by his uncle.

He had several visits to Wakefield on 21/3/1903 for debt, 1/4/1908 for family neglect and 27/10/1908 for indecent assault giving his occupation as a fettler.

He had changed his occupation to become a miner in 1909.

In 1911 Sarah Emma was living with her parents, brother, great uncle and three daughters Esther 1902, Florrie 1907 and Charlotte 1908 in a four roomed house at Thorncliffe Road, Batley. Annie 1897, Albert Edward 1904 and Frank 1906 had all died in infancy.

Ripley in 1911 was working as a coal miner, hewer and boarding at the home of George Arthur Robinson at 9, Cross Street, Hoyland Common.

Sarah Emma worked at Messrs. George Fox and Sons, Staincliffe Mills.

Service Details

Ripley enlisted at Carlisle on the 5th September 1914 and attested at Lulworth Camp on the 30th November 1914 giving his address as 1, Kendall Road, Ellestown, Leicester into the Border Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion had left for Zeebrugge on the 6th October 1914 and they came under the orders of 20th Brigade in 7th Division.

Ripley went to France in February 1916 and up to his death had escaped injury.

Ripley went absent without leave and also was punished for fraudulent enlistment on the 14th April 1915 and was sentenced to 112 days detention.

In 1916 the Battalion fought on the Somme at: -

The Battle of Albert in which the Division captured Mametz 1st July-13th July
The Battle of Bazentin and the attacks on High Wood 14th -17th and 20th -25th July
The Battle of Delville Wood 15th July-3rd September
The Battle of Guillemont 3rd –6th September
Operations on the Ancre 13th-18th November.

In 1917the Battalion fought at: -

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line 14th March -5th April
The Arras offensive in which the Division fought in the flanking operations round Bullecourt 9th April -16th June
The 3rd Battle of Ypres started on the 31st July and they fought at the Battle of Polygon Wood 26th September -3rd October
The Battle of Broodseinde 4th October.

The chaplain of the Border Regiment wrote to his wife: -

"I am very sorry to write to you about your husband, who was killed on October 4th. He laid down his life on an occasion when the regiment carried out all its objectives and held them in the mud and the cold, exposed to shell and bullet. I knew your husband well, and had many talks with him. May God comfort you in your great trouble and grant to the soul of your husband rest and peace."

He had been home on leave in August 1917.

His brothers in law Private Henry Lomas was in Egypt and Private N Lomas was with the K.O.Y.L.I. in France at the time of his death.

In 1919 Sarah Emma and her three daughters were living at 24, Quarry Street, Track Road, Batley.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group