Fred Senior





Rank: - Private

Number: - 291700

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers 12th /13th Battalion (formerly 29982 K.O.Y.L.I.)

Missing, presumed killed in Action: - 4th October 1917 aged 23

Remembered with Honour: - Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 19-23 & 162
171

Batley News, 13 Jul 1918, 20 Jul 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Fred was born in Batley 8th November 1893 and baptised at Batley Parish Church on 24th December 1893 the son of Joseph Walker Senior, a mechanic, and his Ossett born wife Annie Elizabeth (Nee Wilby). Joseph Walker was a native of Mirfield. Fred was the eldest of their children and was followed by Mabel (1896), Albert (1898), and Gladys (1900-1901). The family were living at 2, Tillotson Street, Batley when his mum, Annie Elizabeth died in June 1901. In 1904 his dad married Sarah Stubley (Nee Kirby) and they added to the family Doris (1905), Edgar (1907), Clara (1908) and Ada (1910). In 1911 the family were living in a three-bed roomed home at 79, Peel Street, Batley. James was an iron turner and planer, Fred was a piecener at a woollen mill. There were eleven people living in the house including Grandma Ann Senior and a visitor William Townsend. Fred attended Batley Parish Church Schools and was well known at the Church Institute. He worked as a scourer at John Blackburn's & Co., New Ing Mills, Batley.

Service Details

Fred joined the army 1915 and was wounded at Christmas 1916. The 13th Northumberland Fusiliers came under the orders of 62nd Brigade in 21st Division and amalgamated with the 12th Battalion on 12th August 1917. Fred would have fought at the Battle of Polygon Wood and Broodseinde. A letter from an officer says that a German stick bomb fell in the trench where he was known to be, and he has not been seen since 4th October 1917. The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first-time gas had been used by either side or the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence. There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.
The following year there appeared in the Batley News: -

Senior *In loving memory of Private Fred Senior 12/13 Northumberland Fusiliers posted missing October 4th 1917 later presumed killed.*
When little thought when we parted last
He would no more return
And now he lies in a hero's grave
And we are left to mourn.

But the hardest part is yet to come,
When the heroes all return,
And we miss amongst the cheering crowd
The face of our dear son.
From his sorrowing father, mother and family.
173
Senior - *In loving memory of Private Fred Senior 12th /13th Northumberland Fusiliers posted missing October 4th 1917 later presumed killed.*
The silent grief that in the soul
No human eye can trace,
For many an aching heart lies hid
Beneath a smiling face.
The unknown grave is the bitterest blow,
None but aching hearts can know.

From Albert and Mabel.

Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church and Tyne Cot Memorial along with another 2,534 who were killed or missing presumed killed on the same day. There is a total of 34,950 commemorated at Tyne Cot.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group