Lewis (Louis) Llewellyn Sheppard





Rank: - Private

Number: - 36107

Regiment: - London (formerly East Surrey and Royal Flying Corps No. 35535) 1/23rd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 19th December 1917 aged 30 years

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

Family Details

Lewis was born in Ashford, Kent in 1887 the son of Harry and Catherine Sheppard nee Jones. Harry was a tailor who came from Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Catherine came from Towyn in Wales and gave several of her children Welsh names, Harry 1882 in Berkshire, Maud Annie 1883 in Dover, Alice Mary Lillian 1886 in Ashford, Kent, Lewis, and Catherine Myfanwy 1889 in Dover. Dorothy in Ashford 1891.

In 1891 the family was living at 18, Frederick Street, Derby. Ellen was born in Derby in 1892 Louisa Blodwen 1893 followed by Myfanwy (Susannah Eleanor) 1895 before the family moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the births of Robert in 1897 and Eva 1900.

In 1901 the family was living at 111, Raby Street, Newcastle and 13-year-old Llewellyn was an errand boy. Edna Muriel was born in Derby in 1904. Within a few years the family had moved once again and in 1911 they were living in a five roomed house at 59, St. Margaret's Road, Bradford and the census shows two of the children had died.

On the 8th March 1911 Lewis married Charlotte Reynolds in Derby and before the census was taken that year they were living at 32, Ramsey Street, Bradford which was a five roomed house. Lewis was a tailor for a sail maker.

Jack was born on the 17th July 1913 in Batley.

Prior to enlisting Lewis worked at Messrs George Jessop & Son, Batley as a tailor and cutter. Although he had only lived in the town for about four or five years he was very well known. He was a well known member of the Batley I.L.P. and lived at 6, Gladwin Street, Batley.

Service Details

Lewis enlisted on the 4th July 1916 into the Royal Flying Corps. At his examination in Leeds he weighed 138 lbs. and was 5 ft. 7 inches tall.

He was compulsory made the join the London Regiment who were in 142nd Brigade in 47th (2nd London) Division.

In 1917 they took part in the following battles: -

The Battle of Messines (7 – 13 June)
The Battle of Pilkem Ridge (31 July – 2 August), a phase of the Third Battles of Ypres
Other operations in the Third Battles of Ypres (18 August-2 September and 8 - 17 September).

The Cambrai Operations, in which the Division captured Bourlon Wood and fought the German counter attacks.

With the Christmas mail his wife received a letter to say he had been killed on December 19th whilst acting as sentry.

“He suffered no pain, his death being instantaneous and caused by a shell. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your irreparable loss.” wrote one of his pals.

He had only lived in Batley for four or five years.

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

Lewis is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial Addenda 2019.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group