Arthur Sill



Rank: - Private

Number: - 37324

Regiment: - East Yorkshire 1st battalion

Missing, Presumed Killed in Action: - 4th October 1917 aged 24

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

Batley News, 9 Nov 1918

Family Details

Arthur was born on the 10th January 1889 at High Street, Daw Green to Robert and Fanny Sill (nee Auty). Robert's occupation on the baptism at All Saints, Dewsbury was given as a firer.

Robert and Fanny had seven children Matthew (1878), Sarah Maria (1881-1882), James (1884), Ernest (1886-1918), Arthur, Sam (1893) and Herbert (1895-1896). His father, Robert, died in 1906.

In 1911 Arthur was living at 29, Manor Road West, Dewsbury in a two roomed home with his widowed mother and brothers, Ernest and Sam who were all piecener s. His mother, Fanny, died in late 1914.

On 26th December 1914 Arthur married Elizabeth Grundell at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr. The couple lived at 5, Court 7, Back King Street, Batley Carr.

Sam was born in 1915 followed by Elizabeth in 1916.

Service Details

Arthur's service records have not survived and we have found no news in the local papers except a report, in November 1918, of the death of his brother Ernest, who had been missing since April 1917. His brother, Sam, had been wounded three times.



In 1917 the 1st Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment was attached to the 64th Brigade, 21st Division.

In 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, First Battle of Scarpe, Third Battle of Scarpe, and flanking operations around Bullecourt, Battles of Polygon Wood and Broodseinde.

On the 28th September the battalion marched to La Clytte and between the 3rd and 5th October they fought at the Battle of Broodseinde. Three Officers were killed, five were wounded and one missing. Thirty-six other ranks were killed, 73 missing and 172 wounded. The weather conditions were very bad with rain and cold. Arthur was one of the men missing.

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley War Memorial. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group