Albert Smith (1918)





Rank: - Private

Number: - 26215

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) (Formerly 65513 Durham Light Infantry, Labour Coy.). 2/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds sustained 26 May 1918: - 27th May 1918

Cemetery: - Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France 11.D.32

"TOO DEARLY LOVED TO BE FORGOTTEN MOTHER & FAMILY"

Batley News, 8 Jun 1918, 15 Jun 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Albert was born in 1894 and baptised on the 9th September 1894 at St. Marys Church, Woodkirk the son of John William and Mary Smith nee Bedford who lived at Hill Top. John William was a blacksmith and the couple had married on the 21 Jun 1873 at St. Marys Church, Woodkirk. Mary Ann was born in 1878 followed by Aaron 1880, William Henry 1882, Sarah 1885, Bertha 1888, John 1892 and Albert. All the family were born in West Ardsley but before 1901 the family had moved to live at 41, Bath Street, Batley and Albert attended Park Road School. Two other children had died in infancy.

John William died in November 1905 when the family lived at Bradford Road Central, Batley and Mary and her youngest four children moved to live at 12, Bath Street, Batley moving again to live at 4, Stanley Place, Park Road, Batley before Albert enlisted. After leaving school Albert worked as a gear drawer at Messrs. G. & J. Stubleys, Bottoms Mills, Batley and was connected with Wellington Street, Primitive Methodist Church.

Service Details

Albert attested on the 4th December 1915 and was put in the Army Reserves. He was mobilised on the 23rd February 1917 into the Durham Light Infantry and was transferred into a Labour Corps on 13th May 1917 and went to France with them. He was once again transferred on 2 October 1917 to the 2/5th West Riding Regiment. This battalion came under orders of 186th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

In 1917 they saw action at the Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November).

In 1918 they saw action at
The Battle of Bapaume (25 March)
The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March)
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

There would have been more spasmodic fighting and Albert had been received in action. A chaplain wrote a letter to his mother saying he was dangerously wounded and died the same day without regaining consciousness on the 27th May 1918.

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

Albert is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.

was taken to 29 Casualty Clearing Station with gun- shot wounds to his face and right leg which



Batley Gear-Drawer Dies of Wounds

Private Albert Smith (23), Duke of Wellington's, son of Mrs. M. Smith, 4, Stanley Place, Park Road, Batley, died of wounds in France on May 27th. A letter from a chaplain says he was admitted to a casualty clearing station dangerously wounded, and died the same day without regaining consciousness. An old boy of Park Road Schools, he worked as a gear-drawer at Messrs. G. and J. Stubley's Bottoms Mills. He was connected with Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Church. He had been in the Army 15 months, and went to the Front with a labour unit two weeks after joining up.