Albert Smith





Rank: - L/Cpl

Number: - 20049

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 12/07/1916 Age: 24 years

Cemetery: - Etretat Churchyard, Seine-Maritime, France 11.D.7A

"FONDLY REMEMBERED BY HIS LOVING WIFE & CHILDREN R.I.P."

Batley News, 22 Jul 1916. Batley Reporter, 28 Jul 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Albert was born in Dewsbury on the 24th December 1891 the son of William Thomas and Jane Eliza Smith and baptised at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green on the 24th January 1892 when the family lived at Princess Street, Dewsbury. Widower, William Thomas had married Jane Eliza Swallow at the same church on the 27th November 1887.

In 1901 the family which included his parents, half-brother William Thomas 1883, maternal aunts and a cousin were living at 36, Princess Street, Dewsbury and his father was a mill engineer. This we can see from the 1911 census was only a three roomed home. In 1911 his father was unemployed, when the census was taken, and Albert was working as a hanger on in an underground colliery.

On the 28th September at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr Albert married Katie Burnett and he gave his occupation as a miner on the certificate. Jane was born in 1913 and Herbert in 1915.

Before the war he worked at Messrs. James Critchley and Sons, colliery owners, Batley. He was well known in football circles having played for Dewsbury N.U. Football Club as full back for several years. He was connected with the providence Independent Chapel, Dewsbury.

Service Details

Albert enlisted in May 1915 and went to the Dardanelles, Egypt and France.

On the nights 7-8 January 1916, the Division was evacuated from Gallipoli and all units returned to Alexandria in Egypt. Orders were received there on 25th February for a move to France. Embarking in March it arrived at Marseilles and moved to concentrate in the area east of Pont Remy between 15 and 29 March.

The Battle of Albert was fought between the 1st -13th July. The 1st July in particular had been a very bad day for the British Army.

Albert was injured during this battle and taken to base hospital where a French nurse wrote to his wife: -

"You will have learnt by this time that your husband died on the evening of the 12th. He was a splendid soldier, and died shouting," Come on boys, let's charge

them." It made one realise what it must have meant to him to be able to be able to take part in the advance. As you will have gathered from my first letter, there was practically no hope of saving him and we can only be glad that he did not suffer for a long time. The whole of the nursing staff asks me to convey to you their deepest sympathy in this your great loss."

His wife later moved to live at 41, Dale Street, Batley Carr.

Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group