Norman Smith



Rank: - Private

Number: - 206030

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 2nd Battalion

Missing, Presumed Killed in Action: - 3rd May 1917 aged 30

Memorial: - Arras, Pas de Calais, Bay 6

Batley News, 7 Jul 1917

Researched by members of Batley History Group

Family Details

Norman was born in Heckmondwike on 18th August 1886 the son of James Nowell and Catherine Smith (nee Lee). The couple had married at St. Peter's, Birstall in April 1879. Herbert was born the following year followed by Elizabeth Ann (1883), Alice (1888), Harry (1895) plus one other who died in infancy.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed house at Barber Square, Heckmondwike. Norman was employed as a piecener and James Nowell was a dyer s labourer.

On 4th July 1914 Norman married Ethel Marshall at Holy Trinity Church. Ethel was the eldest of ten children her parents being Mr and Mrs Marshall of Pyrah Street, Carlton Road, Batley Carr. One of her brothers was awarded the D.C.M.

He moved from Heckmondwike to Hardy Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury so that his wife could continue with her employment.

Service Details

Norman received his call up papers in September 1916 just after he had moved from Heckmondwike to Hardy Street, Crackenedge.

The Battalion was part of the 13th Brigade, of the 5th Division. They took part in the 1st Battle of Scarpe (9-14 April 1917)

He went to France and his last letter home to his wife was dated 27th April 1917 when he stated that they had gone up the line and expected to be in the trenches at any time.On the 3rd May 1917 the Division was in trenches and dugouts near Railway Embankment N.W. of Bailleul.

The Chaplain of the Regiment said Private Smith was the member of the Company which was cut off. The position was later re-taken by the British and when they went out to recover the dead Private Smith was not found amongst them. He may therefore be a prisoner. Sadly, he was not a prisoner and was amongst the missing, presumed killed in action.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Batley War Memorial, Heckmondwike War Memorial and Arras Memorial, France.