Herbert Spedding







Rank: - Private

Number: - 15965

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 7/8th Battalion Machine Gun Section

Died of Wounds: - 11th September 1916 aged 27

Cemetery: - Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-De-Calais X.D.3

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Batley News, 16 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family History:

Herbert was born in Batley in 1888 to William and Mary Spedding (nee Hargreaves). William was a coal miner from Huddersfield but Mary was a Batley lass. They were living at 3, High Street and they already had a daughter Susan (1884), when Herbert was born followed by Mary Ann (1895). In 1891 the family was living at 2, High Street, Batley. In 1901 they had moved to 56, New Street, and in 1911 they had moved yet again to 56, Hume Street and Herbert were working as a tripe dresser, whilst his father was still a coal miner and Mary Ann was a domestic servant. The couple had lost 2 children in infancy during their 28 years of marriage.

Herbert attended Batley Parish Church and was a member of the Church Institute and a former member of the Church Lads' Brigade He worked as a banksman at Howley Park Colliery.

He was engaged to Miss Chappell.

Service Details:

He enlisted as soon as war broke out in August 1914 and embarked for France on 10th July 1915.

The 7th (Service) Battalion of the Scottish Borderers was formed in Berwick-in-Tweed in August 1914 and came under the orders of 46th Brigade in 15th (Scottish) Division. They moved to Bordon and in February 1915 went into billets at Winchester, moving to Park House and Chisledon Camps on Salisbury Plain in April 1915, landing in Boulogne on 10th July 1915. They fought in the Battle of Loos 25th September – 8th October 1915 where Herbert was wounded but later returned to his unit in January 1916.

In spring 1916 the Division was involved with German gas attacks near Hulloch (27th -29th April) and in the defence of the Kink position (11th May). The Battle of Pozieres was fought between 23rd July and 3rd September. Herbert was seriously wounded on 17th August having got five shrapnel wounds and a bullet through his spine. When his mother received the news, she went to France to see him.

On the 3rd September he was still dangerously ill, but improving. In the evening of the same day that his parents received this communication a telegram arrived stating: -

"Much regret to inform you that your son Private Spedding K.O.S.B. died on 11th September at----General Hospital--- "



Pozieres Plateau August 1916

Herbert was awarded: - The 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal.

He is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church and Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. There are 10 others commemorated on the same day at Etaples.



Researched by members of Batley History Group