George Spencer



Rank: - Driver

Number: - 80708

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 8th Div. Ammunition Col.

Killed in Action: - 25/08/1917 Age: 34 years

Cemetery: - Menin Road South Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 11.E.25

Family Details

George was born in Batley on the 26th September 1883 the son of Adamson and Susan Spencer nee Thornton who had married on the 10th May 1873 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall. George was baptised at the same church on the 5th September 1885 on the same day as his sister Clara who was born August 1878. The family lived at White Lee and Adamson gave his occupation as a miner.

Annie was born in 1886. In 1891 the family was living at 13, White Lee Jail, Batley and Susan was working as a woollen weaver.

Thomas Adamson was born in 1896. The family moved nearer to Birstall at 101, White Lee Road within the next decade and Adamson had changed his occupation to become a cloth finisher and George was working as a general carrier.

In March 1906 he was detained at Wakefield for "lodging out" and from this we know his religion was Church of England, he had brown hair, 5ft. 1 inch tall, and was a miner born at White Lea. There were 12 men all detained for "lodging out" on the same day so he was not alone in this "crime". On 31st January 1907 he was detained again for the same offence but then he was saying he was born in Batley Carr and was a fireman.

In 1911 Adamson, Susan, Clara, Thomas and two other relatives were living in a two roomed home at 101, Hirst Buildings, White Lee Road, Batley (this is probably the same house as 1901). George was not with them. His father, Adamson, died in November 1917.

Service Details

George enlisted at Dunbar, East Lothian and embarked for France on the 15th July 1915.

The 8th Divisional Ammunition Column served with the 8th Division which was formed at Hursley Park, Winchester in October 1914 from regular army units returning from the British Empire.

The 8th Division fought at the Battle of Albert (1st -13th July 1916) which included the 1st day of the battle of the Somme.

In 1917 they fought at the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 March-5 April) and then moved to Flanders and were in action at the Battle of Pilkem (31st July- 2nd August) and Battle of Langemarck (16-18 August).

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group