William Spencer





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 22387

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 23/09/1916 Age: 29 years

Cemetery: - St. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France Div. 3. G. 8.

Batley News, 14 Oct 1916.



Headstone photograph courtesy of Franck Benoist.

"EVER IN OUR MEMORY"

Family Details

William was born in Sheffield in c.1886 the son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Spencer nee Langton who had married in 1873. In 1891 he was living with his family at 35, Southern Street, Attercliffe, Sheffield and his father's occupation was a bricklayer.

Sarah Ann was born in Radford in 1874, Rachel in Bury 1875, Annie 1876, Christopher Charles in Radford 1878, John 1881, James 1884, Bury, Arthur 1882, Bury, Ellen 1887, Bury and Jane 1889 in Bury.

In 1901 he was living with his brother Christopher, who was a bricklayer's labourer, his mother and sister, Annie, 1876-1910 at Town Green, Soothill Nether, Dewsbury.

In 1911 he was living at 24, Albert Street, Batley Carr with his wife Catherine nee Rourke, who came from Newcastle, and children John Joseph born 1908 and William 1910. He was working as a willyer and Catherine as a rag sorter. The couple had married in June Qtr. Dewsbury. Before enlisting he worked for Messrs. Joshua Ellis and Co. Batley Carr. The family lived at 6, Lower Cross Street, Dewsbury.

Service Details

William enlisted in April 1915 but his service records have not survived however the 10th Battalion landed in France in September 1915.

In 1915 they fought at
The Battle of Loos

In 1916: -
The Battle of Albert (1-13July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17 July)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 Sept)
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

William would not have taken part in the last battle because he was badly wounded in the thigh and foot on August 30th and was taken to hospital where several operations were performed on him. He died of wounds on September 23rd 1916.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Dewsbury War Memorial and Batley War Memorial Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group