Joe Victor Spurr





Rank: -Private

Number: - R/20688

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Corps 17th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 21/06/1917 Age: 29 years

Cemetery: - Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1V.E.2

"HE IS NOT DEAD HE'S JUST GONE AWAY"

Batley News, 6 Jan 1917, 7 Jul 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Joe Victor was born in Batley Carr in c.1887 the son of James and Hannah Spurr nee Hirst who had married on the 31st December 1874 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton. He had an older sister Annetta, born 1877 who married Charles William Walker in 1904.

Hubert Hirst was born in 1875 but sadly died November 1876, William Clifford 1880 was living with his family at Queen Street, Batley in 1881.

In 1901 the family was living at Lady Ann Road, Soothill, Batley and James was working as a cloth finisher. James died in August 1903.

Joe worked for a Birmingham firm of reptile importer and exporters for several years and in 1911 was living at the home of Henry Walter, 38c, Birmingham Road, West Bromwich as a boarder, being employed as an assistant herpetologist. He was engaged to a Birmingham young lady but before enlisting, Joe was employed as an agent by the Royal London Assurance Company under his-brother-in-law Mr. C. W. Walker.

He lived with his mother at Chestnut Terrace, Upper Taylor Street, Batley**.**

Service Details

Joe Victor enlisted in April 1916 and went to France in November 1916. He was wounded around Christmas when he been in the trenches only a few days and was sent home.

In a letter to his sister, Annetta, he wrote: -

"I am in hospital slightly wounded in the right arm and hand. I am feeling pretty well and able to sit up and have a smoke. Don't worry! I may see you soon. Please let mother know, but tell her it is not at all a serious case. You will feel a bit queer about me, but really, I am A1. I was caught last night about 9.30 Christmas Day above all days. I am looked after here like a lord. We are giving Fritz a good strafing and I think he gave us one but not half such a one as we gave him. I have just come round from the anaesthetic and feel a bit shaky in the hand and cannot write more plainly, but what of it? I am all right and that is all that matters."

He came home and returned to the trenches in April 1917.

Joe Victor was killed in action on the 21st June 1917. In a letter to his mother an officer wrote: -

"By your son's death the Company has lost an excellent and reliable NCO who would have gone a long way. His comrades join with me in expressing deep sympathy in your unfortunate loss. His body was buried behind the lines, but I am not permitted to state the place of burial."

He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group