Ernest Stables





Rank: - Private

Number: - 58419

Regiment: - Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 198th Company

Killed in Action: - 21/05/1917 Age: 31 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Bay 10.

Batley News, 9 Jun 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Ernest was born on 1st of September 1885 in Birstall. His father was James Walter Stables, an engineer and marine fitter who had been born in Gildersome, near Leeds in 1856 and died in 1895. His mother was Ann (nee Bedford) born in Gildersome in 1855. They were married on April 1st1882; Ann became a shopkeeper following the death of her husband. Ernest had two sisters; Bertha, born 1880 and Amy, born 1890. In 1901 the family lived at 2, Ridings Street, White Lea, Batley. Ann remarried to John Barraclough in 1905, and in 1911 they were living at Hodgson Lane, Drighlington.

Ernest was married in 1908 to Mary Firth who had been born in Notton, Yorkshire around 1884 and they had one daughter, Elsie, who was born in Dewsbury in 1914. They lived at 66, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury and later Greenberg Terrace, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury. He was employed at Ingram and Richardson, Rag Merchants, Dewsbury.

He was a member of the choir at Westborough United Methodist Church.

Service Details

Ernest enlisted at Dewsbury in July 1916 and went to France in December 1916. His regiment moved to 58th Division on 24 February 1917 and they saw action at the following: -
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April)
The capture and defence of Roeux (13-14 May)
which were phases of the Arras Offensive.

His wife received a letter which read: - "It is my sad duty to inform you of the great loss you and all his Company have sustained by the death in action of your dear husband on the 21st May. He was killed by a shell which fell on the gun emplacement. He and one of his comrades were killed instantaneously. Will you please accept the condolences of all the officers and men of this Company in your sad lorss. We have lost in your husband a true and noble soldier. He died fighting fo great cause of liberty and justice and what finer death could a man wish for? We were unable to get his body back for burial so he was buried by his comrades where he lay."

STABLES.—In Loving Memory of Private Ernest Stables, aged 31, Machine Gun Corps, Killed in Action, "Somewhere in France," May 21st, 1917.

He nobly answered his Country's call,
He gave his life for one and all,
But the unknown grave is the bitterest blow,
None but an aching heart could know.

From his Wife and Daughter.

The above from the Batley News 9th June 1917

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

He is remembered with Honour at Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on the Memorial Plaque in Westborough United Methodist Church and Dewsbury and Batley War memorials as well as the family grave in St. Peter's Churchyard, Birstall.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group