Edwin William Stanley





Rank: - Gunner (Gar RFA)

Number: - 148115

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillary D" Bty 311th Bde

Died: - 28/02/1919 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Douai British Cemetery, Cuincy, Nord, France E.10

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS"

Husband of Mrs. L. M. Stanley, of 5, Penryn St., Camden Town, London.

Family Details

Edwin William was born on the 17th January 1892 (birth registered St. Pancras 1st Qtr 1892) the son of Edwin and Edith Stanley nee Arnall who had married on the 2nd August 1891 at St. Thomas's Church, Campden Town. He went to Lancing Street School, St. Pancras before going to Great College Street School Westminster on the 17th October 1899 when he lived at 11/240 Great College Street, London.

His father was a French polisher and in 1901 the family was living at Great College Street, St. Pancras including his siblings Edith Constance 1895, Harold Alfred 1898 and Violet Elsie 1900. Edwin William became a French polisher like his father and in 4th Qtr 1910 he married Lillian Maud Newman. In 1911 the couple was living in a one roomed apartment at 5, Clarendon Way, Somers town London N.W. Edwin George Harold was born on the 11th June 1911 and Constance Edith on the 14th December 1913. His mother had died in the summer of 1905.

Edwin was also the father of Miss Nellie Smith's child of 40, Liberty Terrace, Mount Pleasant, Batley and she claimed maintenance for this child in his war records.

Service Details

Gunner 148115, Edwin William Stanley served with the 2nd Line of the Royal Field Artillery 311th (CCCXI) Brigade "D"Battery.

The 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division, remained at home for quite some time. Along with other 'second line' Divisions it suffered from a lack of equipment of all sorts, and training was inevitably affected. The Division also continually supplied drafts of men to the 'first line'.

In March 1915 Divisional HQ moved to Matlock Bath and the various units gradually moved to the Matlock, Derby, Belper, Nottingham and Bakewell areas. Two months later moves were made to Thoresby Park, Babworth Park, Welbeck Park, Southwell and Beverley. A further move in October 1915 saw all units concentrated in the area of Retford, then quickly going to Newcastle and in early 1916 to Salisbury Plain. Yet another move was made in June 1916, with the Division going to Lowestoft, Wangford, Flixton Park, Bungay and Somerleytown.

The Division was inspected by King George V on 26 July 1916. The units made a final move to Bedford, Wellingborough and Northampton in October 1916, where orders were received to embark for France.

The Divisional Ammunition Column sailed from Avonmouth for Rouen on 30 December 1916; the rest crossed from Southampton to Le Havre from 5 January 1917 and by 18 January concentration was completed.

The Division then remained on the Western Front in France and Flanders for the rest of the war and took part in the following engagements:

1917

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)
The Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November)

1918
The Battle of Bapaume (25 March)
The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March)
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battle of the Tardenois (part of the Battles of the Marne 1918) (20 – 30 July)
The Battle of the Scarpe^ (26 – 30 August)
The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line^ (2 September)
^ the battles marked ^ are phases of the Second Battles of Arras 1918 Battle of Havrincourt (12 September)
The Battle of the Canal du Nord (27 – 30 September)
which were phases of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line
The Battle of the Selle (17 – 23 October)
The capture of Solesmes (20 October)
The Battle of the Sambre (4 November)
which were *phases of the Final Advance in Picardy*

On 9 November 1918 the Division entered the southern outskirts of Maubeuge, crossed the Sambre and reached the Maubeuge-Avesnes road. The Division was selected to form part of the army which would advance across Belgium and occupy the Rhine bridgeheads, he only Territorial formation to receive this honour. The move began on 18 November, although the Division halted 1 – 9 December between Ciney and Rochefort. The German border was crossed on 15 December and the last units reached the allotted area around Schleiden on Christmas Day.

It was whilst he was still serving that Edwin contracted influenza in France and died on the 28th February 1919.

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

Edwin is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group