Joseph Stead





Rank: - Private

Number: - 39693

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Died of wounds in captivity: - 19th October 1918 aged 30 years

Cemetery: - Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, FranceV111.C/15

Batley News, 28 Sep 1918. Batley Reporter, 1 Aug 1919 (classifieds)

Family Details

Joseph was born in Batley in c.1888 the son of John Edwin and Martha Elizabeth Stead nee Fox. The couple had married on Christmas day 1882 at Batley Parish Church. In 1891 he was living with his parents and older sister Mary 1885 at 2, Yard 1, Ward's Hill, Batley and his father was working as a grocer's journeyman,

A decade later with additions to the family of Alice 1890, Martha Jane 1893 and Arthur 1896 when they lived at Wheatcroft, the family had moved to live at 27, Primrose Hill.

Before 1911 the family had moved once again to live at 18, Oaks Road, Soothill, Batley, Joseph was working as a jobbing gardener and his father was a tea dealer. The census shows two children had died in infancy. William Fox Stead had died in April 1889 aged 6 years. His father, John Edwin, died in July 1918 when he lived at Broom Street, Soothill, Batley.

On the 8th April 1911 he married Harriet Ann Marsden at St. Thomas's Church, Batley. George was born in 1912 followed by Alfred in 1914 and Joseph in 1916. The family lived at Pearson Street, Upper Commercial Street, Batley. Joseph worked for Alderman George Hirst, J.P. of White Lee Grange, Batley before enlisting.

Service Details

His service records have not survived but we know from his medals he did not serve abroad before 1916.

The 9th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under the command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division.

In 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line the First and Third Battles of the Scarpe and flanking operations around Bullecourt. They then moved to the Ypres area and took part in the Battle of Polygon Wood, the Battle of Broodseinde, the Second Battle of Passchendaele and the Cambrai Operations

In 1918 they took part in the Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March),
the First Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March),
the Battle of Messines (10-11 April),

the Second Battle of Kemmel (17-19 April) *and the (Third) Battle of the Aisne, which started on the 27th May 1918.*

A small and tired British force, sent to the Chemin des Dames in exchange for fresh French divisions that went north, was struck and virtually destroyed as part of another German offensive, Operation Bluecher.

Joseph was captured in the battle and was a prisoner at Friedrichfeld but was able to write home to his wife and children. He told his wife that there was another Batley man named Swift who was being held in the same camp. He mentioned that he was working but the nature of the work he was doing was blacked out by German censor however he did say he would prefer farming and he was "fairly well done to". When he wrote on July 10th, he said he was looking forward to a parcel because he was "dying" for a smoke.

His family learned that he had died in hospital on 19th October 1918 whilst in captivity.

The family put in the Batley Reporter: -

STEAD: - In ever loving memory of PTE. Joseph Stead, 9th K.O.Y.L.I., who died in hospital, October 19th 1918, while a prisoner of war, aged 30 and was interred at Chariville, France.

Though dead, his memory is precious still,
And none his vacant place can fill,
One of the best God could lend,
A loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend.

In deep sorrow from the family.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Up Lane Sunday School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group