Joseph Dyson Stocks M. M.





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 242072

Regiment: - Kings' Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 27th November 1917 aged 25

Cemetery: - Cambria Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 8

Batley News, 8 Dec 1917 (photo), 5 Jan 1918, 29 Jun 1918

Family Details

Joseph Dyson was born in Batley Carr in 1892 the son of Charles Scott and Hannah Stocks (nee Walton). His eldest sibling was Miriam Walton (1889) followed by Ernest William (1894), Ann (1899), Ivy (1908).

Joseph Dyson attended Warwick Road School before working for the late Mr. Siddron of Town Street, later becoming an apprentice hairdresser to Mr. G. Carter of Wakefield Road, Dewsbury. He eventually opened his own business in Market Place, Ossett and at all three places he was highly respected.

In 1911 the family were living at 1, West Street, Batley Carr and Charles was a cloth finisher whilst Joseph was an apprentice barber hairdresser. In 1917 the family was living at 7, West Street, Batley Carr.

He was a lifelong member of Batley Carr Wesleyan Chapel.

He was engaged to Miss Ada Cardwell daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Henry Cardwell of Prospect Mount, Commonside, Hanging Heaton.

Service Details

He enrolled in Batley in March 1916 and landed at Le Havre on 15th January 1917.

They took part in operations on the Ancre (15th February-13th March)

German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14-19th March)

First attack on Bullecourt, German attack on Lagnicourt (15th April)

Battle of Bullecourt near Arras (3rd-17 May),

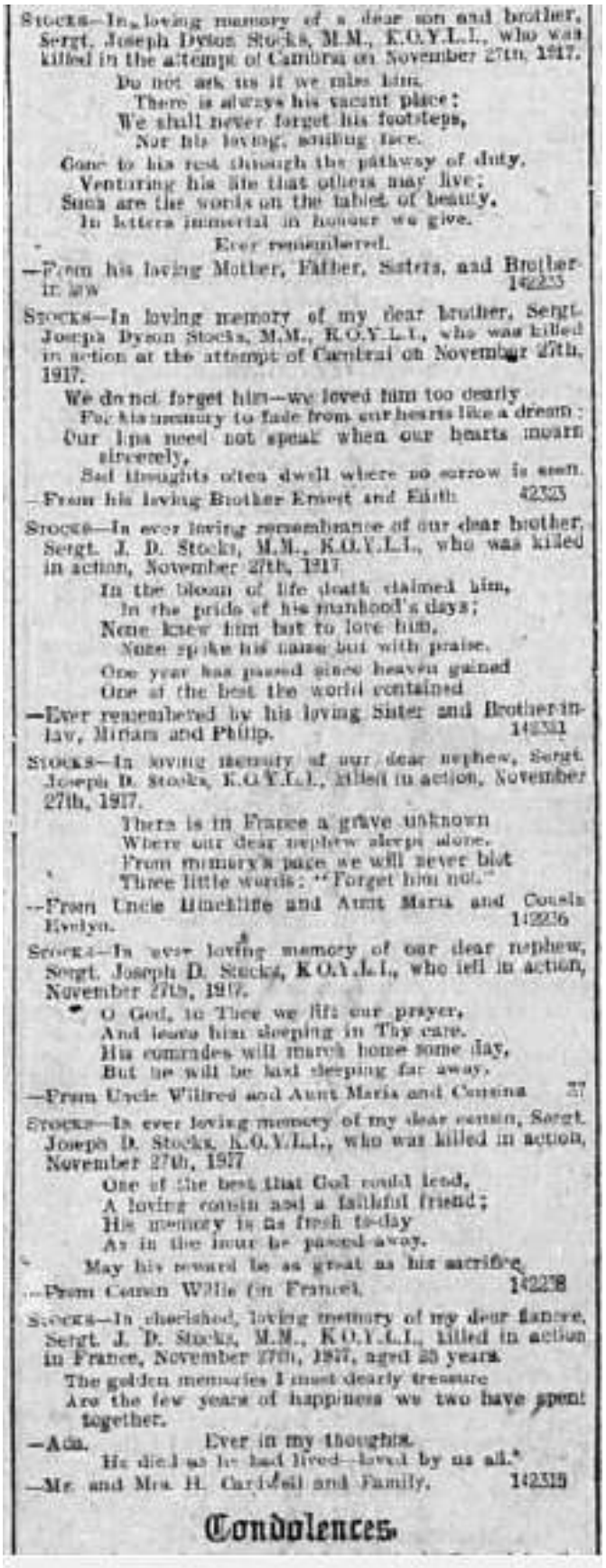
Actions on the Hindenburg Line (20-28th May),

Cambrai Operations (tank attack on 20-21November and the capture of Bourlon Wood (27-28th November).

The sad news came from a Lieutenant who wrote: -

"Allow me to extend my deepest sympathy with you in the loss of your son Sergt. Stocks who was killed in action on 27th November. He was in the first wave of the attack and was hit early on by a bullet. He died almost instantaneously. He had not been with me very long but had grown to like him and feel his loss very

deeply. He was a thoroughly good N.C.O. and beloved by his men. I am glad to say he was recommended for decoration for gallant conduct on November 20th."



STOCKS—In loving memory of a dear son and brother, Sergt. Joseph Dyson Stocks, M.M., K.O.Y.L.I., who was killed in the attempt of Cambrai on November 27th, 1917.

Do not ask us if we miss him.
There is always his vacant place;
We shall never forget his footsteps,
Nor his loving, smiling face.
Gone to his rest through the pathway of duty,
Venturing his life that others may live;
Such are the words on the tablet of beauty,
In letters immortal in honour we give.
Ever remembered.

—From his loving Mother, Father, Sisters, and Brother-in-law 142235

STOCKS—In loving memory of my dear brother, Sergt. Joseph Dyson Stocks, M.M., K.O.Y.L.I., who was killed in action at the attempt of Cambrai on November 27th, 1917.

We do not forget him—we loved him too dearly
For his memory to fade from our hearts like a dream;
Our lips need not speak when our hearts mourn sincerely,
Sad thoughts often dwell where no sorrow is seen.

—From his loving Brother Ernest and Edith 42323

STOCKS—In ever loving remembrance of our dear brother, Sergt. J. D. Stocks, M.M., K.O.Y.L.I., who was killed in action, November 27th, 1917.

In the bloom of life death claimed him,
In the pride of his manhood's days;
None knew him but to love him,
None spoke his name but with praise.
One year has passed since heaven gained
One of the best the world contained

—Ever remembered by his loving Sister and Brother-in-law, Miriam and Philip. 142351

STOCKS—In loving memory of our dear nephew, Sergt. Joseph D. Stocks, K.O.Y.L.I., killed in action, November 27th, 1917.

There is in France a grave unknown
Where our dear nephew sleeps alone.
From memory's page we will never blot
Three little words: "Forget him not."

—From Uncle Hinchliffe and Aunt Maria and Cousin Evelyn. 142236

STOCKS—In ever loving memory of our dear nephew, Sergt. Joseph D. Stocks, K.O.Y.L.I., who fell in action, November 27th, 1917.

O God, to Thee we lift our prayer,
And leave him sleeping in Thy care.
His comrades will march home some day,
But he will be laid sleeping far away.

—From Uncle Wilfred and Aunt Maria and Cousins 37

STOCKS—In ever loving memory of my dear cousin, Sergt. Joseph D. Stocks, K.O.Y.L.I., who was killed in action, November 27th, 1917

One of the best that God could lend,
A loving cousin and a faithful friend;
His memory is as fresh to-day
As in the hour he passed away.
May his reward be as great as his sacrifice.

—From Cousin Willie (in France). 142238

STOCKS—In cherished, loving memory of my dear fiancee, Sergt. J. D. Stocks, M.M., K.O.Y.L.I., killed in action in France, November 27th, 1917, aged 23 years.

The golden memories I must dearly treasure
Are the few years of happiness we two have spent together.
Ever in my thoughts.

—Ada.

He died as he had lived—loved by us all.

—Mr. and Mrs. H. Carldell and Family. 142315

Condolences.

Another letter arrived from a Company Quartermaster Sergeant who sent some photos home said: -

"He was a fine fellow and a good soldier. He joined at the same time as myself and I knew him intimately. The only consolation you have is that he died a soldier."

In June 1918 his parents were at the parade ground, at Pontefract Barracks, where John commenced his training, to receive the posthumous award of the Military Medal. The officer who presented the medal said he was proud of him for being a good soldier. The inscription on the medal read *"For bravery on the Field"* with his name inscribed around the edge.

His brother, Ernest, had been wounded and was therefore attached to the Royal Defence Corps.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Batley Carr Wesleyan Chapel, Warwick Road School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group