James Greenwood Stubley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35406

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry "D" Coy 8th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 7th June 1917 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - Hooge Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1V.L.6

"AS HE LIVED, SO HE DIED A MAN"

Batley News, 23 Jun 1917, 30 Jun 1917 (photo)

Family Details

James Greenwood was born on 1st March 1896 the son of Benjamin and Annie Norah Stubley nee Harrison. He was baptised privately at St. Paul's, Hanging Heaton on the 29th April 1896.

The couple had married in 1882 and Sarah was born in 1884 followed by John William 1887-1892, Samuel 1890-1891, Grosvenor 1892, James Greenwood and Clara Edith 1898-1902.

Benjamin was a cloth fuller who in 1901 was living with his family in Soothill Lane, Batley. Before 1911 Sarah had left home and the family was living at Saville Villas, Soothill in a five roomed house. Grosvenor was a warp twister and James a cloth dresser.

James attended Mill Lane Council School and connected with Soothill Congregational Church.

Before he enlisted, he was employed at Messrs. J. T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills as a tenterer.

Service Details

James enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the France in August/ September 1916.

The 8th (Service) Battalion came under the command of 70th Brigade in 23rd Division.

In July 1916 the battalion had fought on the Somme at the Battles of Albert and Bazentin Ridge before James had joined them. He may have fought at the Battle of Pozieres which finished on the 3rd September but certainly at the Battles of Flers-Courcelette (25th -22nd September), Morval (25th -28th September) and Transloy, where the captured Le Sars.

On 7th June 1917 the Battle of Messines commenced and this lasted until the 14th June. James died on the first day of this battle.

Captain Tom Brearley son of Robert Brearley of Batley under whom James served sent the following letter: -

"It is with the deepest sympathy that I write to tell you how gallantly your son gave his life for his country and the finest cause history has ever known. He fell in the great battle of Messines. His death was instantaneous. A soldier's death like this is not the end. He will never be forgotten by us who are left in his Company. He has set us an example to carry till the end."

The following week Robert Brearley, at the express wish of his son, visited the bereaved parents to offer his personal sympathy to the bereaved parents.

The Batley News reported that James was in the Machine Gun section of the K.O.Y.L.I.

At the time of his death his brother Grosvenor of the Royal Scots was expected to go abroad in the near future. James had been at the front for nine months when he was killed.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Batley War Memorial and at Hooge Crater Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group