Arnold Summerscales





Rank: - Private

Number: - 43758

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) (Formerly 28107 KOYLI) 11th Battalion

Killed by shell: - 17/07/1917 Age: 20 years

Memorial: - Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 21

Batley News, 4 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Arnold was born in Hanging Heaton on the 6th March 1897 the only child of Timothy Matthew and Mary Eliza Summerscales nee Graham who had married on the 7th November 1891 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Earlsheaton. He was baptised on the 4th April 1897 at the Wesleyan Chapel.

Arnold attended Mill Lane Council School. He was an active worker at Common-side Wesleyan Chapel, an official at the Sunday School and connected with the Band of Hope.

The family lived at 105, Common-side, Hanging Heaton where Mary worked on her own account as a draper whilst Timothy was a coal hewer. In 1911 Arnold was working as an errand boy but was later apprenticed to the hairdressing trade with Mr. James Scott of Commercial Street, Batley and completed his apprenticeship just before joining the army on 11th April 1916.

Service Details

Arnold was sent to France on the 13th July 1916. He would have arrived shortly after the Battle of Albert 1st-13th July.

They then took part in the Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17th July)
The Battle of Pozieres (23rd July-3 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
The Battle of Morval (25-28 September)
The Battle of Le Transloy in which the Division played a part in the capture of Le Sars (1-18 October)
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

In 1917 they took part in:-
The Battle of Messines (7-14 June)

His sergeant wrote to his parents: -

"I am very sorry to inform you that your son was instantly killed on July 17th at 3 a.m. by a shell and was buried behind the front line the next night. The parcel you sent to him arrived in the trenches the night after he was killed, and I shared it with his comrades in the platoon. He was a good and brave soldier and we

shall miss him very much. All his comrades in my platoon send their deepest sympathy."

A Dewsbury Moor lad Private Matthewson wrote to say that he had been killed "whilst digging himself in".

Arnold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.
He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group