Ernest Sykes





Rank: - Rifleman

Number: - R/38085

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Corps (Formerly T/4/143253 Royal Army Service Corps) 9th Platoon "C" Coy. 7th Bn.

Missing near Saint Quentin: - 21/03/1918 Age: 24 years

Memorial: - Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panel 61 to 64

Batley Reporter, 5 Jul 1918. Batley News, 29 Jun 1918 (photo), 13 Jul 1918, 11 Jan 1919

Family Details

Ernest was born in Batley Carr on the 1st March 1894 the son of Harry and Sarah Hannah Sykes and baptised on the 8th April 1894 when his father gave his occupation as a carrier. Harry had married Sarah Hannah Parks on the 26th December 1891.

In 1901 the couple with their children, Ernest, Joe and Laura 1900, were living at 77, Victoria Street, Batley Carr. Harry was employed as a carter. His sister, Laura, died in 1905. Dora was born in 1909. When the census was taken in 1911, they were living at 27, Victoria Street, Batley Carr and Ernest was working as a shunt lad for a railway company whilst his father was employed as a teamer for a Co-operative Company. Ernest attended Warwick Road School and worked for several years for the Hide and Skin Company, Mill Road, Batley Carr. Before he enlisted Ernest was a teamer for the Yorkshire and Lancashire Railway at Dewsbury. On the 15th December 1915 he married Clara Blaydon Fellows.

Service Details

Ernest joined the A.S.C. in 1917 and was transferred to the Royal Rifle Corps. He was home on leave in March 1918 and was reported missing at St. Quentin on the 21st of that month.

His wife lived at Featherstone and she received news that he had been reported missing on the 21st March 1918 which was 10 days after returning from home on leave. At that time his brother, Joe, had been in France for three years.

In July 1918 it was reported that he was a prisoner. After the end of the war in January 1919, when soldiers were coming home, a friend Private Joe Parkinson, Windmill says he was informed by a pal of Ernest 's that he saw him wounded in the leg but had to leave him. Willie Firth was reported missing on the same day.

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group