Victor Sykes





Rank: - Private

Number: - 242062 (44563, 5/ 6832)

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers 9th Bn (formerly 28989 Royal Rifles)

Died of Wounds: - 17th May 1918 aged 27 after wounds sustained 16/4/1918

Cemetery: - Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas-de- Calais, France 1X.A.65

"REST IN PEACE"

Family Details

Victor was born in Hanging Heaton in 1891 to James and Sarah Ann Sykes (nee Shackleton) Sykes. All the family was born in Hanging Heaton and in 1901 they were living in Clutton Street, Soothill. His siblings were Sarah (1876), Fred (1877), Ann E. (1880), Emily (1882), Ethel (1885), Walter (1890). James was a coal miner.

His mother, Sarah Ann, died in March 1908 and his father married Susan Balmforth at Dewsbury Parish Church on 23rd May 1908.

Victor attended Mill Lane School and was later a warper for Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor at their Blakeridge Mill, Batley. In 1911 he was living at 31, Upper Mount Street, Batley but he had moved to 48, Whitaker Street, Batley before he married Emma Maud James at St. Thomas's on 24th July 1915

Leslie (Sonny) was born in 1916.

The family moved to live at 10, Warwick Road, Batley.

Service Details

He enlisted at Batley in May 1916 and disembarked in France in November 1916. The 9th Service Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers was formed in Newcastle in September 1914 and was in the 52nd Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division. In August 1917 it transferred to 103rd Brigade, 34th Division and on 25th September 1917 absorbed the 2/1st Northumberland Yeomanry and became the 9th (Northumberland Hussars Yeomanry) Battalion.

In 1917 the battalion fought at the First and Second Battles of Scarpe, the Battle of Arlee, the fighting at Hargicourt in August and the 3rd Battle of Ypres in October.

In 1918 the battalion at the Battle of St. Quentin. Battles of Estaires, Bailleul and the First Battle for Kemmel Bridge. These were parts of the Battle of Lys.

The Division suffered great losses at the Battle of Lys and Victor received serious gunshot wounds to his right leg. He was taken to hospital near Boulogne where it was amputated but he later died of his wounds.

Victor had been in France for 18 months and wounded once before receiving the wound which lost him a leg and which was to prove fatal.

MRS. VICTOR SYKES, 10, Warwick Road, Batley Carr, desires to express their sincere Thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy and letters of condolence in her recent sad bereavement.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

SYKES.—In loving memory of Pte. Victor Sykes, Northumberland Fusiliers, aged 26, the beloved husband of Emma Sykes, 10, Warwick Road, Batley Carr, who Died from Wounds Received in Action in France, May 17th, 1918.

If those who caused this awful war
Were the only ones to fight,
A brighter world this would have been
For aching hearts to-night.

From his loving Wife and Sonny.

SYKES.—In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte. Victor Sykes, late of 10, Warwick Road, Batley Carr, Northumberland Fusiliers, aged 26 years, who Died in Hospital in France, May 17th, 1918, from Wounds Received in Action.

We pictured his safe returning,
And longed for the clasp of his hand,
But death has postponed this meeting,
'Twill be in a better land.

Could we have raised his dying head,
Or heard his last farewell,
The loss would not have been so great
Of one we loved so well.

From his Brothers and Sisters.

SYKES.—April 12th, Killed in Action in his 26th year, Pte. Fred Sykes, 1st-7th West Yorks. Regt., dearly loved son of J. and A. Sykes, 8, Commonside, West Ardsley.

We little thought when we parted last
He would no more return,
And now he lies in a hero's grave,
And we are left to mourn.

But the hardest part is yet to come,
When the heroes all return,
And we miss among the cheering crowd
The face of our dear son.

From his sorrowing Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters.

A year later his family put a memorial in the Batley News.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group