Wilfred Talbot





Rank: - Private

Number: -33958

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Killed by bursting shell whilst on his way up to the Trenches at Cambrai: - 23/11/1917 Age: 34 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 11.G.22

"EVER IN OUR THOUGHTS"

Batley News, 15 Dec 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Wilfred was born in Dewsbury on the 14th October 1882 the son of Edwin and Isabella Talbot nee Soothill who had married on the 2nd October 1875, registered Dewsbury). He was baptised on his first birthday when his parents gave their address as Back Barber Street and his father's employment was a stone mason.

In 1891 he was living with his parents and siblings John (Jack) Edwin 1876 and Mary Ethel 1884 at the home of his maternal grandfather, widower John Soothill at 7, Springfield, Dewsbury. His father died in late October 1892.

Wilfred attended Carlton Road Schools

In 1901 his 78-year-old grandfather was still working as a dyer's labourer and Wilfred was working as a reed and hay maker.

In the summer of 1907 Wilfred married Sarah Elizabeth Barker and Arthur was born on the 25th February 1908 at 134, Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton, Batley. Leonard was born in 1912.

After leaving school Wilfred was employed by Messrs. John Walker, potato merchants, Dewsbury and at the time he enlisted was head booker for that firm. In former years he was actively connected to Trinity Chapel, Dewsbury before it became united with the Ebenezer Chapel. He was a member of the choir and for some years principal of a physical culture class which was run in conjunction with the Sunday School. He was a life- long member of the Trinity Brotherhood and became associated with the Ebenezer Chapel.

Service Details

Wilfred enlisted on the 27th July 1916 and went to France in November 1916.

In 1916 his Division fought at the Battle of the Ancre (1st October -11th November which Wilfred may have missed.

In **1917** they fought at:-
Operations on the Ancre (11 January -13 March)
The pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 March-5 April)

In July 1917 he was wounded and was sent to hospital in Boulogne but then returned to his unit.

A neighbour, Private Ernest Ramsden wrote to tell his wife after returning to his regiment from leave, that he had heard the sad news that Wilfred had been killed in action. He enclosed a letter from another chum in another part of the line who briefly stated, "*Poor Talbot has been killed in action. Just drop his wife a line."* This sad note was confirmed by another Dewsbury soldier Private Hargreaves of the Market Place and was followed by the official intimation that he was killed in action on November 23rd.

The Soothill booklet gives the information that he was killed by a bursting shell whilst going up the trenches at Cambrai.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton Memorial (St. Paul's) and Dewsbury and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group