Richard Alfred Taylor



Rank: - Private

Number: - 34309

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 26th April 1918 aged 43 years

Memorial: -Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108 to 111

Batley Reporter, 7 Jun 1918 Station Lane, Garforth

Family Details

Richard Alfred was born in Garforth in c.1877 the son of Samuel and Ann Taylor (nee Nicholson) and was baptised at St. Mary's, Garforth on the 17th June 1877 when his father gave his employment as a miner.

In 1881 the family which included Mary Jane 1871, Thomasina Eliza 1876, Richard, and Kezia 1880 was living at Church, Garforth.

Florrie was born in Garforth in 1882 but the family moved to Soothill before the birth of Thomas Henry in 1884 and to Batley around 1885 where James Herbert was born. In 1891 they were living at 5, Albert Street, Batley and Richard was working as a pony driver.

Richard married Jane Lindon, who was a Batley girl in December 1899 and the couple was living at 11, Albert Street in 1901 and he was working as a bye worker in a coal mine. His father had become a pit deputy.

Before 1911 he had changed his occupation and become a fish dealer, having a fish and chip shop at 24, Providence Street, Batley.

The couple later moved to Station Lane, Garforth but still had ties to Batley because his father- in- law Mr. J. W. Lindon lived at 30, Richmond Street, Batley.

Service Details

Richard's service records have not survived but we do know he did not serve abroad before 1916 because of his service medals.

The 9th Battalion KOYLI was attached to 64th Brigade in 21st Division and in 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, First Battle of Scarpe, Third Battle of Scarpe, Battles of Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Second Battle of Passchendaele and the Cambrai Operations.

On the 15th April 1918 the Division was at Halifax Camp and the battalion received orders to move to Chateau Segard in reserve on the 16th .On the 19th April they received further orders to move up the line to the Wytschaete sector and relieve the 1st East Yorkshires and 15th Durham Light Infantry which they did but found many gaps in the line and no communication trenches. They made their H.Q.at Grand Bois.

For three days from the 20th-22nd "B" Company were shelled by their own artillery until they were relieved by "D" Company after strongly protesting. The battalion was relieved by the 1st East Lancs. in preparation for taking part in an attack on Wytschaete on the morning of the 26th.

At 1 am in trenches along Cheapside one-mile N.E. of Beaver Camp the Bde. Major personally brought orders for an attack at 4.25 am in conjunction with the 39th French Division and 25th English Division. The KOYLI attack in conjunction with 147th and 148th Brigade was to retake the Vierstraat Line.

The KOYLI was in the middle of the Black Watch and the West Yorks. And although they moved off after a short time, they realised that they were moving forward on their own. The Germans also realised this and they suffered very heavily from machine gun fire which was centred on them. At 6.30 am they received orders to withdraw to 400 yards forward of their original position which they did without casualties due to the heavy morning mist which still lingered. Between the hours of 4.30am and 5.15 am they had taken about 70 prisoners. At 12 noon the Germans opened an exceptionally heavy barrage which lasted until 3pm.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group