Ernest Teale





Rank: - Private

Number: - 8518

Regiment: - Lothian Regiment Royal Scots "B" Coy 2nd Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 24th November 1914 aged 30 years

26th August in the retreat from Mons

Memorial: - Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium Panel 1

20 Feb 1915: Batley Reporter, 2 Oct 1914, 9 Apr 1915, 8 Sept 1916

Family Details

Ernest was born in Soothill, Batley on 19th December 1883 the son of Robert Parker and Harriett Ann Teale nee Stubley. He was baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 12th December 1896. His parents had married on Christmas Eve 1881 and Frederick was born in 1882 followed by Ernest, Robert Percival 1885-1917, Alexander Morgan 1886, Thomas Stubley 1889, Gwendoline Beatrice 1896-97, Miriam 1901 and Kathleen 1904.

In 1891 and 1901 the family was living in Soothill Lane and Robert Parker was described as a rag warehouseman and Ernest was a paperhanger's apprentice in 1901.

Before 1911 the family was living in a five roomed home at Brownhill Cottage 149, Soothill Lane, Batley and his father, Robert, had become a rag salesman and Ernest was a rag warehouseman in the shoddy trade. They worked at Messrs. G. & J. Stubley's as did Alex.

On the 15th July 1911 he married Emma Storr at St. Paul's, Hanging Heaton.

They lived at 42, East Bath Street, Batley.

Emma of 104, Soothill Lane, Batley died on 24th November 1918.

Service Details

Ernest enlisted in August 1903 and was 5feet 5 ½ inches tall, weighed 134 lbs., with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair, giving his religion as Wesleyan. He served in India from 16th January 1905 until 23rd November 1906. At the outbreak of war, he joined the Expeditionary Force and went to France on the 10th August 1914.

The 2nd Battalion in August 1914 was part of 8th Brigade in 3rd Division.

In 1914 they took part in the Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, including the Rear-guard action of Solesmes (23rd August -5 September). A very small part of the initial clashes between the German and French Armies, often known as the Battle of the Frontiers. British Expeditionary Force begins lengthy *Retreat from Mons* which only ends in early September.

The Battle of Le Cateau (26th -1st September) British II Corps fights a holding action during the Retreat from Mons.

The Battle of Marne (7th -10th September). The BEF plays a small part in this immense, decisive battle that halts the German advance into France. The French and BEF now begin to advance northwards.

Battle of the Aisne (12th -15th September). The advance is halted as the Germans dig in along the heights above the Aisne. British attacks are repelled and both sides dig in: the roots of trench warfare.

His records state that he was wounded on the 16th September 1914.

His wife did not hear anything from him after the 24th August 1914 and it is thought that he was killed in action during the retreat from Mons.

An unofficial report of his death by Rev. J.T. Hales saying he was killed was received on 24th November 1914 and officially acknowledged on 3rd March 1915.

On the 7th April it was made official that he was missing and wounded on 24th August 1914 but was not official until 26th May 1915.

Ernest was missing killed in action but the date is not absolutely certain however he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Hanging Heaton Memorial (St. Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group