Bertie Thompson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 270652

Regiment: - Royal Scots 11 Platoon "A" Company 17th Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in Action: - 25th March 1918 aged 30

Memorial: - Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panel 13 and 14

Batley News, 11 May 1918 (photo), 11 Jan 1919 (photo), 28 Jun 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Bertie was born in Earlsheaton on 26th June 1887 the son of Smith and Amelia Thompson (nee Robinson). He was baptised on the 4th April 1888 at St. Peter's Earlsheaton on the same day as his brother William Henry. His siblings were Frederick A (1881), William Henry (1884), Charlie (1886), Edith Annie (1890), John Edward (1892), Joseph (1897-1918), Elsie May (1899) and Smith in 1902.

In 1891 the family was living at Low Road, Earlsheaton and Smith was employed as a carrier. Before 1901 the family had moved to Bright Street, Dewsbury and Bertie was employed as a confectioner's assistant. The family moved again to live at 50, Bolton Yard, Batley Carr before the 1911 census. Bertie married Elsie Alice Ethel Rudland at Holy Trinity Church on 17th April 1911. The couple went to live at Maxwell Avenue.

He worked for Slade and Bullock, wholesale confectioners, Dewsbury.

Service Details

Bertie joined the Highland Light Infantry in September 1916 and spent almost a year in France before he was killed. He transferred to the Royal Scots whilst in France. Bertie was reported missing at Bray on the 25th May 1918, however Harry Croft of Earlsheaton who was with him and was later discharged says he was actually missing after the retreat from the German attack on the 21st May. The shelling was very heavy and the Scots had to retreat. When the roll call was taken Bertie was missing.

His wife received official confirmation that he was missing presumed killed in action on or around the 25th March 1918 in June 1918.

In March 1917 his parents of Bolton's Yard, Upper Road received the news that John Edward had been seriously wounded and three weeks later news that Joseph had been slightly wounded in the arm and was in hospital in France.

His parents heard the news that Joseph had been killed by machine gun fire and Bertie was missing in the first week of May 1918. Joseph had been killed in action on the 11th April 1918 and he is remembered on Dewsbury War Memorial.

At the time of Bertie and Joseph's deaths their brother John Edward, late Northumberland Fusiliers, who had received serious scalp wounds in 1917 had

been discharged, William Henry of the Duke of Wellington's had been in France for eight months and Charlie was on active service in Ireland after fighting in France.

Bertie is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group