Robert Thompson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35264

Regiment: - Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own) Regiment 5th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action, subsequently confirmed as shot by sniper: - 11/04/1918 Age: 18 years

Memorial: - Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium Panel 4

Batley News, 4 Jan 1919, 11 Jan 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Robert was born in Harrogate in 1899 the son of Matthew Dodgson and Eliza Thompson nee Wallis who had married on the 25th April 1896 at Christ Church, Harrogate. His father was a stone mason and in 1901 the family was living at 17, Bolton Street, Harrogate. Lillian was born in 1897 and Matthew Dodgson (jnr.) in 1903. 1911 the family was living at 95, Cherry Tree Street, Elsecar, Barnsley and Robert was employed as a bricklayer at a colliery. The census shows the couple had lost three children in infancy.

Not long after the census was taken the family moved to live at 8, Albert Street, Field Lane, Batley. Before he enlisted, he worked for Mr. S. Sheard, market gardener, Bradford Road, Batley.

Service Details

Robert enlisted at Dewsbury when he was 18 years old into the West Yorkshire Regiment but transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment and was eventually sent to France.

Sadly, at the end of the war when prisoners were released, a comrade, Private A. Johnson, of Nottingham who had returned from imprisonment in Germany confirmed that he had been shot by a sniper on April 10th when their Battalion was digging themselves in. He buried the body at night and as evidence of identification he sent the bereaved parents the pocket wallet and photographs found in the dead man's tunic. Later official notice came from the Army authorities that the death was presumed.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group