Joseph Henry Truelove





Rank: - 3/2930

Number: -Private

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment 1st Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 08/05/1915 aged 28 years

Memorial: - Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panels 36 and 55

Batley Reporter, 11 June 1915. Batley News, 30 Oct 1915 (photo)

Family Details

Joseph Henry was born in Batley in 1887 the son of Frank and Emily Truelove nee Ellis of 54, Healey Street, Batley. The couple had married in 1880 and at first lived with her parents in Street, Batley. Emily's father, Henry Ellis, was a local rag merchant.

By the 1891 Census Frank and Emily had moved to 54 Healey Street and now had two children Sarah Harriet (1882) and Joseph Henry. Frank, a rag machine tooth maker, died in 1902. In 1906 his daughter, Sarah Harriet, married Ernest Ineson at Staincliffe Parish Church.
In the 1911 Census Emily is still living at 54, Healey Street with Joseph Henry who is now working as a Piecer at Messrs. Briggs and Sons, Docking Mills, Carlinghow, Batley.

Service Details

Joseph Henry enlisted in Dewsbury on the 3rd July, 1914. His records show he was 5' 3 ½" tall, weighed 108 lbs, his chest measurement was 34in and he had grey eyes and dark brown hair. He disembarked on the 27th December, 1914.
In May 1915 his mother received news from Captain J E Forster that Joseph had been wounded on the 8th of May. He further stated that at the present time Joseph had not been traced as having passed through any dressing station and was presumably a prisoner of war

Emily wrote to the Authorities in June saying:
"I received a letter on the 9th June from Captain J E Forster informing me that my son was either wounded or he thinks he is presumed a Prisoner of War, please inform me without delay and oblige."

His mother had hoped she would receive news of him but eventually, after several months, she said she was confident that if he were alive and well he would have sent an intimation of his circumstances. There was a further complication when it was believed his pay had been stopped for 12 days for some misdemeanour but this was discounted as the offence occurred in a different area to where he was known to have been on the specific dates. It was officially believed to be a case of mistaken identity. She had requested via the local paper that, "*She would be most grateful if any soldier or relative could relieve her of her protracted anxiety."*

Emily died in 1918 aged 65 years.

In 1920 Joseph's sister, Sarah Harriet Ineson (nee Truelove), signed a Declaration that she was his next of kin living at 21 Alma Terrace, Batley and gave the names and ages of her 4 children. Doris May (14), Gladys (11), Ada (6) and Ernest (2).

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Joseph Henry is remembered with Honour at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Staincliffe Wesleyan Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group