Herbert Swift Vollands







Family headstone at Dewsbury Cemetery

Rank: - Private

Number: - 202498 (formerly 5538)

Regiment: - King's own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/4th Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: -14th September 1918 aged 23

Memorial: - Vis-en-Artois, Pas de Calais, France

Batley Reporter, 24 Jan 1919 (photo). Batley News, 11 Oct 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Herbert was born in 1895 in Batley Carr the son of Swift and Isabella Swift (nee Lancaster). George Henry had been born in 1880 and Emily in 1885 but she died in childhood.

The family was living in Halifax Road in 1901 but had moved to Healds Road before his baptism at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 21st January 1903.

He attended Purlwell Council School, and Batley Carr Parish Church and was a finisher at Messrs G. & J. Stubley's.

Swift died in 1905 and the family moved to 27, Quarry Street, Batley. It was reported in the local press that Herbert Swift had a large circle of friends.

Service Details

His service records have not survived but it is known he was last seen on the 11th September 1918.

His mother appealed in the Batley and Dewsbury Reporters in January 1919 asking if anyone had any news about him.

A corporal of his platoon wrote to his mother: -

"He (Private Vollands) came to us just before the battle at Havrincourt , and went into it with us. Five minutes after we started, he was wounded and I saw him going back towards the stretcher bearers. Since then we have been waiting for news of him but none came. I cannot think he was taken prisoner for we went two miles further on. He might have been unlucky and got hit in crossing barrage."

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group