Ingham Walker





Rank: - Second Lieutenant (Formerly Sgt. 107910 MGC & 12794 K.R.R.C.)

Regiment: - Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 3rd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 27th September 1918 aged 26

Cemetery: - Beaumetz Cross Roads Cemetery, Beaumetz-Les-Cambrai, Pas-de-Calais, France F.23

Batley News, 30 Sep 1916, 12 Oct 1918. Batley Reporter, 11 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Ingham was born in Carlinghow, Batley in 1892 the son of Batley born Tom Gill Walker and his wife Sarah (Nee Chapman) who came from Morley. They were living at 8, Rosebank Street, at the time of his birth and Tom was employed as a loom tuner.

In 1901 the family were living at Victoria Mill Yard, Bradford Road Batley with his siblings, Joseph Chapman (1895) and Henry (Harry 1896) and his father, Tom, was a tuner at a woollen mill. The family moved to 14, Field Hill, Batley before the death of Tom in 1907 when he was described as an engineer.

Ingham attended Carlinghow Council School and Batley Grammar School before becoming a pupil teacher at Park Road Council School.

He was an uncertified teacher but went to Leeds Training College where he obtained his certificate before enlisting in December 1915 in the ranks of the King's Royal Rifles.

He was an esteemed member of Batley Liberal Club and connected with Cross Bank Wesleyan Church. As a school teacher he was a favourite amongst the boys. He was an athlete and greatly interested in boys' sports particularly football and swimming. He won his Rugby cap in his first year at Leeds Training College and also the junior medal for swimming.

He was engaged to Miss Thompson daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Thompson, Bradford Road, Batley.

Service details:

Ingham enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles in December 1915 after obtaining his certificate from Leeds Training College.

He disembarked for France on 5th May 1916 and it was reported in the Batley News of 30th September 1916 that he had been wounded by shrapnel to his thigh. He was a Lance –Corporal at this time and still in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

Ingham was commissioned to the Machine Gun Corps becoming Sergeant 107910 on 28th January 1918. The 3rd Machine Gun Corps was part of 1st

Division and formed on 26th January 1916 moving into 1st Battalion on 28th February 1918.

In 1918 the machine gun corps took part in the Battles of the Lys 9th - 29th April, Battles of Drocourt-Quean 2nd -3rd September, Epehy 18th September, and St Quentin Canal.

On 26th September 1918 the 3rd Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps were issued with the order that they were to attack the next day with the objective of trying to force the enemy back over the Canal de St. Quentin. The war diary of the 3rd Machine Gun Corps shows that they attacked on 27th September:

"Attack commenced by division. Casualties two officers 13 other ranks"

Ingham Walker was one of the two officers killed on the first day of the battle for the St Quentin Canal.

There were however 19 soldiers buried on the 27th September in this cemetery.

In his will he left £ 56, 3s. 9d to, Sarah, his widowed mother.

He was awarded British War Medal 1914-1920 and the Victory Medal.

He is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Grammar School, Batley Parish Church and the Beaumetz Crossroads Cemetery, Beaumetz - Les-Cambrai where 18 others were buried on the same day.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group