Albert Ward







Rank: - Private

Number: - 27021

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers (Formerly 20912 East Yorkshire Regiment) 2nd Battalion

Died of Malaria: - 6th July 1917 aged 25 years

Cemetery: - Baghdad (North Gate) Military Cemetery, Iraq XV.G.9

Batley News, 4 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Albert was born in Birstall in c.1892 the youngest son of George and Margaret Jane Ward nee Dodds. George, who was an agricultural labourer, came from Full Sutton near York and Margaret from Newcastle upon Tyne. They had married on the 23rd November 1880 at Bishop Wilton, York.

George (junior) was born in 1881 followed by John Arthur 1884, Elizabeth Annie 1886, James William 1888, Mark 1889, Ernest 1890,

The family moved around Yorkshire and the children were born in different areas of the county but they appear to have settled at 19, Spurr Street, off Station Road, Batley shortly after the birth of Albert.

Albert attended Mill Lane School and was associated with Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and was also a member of Hanover Street P.S.A. After leaving school he worked for Messrs. G. & J. Stubley, Batley but before he enlisted was employed by C.W.S. Livingstone Mills, Batley Carr.

Service Details

Albert enlisted in September 1914 and at Christmas 1915 was sent out to Egypt, from where he was moved to Mesopotamia and then Baghdad where he was engaged in superintending native labour. The 2nd Battalion was attached to 84th Brigade in 28th Division.

On 2nd October 1916 the occupied Mazirko and captured Barakli Jum'a on the 31st October 1916.

On 15 May 1917 they captured the Ferdie and Essex Trenches (near Barakli Jum'a). He died of malaria in Baghdad on July 6th 1917. At the time of his death his brother Mark was in the Navy at a depot in Scotland and Arthur was serving with the K.O.Y.L.I. in France.

Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, St. Paul's Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.

