Joseph Ward





Rank: - Private

Number: - 242941

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/5th Battalion (formerly 6227)

Died of Septicaemia and Meningitis: - 29th March 1917 aged 34

Cemetery: - Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de- Calais, France XX11. D.15A

Batley Reporter, 5 Apr 1917 (photo). Batley News 7 Apr 1917 (photo and CWGC under the name of James Ward)

Family Details

Joseph was born in Batley in c 1883 the son of Fred and Ann Ward (nee Law) who had married at Batley Parish Church on the 19th October 1879.

Maria was the eldest child (1880), Joseph, Annie Elizabeth (1885), Frank (1887-1916), Percy (1889) and in 1891 the family was living at 1yard 5, Taylor Street, Batley and Fred was working as a cloth warehouseman.

A decade later the family with the additions of Frances (1893) and Ida, 1901 was living at 26, Talbot Street, Batley. Fred was a grocer's clerk assistant and Joseph was working as a brick maker. Alice was born in April 1896 but sadly died aged 17months in September 1897.

Elsie was born c 1904.

On the 7th September 1910 Joseph married Sarah Garner at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton. When the 1911 census was taken the couple was living at 71, High Street, Hanging Heaton and Joseph was working as a tenterer and Sarah was a weaver. John was born later that year.

The family later went to live at 38, Beaumont Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley.

In 1911 his parents and several siblings were living at Byron Street, Batley and Fred was employed as a lamp lighter. They later moved to live at Wensleydale Parade, Birstall.

Before he enlisted Joseph worked for Messrs. Wrigley and Parker Bros., Greenhill Mills as a yardman.

Joseph was a member of the old Volunteers and later the Batley Territorials, he was well known in Batley being also a member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club. He was also associated with Broomhill United Methodist Church and also a member of Batley Sons of Temperance.

Service Details

Joseph was called up under the Derby Scheme on 13th September 1916 and went to the Front in December 1916.

He was only at the Front for a few weeks when he developed a carbuncle. His wife who had not heard from him since early February received a card in early March stating he was sick and in hospital. On 20th March she received a telegram saying he was seriously ill and inviting her to go at once to visit him. This she did with his mother, and found him seriously ill in a French hospital. He had developed septicaemia and meningitis but for a few days after their arrival he appeared to be a little better. Sadly, he took a turn for the worse and he died in the evening of Thursday 29th March 1917. They were allowed to stay until the funeral on the Saturday. He was taken to a cemetery nearby, in a coffin draped with the Union Jack, on a gun carriage whilst a number of soldiers acted as escorts and bearers. The interment was carried out by a Church of England Chaplain.

The Reporter gives a slightly different story stating he died of poisoning probably due to drinking trench water.

His brother, Frank, who was also in the K.O.Y.L.I. was missing, presumed killed on 1st July 1916.

Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Broomhill Chapel, Batley War Memorial and Etaples Military Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group