Albert Watson







Rank: - Private

Number: - 30823

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion "X" Coy

Killed in Action: - 5th April 1917cwgc/12th March Batley News /28th June 1917 Hanging Heaton Booklet

Aged 27

Cemetery: - Douai Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. A.21

"SADLY MISSED"

Batley News, 14 Apr 1917. Dewsbury Reporter 21 Apr 1917

Family Details

Albert was born on 17th March 1888 the son of John and Sarah Ann Watson (nee Parker). He was baptised at St. Mark's Church on 26th September 1888. His parents had married in 1871.

In 1881 they were living at Albion Street, Dewsbury with their children Harry (1873), Edith (1877) and Regina (1879) and an adopted son, Willie Senior (1880).

In 1891 the family had moved to live at Commonside, Hanging Heaton with the additions of Ethel (1883) and Albert when John's occupation was a woollen spinner. Sarah Ann died in early April 1898.

In 1901 the family was living at Greenwood Buildings, Commonside.

The 1911 census, when the family was living at 65, High Street, Hanging Heaton, shows that there had been 12 children born but seven had died during infancy.

Albert attended Mill Lane Council School and the United Methodist Sunday School before becoming an assistant tuner at Messrs J. Fenton and Sons, Batley Carr. He was formerly associated with Hanging Heaton United Methodist Church and was a prominent member of the Ebenezer football team.

On the 18th July 1914 he married Edith Annie Hirst at St. Thomas's Church, Batley. Norman, their only child, was born later that year. They lived at 4, Warwick Cottages, Batley Carr. He changed his employment to work in the coal department of Dewsbury Co-operative Society at the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway goods yard.

Service Details

Albert enlisted in Batley and disembarked in September 1916. The 6th Battalion came under the orders of the 43rd Brigade, 14th (Light) Division.

In 1916 they fought at the Battles of Delville Wood and Flers-Courcelette.

In 1917 they took part in the retreat to the Hindenburg Line and fought at the 1st and 3rd Battles of the Scarpe.

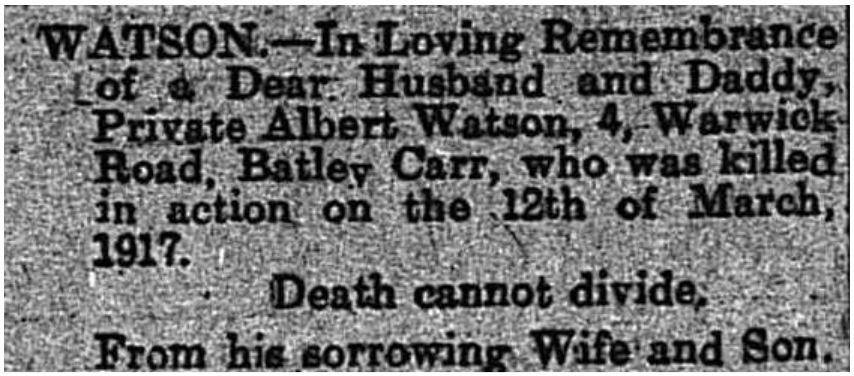
Official news came of his death which stated he had been killed on March 12th 1917. His wife also received a letter from Captain C.B. Latham who was wounded

at the same time as Albert's death stating he was killed instantaneously on a raid on German trenches, a little south east of Arras.

Captain Leatham wrote *"I am very grieved at his death. He was a fine soldier and always cheerful in spite of anything disagreeable. He will be sadly missed by all my Company, with whom he was very popular"*

A sergeant also wrote a similar letter and assured his widow of the sympathy of his entire platoon.

Batley News 21st April 1917.


WATSON.—In Loving Remembrance of a Dear Husband and Daddy, Private Albert Watson, 4, Warwick Road, Batley Carr, who was killed in action on the 12th of March, 1917.

Death cannot divide,
From his sorrowing Wife and Son.

<u>Please Note.</u>

The Batley News reported his death for the first time on 14th April 1917 and states he died 12th March. The C.W.G.C. says he died on 5th April 1917 and the Hanging Heaton booklet says 28th June. The latter cannot be accurate if the report that he died instantly is true.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity (Batley Carr), Ebenezer Methodist Church, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Douai Communal Cemetery, Earlsheaton, Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group