Fred Webster





Rank: - Private

Number: - 32043

Regiment/Battalion: - York and Lancaster 13th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 15th June 1917 aged 28

Cemetery: - Albuera, Bailleul-Sire-Berthoult, South Nord, Pas-de-Calais, France. A.21

Family Details

Fred was born in Batley on 16th November 1888 the son of Beckett and Mary Ellen Webster (nee Naylor) and was baptised at St. John's, Carlinghow on 21st February 1889.

Joseph was born on the 9th January 1879 followed by Harry 5th March 1882 who sadly died in February 1884.

In 1911 the family had moved to 2, Ealand Road, Carlinghow and Beckett was now a cloth finisher, whilst his sons were both working in the mills as a woollen spinner and percher respectively.

Fred later worked as a tuner at both Branch Road Mills and Blakeridge Mills, which were both owned by J.T & J. Taylor's.

He was connected with St. John's Church, Carlinghow being a former member of the Church Lads' Brigade and the Church Institute. He was also a member of Carlinghow Working Men's Club.

His father Beckett of 2, Ealand Road died 16th January 1916 and his mother, Mary Ellen died in 1922

Service Details

Fred was called up on 27th June 1916 and disembarked in November 1916. The 13th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment were formed in 1914 and were known as the" Barnsley *Pals"* coming under the order of 94th Brigade, 31st Division. They went first to Egypt but then to France in March 1916 where Fred joined them in November 1916.

He may have reached his battalion before they fought at the Battle of the Ancre (13-18 November 1916) which was the final British attack of the Battle of the Somme 1916.

In 1917 his battalion took part in the third Battle of Scarpe 3rd/4th May which was near Arras.

In early June they were at Roclincourt and on the 11th they were at Railway Cutting and took over the line behind Oppy from the East Lancs. It was reported on the 12th that the 12th York and Lancaster Regiment were on their right and

the 5th Division on the left. The following day they bombarded the enemy from 11a.m. until 7 p.m. and again on the 15th the artillery was very active. The War Diaries show that three other ranks were killed and six other ranks were wounded. The battalion stayed in the trenches until the 19th June.

Two of Fred's pals wrote to his mother saying that he had been killed in action on June 15th by a sniper whilst on guard before she had official confirmation of his death.

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

Fred is remembered with Honour on St. John's Church Carlinghow, Carlinghow Working Men's' Club, Batley War Memorial and Albuera Cemetery Bailleul-Sire-Berthoult, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group