Charles Whitaker





Rank: - Private

Number: - 46267

Regiment: - Leicestershire Regiment 6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 16th September 1918 aged 19

Cemetery: - Rocquigny –Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France V11.E.30

"O LAMB OF GOD I COME"

Batley News, 19 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Charles was born in Batley in c 1899 the only son of James Walker and Ada Whitaker (nee Lambert). The couple had married at St. Thomas's Church on 23rd October 1897. Annie was born the following year but sadly died aged 8 months in September 1898.

In 1901 the family was living at 95, Warwick Road, Batley and by 1911 they had moved to 8, Mount Avenue, Mount Street, Batley a three roomed house. James was employed as a cloth raiser and Ada was a shawl fringer.

Charles attended Warwick Road School and afterwards was employed in the office of Batley Co-operative Society. He attended Park Road Baptist Church and was assistant Sunday School Secretary at the time he joined up. He was also a member of the 2nd Batley Scout Group.

Service Details

Charles joined the Forces in March 1917 and went to France in December 1917. From July 1916 the 6th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment was in 110th Brigade, 21st Division.

In 1918 the battalion fought at the Battles of St. Quentin, First Battle of Bapaume, Messines, Second Battle of Kemmel, Aisne 1918, Albert and the Second Battle of Bapaume (21st August-1st September).

On the 16th September the battalion was north of Equancourt and there was hostile shelling and bombing far more than usual.

Charles was killed and buried along with Cpl. Frederick Nichols from the same regiment and 3 other soldiers from various regiments.

Charles is remembered with Honour at Broomhill United Methodist Church, Batley War Memorial, Batley Co-operative Society Roll of Honour, Warwick Road School and Rocquigny –Equancourt Road British Cemetery and was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group