Rowland Whitehead





Rank: - Private

Number: - 333833

Regiment: - Highland Light Infantry 9th (Glasgow Hds) Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 14th October 1918 aged 34

Cemetery: - Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Military, Manancourt, Somme, France X111.D.27

Batley News, 26 Oct 1918 (photo) Batley Reporter, 26 Apr 1918

Family Details:

Rowland was born on 8th September 1884 the youngest son of Thomas Whitehead and his wife Charlotte (nee Wilkinson) and was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 8th October 1884.

The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 18th June 1872 when Tom made his mark but 19-year-old Charlotte signed her name. Thomas's occupation was given as a carpet weaver.

Herbert was born in 1877 followed by Jim (1880), Roland, Mary (1889) and Ethel (1890). They were living at Beck Lane, Carlinghow in 1891 but by 1901 the family had moved to 5, Birch Street, Carlinghow, Batley and Rowland was working as a baker's bread man.

He had attended Carlinghow School and St. John's Church before immigrating to Canada in 1906. He left Liverpool on the 17th May and was accompanied by H. Whitehead aged 25 bound for Mantl on the" Ionian" which was part of the Allan Line. They were both described as labourers.

He returned to England in 1912 and was employed by R.D. Harrison &Co., tanners of Wellington Street, Batley. He was a member of the old Batley Volunteers and for a time had a fish and chip shop business in Bradford Road, Carlinghow and played football for the St. John's Church team.

Service Details.

Rowland enlisted under the Derby Scheme in May 1916 and embarked for France at Christmas 1916. He joined the Highland Light Infantry which in May 1916, joined the 100th Brigade in 33rd Division.

His first battle in France would have been the Battles of Scarpe, part of the Arras offensive, followed by actions on the Hindenburg Line and operations on the Flanders coast. Battle of Menin Road Ridge and the Battle of Polygon Wood were also battling of 1917 in which he would have fought.

In 1918 he would have fought at the Battles of Messines, Hazebrouck, Bailleul and the defence of Neuve Eglise followed by the Battle of Kemmel Ridge and the fighting and recapture of Ridge Wood which would have been in the area around Lys.

The Battle of Epehy was fought on September 18th

Battle of St. Quentin Canal September 29th to 10th October

Beaurevoir Line 3-5 October

Battle of Cambrai took place between 27th September and the 9th October.

Rowland was wounded once previously before receiving serious wounds to his thigh from which he died at Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on October 14th 1918.

At the time of his death his brother Jim was in France with the Motor Transport. His parents had moved to 2, Shay Cottages, Carlinghow.

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial, St.John's Church Carlinghow and Rocquingy–EquanCourt Road, British Cemetery, Somme, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group