Gilbert Whiteley



Rank: - Private

Number: - G/11669

Regiment: - The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 7th Bn (formerly 6948 Royal Fusiliers)

Killed in Action: - 04/10/1916 Age: 24 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 5 D.

Batley News, 21 Oct 1916

Family Details

Gilbert was born in Batley on the 18th February 1893 and baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 26th March the son of Henry & Annie Whiteley (nee Jackson, m. 1890, registered Dewsbury). His father gave his occupation as a manufacturer.

Richard was the eldest son born 1891, Gilbert, Walter 1896 and Ethel 1898.

In 1901 the family was living at 8, Cross Park Street and Henry was described as an employer and a manufacturer of woollen worsted cloths.

Gilbert attended Park Road Day Schools and was associated with Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School and was a teacher there.

A decade later Henry was an employer but was a coal merchant and Gilbert was a coal merchant's clerk. Henry was in business as a coal merchant at the Great Northern Railways Goods Yard, Batley. Gilbert assisted him in this business.

Service Details

Gilbert enlisted at Dewsbury on the 1st May 1915. He was in France from around October 1915 and in 1916 his Division took part in the following: -

The Battle of Albert in which the Division captured its objectives near Montauban (1st- 13th July).
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge in which the Division captured Trones Wood (14th -17 July).
The Battle of Delville Wood (15 July-3 September).
The Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26-28 September).
The Battle of the Ancre Heights in which the Division played a part in the capture of the Schwaben Redoubt and in the capture of Regina Trench (1st October -11 November).
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916.

The first news of his death came in a letter from a corporal who wrote: -

"I think it is my duty- although it is a painful one-to write and let you know your son was killed in action on the 4th of this month. He was in our section and we always make it a rule to write if anything happens to any of us. Since he has been

with us we have been some very trying experiences. He was always cheerful, well liked and respected by all of us. Please accept most sincere sympathy from all his chums and you must console yourselves by knowing Gilbert was killed whilst doing his duty bravely for his country."

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group