George Frederick Wildsmith



Rank: - Private

Number: - 763961

Regiment: - London Regiment (Artists' Rifles) (Formerly 9960) 28th (County of London) Bn.

Killed in Action: - 30/10/1917 Age: 39 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium XXXV.B.21

Family Details

George Frederick was born in Batley in 1877 the son of George Albert and Eliza Ann Wildsmith (nee Clegg, m. 1872, registered Dewsbury). In 1881 he was living with his parents and elder brother Ethelbert 1873 in Bath Street, Batley. His father, who came from Hartshead Moor, was a woollen cloth salesman and his mother was a Halifax girl. Before the birth of Edith 1888 the family had moved to live in Soothill Lane and George Albert was by 1891 a manger for a woollen manufacturer. In 1901 the family was still at the bottom of Soothill Lane in Marlboro' Terrace and George Frederick was working in a cotton warehouse. His mother died in April 1908.

On the 11th March 1909 George Frederick married Nellie Kay Thompson at Royton Parish Church. He gave his occupation as a manager and she was a teacher. Frank Clifford was born on the 30th December 1909 in Oldham and Freda on 10th December 1914 in Springhead.

In 1911 he and his wife and eldest child were living at 43, Savoy Street, Oldham and he was employed as a clerk to a cotton waste merchant.

In 1911 George Albert and Edith were living at 41, Oaks Road, Soothill in a five roomed home and he was working as a traveller in cotton waste.

Service Details

George Frederick enlisted on 3rd December 1915 when he gave his address as 34, Platting Road, Lydgate, Oldham. He was 38 years and 30 days old, a manager for a cotton waste trader and 5ft. 5 inches tall. He was "at home" until he went to France on the 16th February 1917.

The 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) were formed in August 1914 at Dukes Road, Euston Road. Army Troops were attached to 2nd London Division. They moved on mobilisation to St Albans area and on 28th October 1914 they left Division and moved to France. They were established as an Officers Training Corps based at Bailleul, going in April 1915 to St Omer.

On the 28th June 1917 they were transferred to 190th Brigade in 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. They took part in the Second Battle of Passchendaele (26

October – 10 November 1917) which was a phase of the Third Battles of Ypres 1917.

To date we have found no reports of how George was killed but he would have been killed during this battle.

His wife moved to live at 13, Birch Street, Seaforth, Liverpool

George Frederick was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial Addenda and Oldham War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group