David Wilkinson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 40054

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment (formerly 33994 KOYLI) 8th Battalion

Died of illness: - 26th February 1917 aged 35

Cemetery: - Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, Nord, France I.D.12

Family Details

David was born at Thornhill Edge in 1881 the son of Joseph and Ellen (nee Charlton) and was baptised at Thornhill Parish Church on 10th September 1881 at the same time as his brother Squire (born 1877). Joseph was a miner. His elder siblings were Elizabeth born 1873 and Harriett 1875 who was described as deaf and dumb on the census.

Within the next decade the family had moved to live at 35, Healey Street, Batley and Bradford born Joseph was a coal miner. They were still there 10 years later and David was working as a piecer at a woollen mill.

He was a former scholar at Healey Board School and was associated with Healey Congregational Church. He worked at the Hick Lane Mills of Messrs. G & J. Stubley.

On the 19th September 1910 he married Hannah Moore at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

The couple lived at 18, Mortimer Avenue, Healey, Batley.

Service Details

David was called up at Batley in July 1916 and disembarked in France in December 1916.

In late February 1917 his wife received a letter from David saying he was quite well. The next day she received a telegraphic message from a casualty clearing station saying David was dangerously ill suffering from an internal obstruction. On Friday 1st March she received a letter from a sister in charge of the Casualty Clearing Station saying that he had died. He had been suddenly taken ill and hoping to give him some relief an operation had been performed. Everything possible was done for him but without avail.

Confirmation was received from the Records Office and also from Captain Frank Fairfax, chaplain to the forces, who had been the pastor at the United Methodist Church at Hanging Heaton before he enlisted in the army.

"You will have heard the news of your husband's death by the time this reaches you. I did not know he but I had to conduct the funeral and I thought you would like to know that a Nonconformist minister was able to do the last offices for him. A record of his burial place will be kept by the Graves Registration Commission and they will be able in due to let you know where that is. Will you accept my sincerest sympathy in your sad bereavement? I pray that God will give you consolation and make certain to you that the joy of reunion which we feel sure will be in God's own time. We who have seen the splendid work and courage of the lads out here will not forget them. We pray to be worthy of them and to seen their sacrifices shall not have been in vain. "

In the Batley Reporter of 28th February 1919 there was a memorial

WILKINSON –In loving memory of Private David Wilkinson late of 18, Mortimer Avenue, Batley who died on France on February 26th 1917.

Two years have passed away;
Remembrance brings back all;
War's bitter cost, the dear life lost,
But memory lives through all.

From his loving wife.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Christ Church, Staincliffe, Hazebrouck, France and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group