Alfred Wilson





Rank: - L/Cpl

Number: - 24539

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 27/08/1917 Age: 24 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 42 to 47 and 162.

Batley News, 22 Sep 1917. Dewsbury Reporter, 22 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Alfred was born in Birstall on the 16th December 1893 the son of Illingworth and Sophia Wilson (nee Wear, m. 1887, registered Dewsbury) and baptised at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 1st July 1900 which was the same day as his brother Herbert born

The boys lived at Brookroyd Lane with their parents and older sisters Emma Gertrude 1888 and Alice 1890 at Brookroyd Lane and Illingworth was employed as a cloth finisher in 1901.

Alfred attended Birstall Parish Day Schools and was a chorister at Brownhill Parish Church, like his brothers.

John Ratcliffe was born in January 1903 and the family moved to live in a seven roomed home at 9, Quarry Lane, Batley. In 1911 Illingworth was a cloth finisher, however he was the head cloth finisher for Wilson Bros. Little Orme Mills, Batley. Alice was a school teacher, Herbert a tobacconist's assistant and Alfred worked on motor repairs.

As a boy he gained a knowledge of telegraphy at Birstall Post Office. For some time after leaving the employ of the post office he was in the employ of Mr. Golby, motor car proprietor of Dewsbury and Batley following his experiences there engaged in motor construction work for Messrs. Wheatley and Render of Drighlington. Before he enlisted, he held the position of manager and traveller for Mr. Thomas Thompson of Greek Street, Leeds in the cinematograph industry. He was living in Headingley when he enlisted at Leeds.

Service Details

Alfred had gained a knowledge of signalling and when he enlisted, he at once specialised in signalling. He passed his examinations, became a signalling instructor and was acting in that capacity when placed under orders for service abroad. His service records have not survived but newspaper reports say he enlisted around late 1915. The 9th Battalion was in Gallipoli in 1915 moving to Egypt and then to France in July 1916. It is unlikely Alfred was with them at this stage.

In 1917 they took part in
Operations on the Ancre (11th January – 13th March)
The Battle of Messines (7-14 June)

The Battle of the Langemarck (16-18August)

The last field card home was dated 26th August when he said he was going down to the base. He fell on the following day.

His brother Herbert of the "Leeds Pals" lost the use of his right wrist in the "Big Push" of July 1916 and was discharged and returned to help his uncle, Mr. Oliver Wilson, tobacconist, Commercial Street, Batley. He lived at Intake Lane, Batley.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Saviour's Brownhill and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group