George Alfred Woodhall





Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - 33346

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Killed In Action: - 14th April 1917 aged 23 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 11 C and 12 A.

Batley News, 12 May 1917

Family Details

George Alfred was born in Whitley Bridge in c.1894 the only surviving son of George Henry and Sarah Jane Woodhall nee Clark who had married at Snaith on 7th January 1883. He was baptised at All Saints Church, Kellington on the 25th March 1894 when his father gave his occupation as a labourer.

In 1901 he was living with his parents and older sister Lilly born 1891 at Station Row, St. Edmunds, Kellington and his father was described as a roller mender at a flour mill.

In 1911 his parents were living at Ash Cottage, Whitley Bridge with his siblings Caroline born 1887 and May 1903. Seventeen-year-old George Alfred was living and working at Lodge Farm, Whitley Bridge as a horse man.

Hannah Maria born 1883 was a servant in 1911. The 1911 census shows that 5 of their eight children were still alive, and others would have died in infancy.

Joseph Henry 1886-1886, Ernest 1890-1890 and Lawrence 1899 had not survived infancy.

His father became the licensee of the Crown Hotel, Staincliffe although George Alfred went to work at the flour mills of Messrs John Croysdale and Sons, Whitley Bridge before he enlisted in the summer of 1916.

The family moved to Staincliffe in October 1916.

Service Details

George enlisted on June 21st 1916 at Goole and went to France in November 1916.

The 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was attached to 97th Brigade in 32nd Division from 28th December 1915.

The Battle of the Ancre took place between 13th -18th November 1916 where he may have first seen conflict.

In early 1917 the battalion took part in: - Operations on the Ancre- 11th January – 13th March and the pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line 14th March-5th April.

His father received the news he had been killed in action on April 14th 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group