Hugh Woods





Rank: - Private

Number: - 15/1261

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 15th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 01/07/1916 Age: 20 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 2 A 2 C and 2 D.

Batley News, 22 Jul 1916 (photo) Batley Reporter, 28 Jul 1916 (photo), 22 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Hugh was born in Moseley, Birmingham, on the 7th July 1895 the elder twin son of Dr. John Hall Woods J.P. and Margaretta Woods nee Chenhalls, m. Penzance, Cornwall, Apr 1893). He and his twin, Malcolm, were baptised at Hick Lane Chapel, Batley on the 15th October 1895 (privately) when they lived at Wellington Street, Batley. Dr. John Hall Woods was a physician/Surgeon who came from Ireland to have a general practice in Batley. In 1901 when the census was taken another surgeon Norman William Eley was boarding with them. They had a live-in lady's maid, cook and housemaid at 100, Wellington Street, Batley. In 1911 both the boys were at Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, Rawdon. According to newspaper reports Hugh also attended Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury and Batley Technical College. He was exceptionally bright and vivacious and made friends everywhere.

Service Details

Hugh enlisted in the "Leeds Pals" in March 1915 and trained with them at Colsterdale, Ripon and Salisbury Plain, saw a little service in Egypt before his regiment was moved to France.

In mid-July news arrived in Batley that Hugh Woods and Lance-Corporal Max Wissler were missing, both of the Leeds Pals. They were believed to have gone missing on July 1st when the Pals had suffered quite heavily in the Great Advance. The 15th Battalion fought at the Battle of Albert between the 1st July and the 13th July. It was hoped that they had been taken prisoners because no trace of them could be found. Their parents appealed for any news from the soldiers on the battle field. Sadly, no good news came. Official news that had been killed came in September 1916.

Hugh was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group