Arthur Wrigley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 47393

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/4th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 12th March 1918 aged 32

Cemetery: - Roclincourt Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France VI.A.6

"HEARTS THAT LOVED HIM NEVER FORGET"

Batley News, 30 Mar 1918. Batley Reporter, 22 Mar 1918

Family Details

Arthur was born in 1885 in Mossley, Lancashire the son of John Thomas and Jane Ann Wrigley (nee Hawkins). He was baptised at St. James's, Oldham on 30th August 1885 when he was living at 8, Back Blensby Street, Oldham and his father was a grinder. His parents had married on 29th January 1876 in Ashton-under-Lyne.

In 1891 he was living at 9, Naseby Street, Oldham with his parents and siblings Seth (1880), George (1891) and his maternal uncle George Hawkins.

After the birth of William in June 1892 the family moved to live in Batley but William died in May 1893 aged 11 months in Clerk Green, Batley. James was born in 1895 but sadly died aged 16 months in June 1896 when the family lived at 17, Oxford Street, Batley. Walter was born in 1898 and John in September 1899 but sadly died aged 11 months in August 1900. In 1901 the family still lived at 17, Oxford Street, Batley.

John Thomas died in 1904 and in 1911 Jane Ann was living at 11, Back Russell Street, Batley with her son Walter. The census shows she had a total of 15 children but only four was still alive.

Arthur married Nellie Hughes at Batley Parish Church on 25th November 1905.

In 1911 he was living with his family at his mother in law's home at 15, Primrose Hill, Batley in a three roomed home with her three daughters and two grandchildren. Elise Wrigley was born in 1907 and Ethel in 1911.

Although his children were baptised at St. Thomas's Church, he attended Purlwell Wesleyan Sunday School. He was employed at Bankfoot Mills as a spinner before he joined the army.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted in June 1917 and went to France in October 1917.

He was originally in the 9th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry moving to the 2/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The 2/4th Battalion landed at Le Havre on 15th January 1917 and was a second line unit attached to 187th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

They took part in the Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20-21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood (27-28 November).

On the 1st March 1918 the Battalion arrived at Ecurie from Maroeuil and Ecoivres and was then in Brigade Reserve. The weather had turned very cold and some snow fell. On the 5th march they relived the 5th KOYLI on the Bailleul-Willerval Line. They moved to the Front Line on the 9th March in the Arleux section. Between 9am and 9.15 am on the 12th the enemy put down heavy barrage on the Front Line at Arleux Post and Tommy Post. One man was killed in Baron Trench. They were relieved shortly after this by the 2.5th West Yorkshires and the relief was complete by 12.30pm and they moved to Bray.

Was Arthur the man killed in the trench? The Batley News reported that he was killed by a shell bursting about a yard from him whilst on sentry duty.

At the time of his death his brother Gunner Walter had been wounded twice serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel, Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group