George Hallas Wrigley



Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - 201828

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 20/10/1917 Age: 19 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Batley Reporter, 2 Nov 1917

Family Details

George Hallas was born in Liversedge in c. January 1898 the son of George Mitchell and Mary Ellen Wrigley nee Crossley who had married on 20th August 1892 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. He was baptised at St. Mary's, Longley on 30th November 1898 when his father gave his occupation as a warp dresser living at Longley.

George William came from Huddersfield and Mary Ellen from Mirfield where their eldest surviving son, Clifford was born in 1896 followed by George Hallas in Liversedge and Emma 1900 in Huddersfield. Herbert born 1893 had died in infancy. In 1901 the family was living in Almondbury.

Annie was born in 1904 but sadly Mary Ellen died in May 1909 aged 41 years and buried at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield with the address given as Bridge Street, Ravensthorpe. The family was living in a one roomed home at 15, Trevelyan Place, Mold Green, Huddersfield and only 15-year-old Clifford who was an errand boy was working when the 1911 census was taken. The census shows another child had died in infancy. Annie was adopted by the Cockshott family and taken to live in Canada in 1913.

The family went to live in Crown Street, Batley although Clifford moved to live at Healey, Batley and married at Batley Parish in 1918. He was discharged from the services before George Wrigley was killed because of his wounds. Their father, George William, died in Batley in December 1935. Grandma Crossley who lived at 112, Grange Road, Soothill, Batley died in 1917.

Service Details

It would appear from his service medals George Wrigley enlisted at the outbreak of the war. The 1/4th KOYLI in August 1914 was part of 3rd West Riding Brigade, West Riding Division. They moved on mobilisation to Doncaster and in November 1914 to Gainsborough and to York in February 1915. They landed at Boulogne on the 12th April 1915 and from 15 May 1915 came under the orders of 148th Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Division.

In 1915 they took part in: -

The Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May)
The defence against the first Phosgene attack (19 December)

In 1916 they took part in: -

The Battle of Albert (1-13 July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17July)
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23 July -3 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
which were all phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

In 1917 they took part in: -

Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush)
The Battle of Poelcapelle (9-12 October)
which was a phase of the Third Battles of the Ypres

There is a report in the Batley Reporter dated 2nd November 1917 stating that George Hallas had either been killed or taken prisoner on 20th of October 1917.

His effects were left to MISS Amy Marsden.

George Wrigley was awarded the 1914-15 Star the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group