

Pte. Joseph H TRUELOVE (1887 - 1915)

(York & Lancaster Regiment)



Joseph Henry Truelove was born in Batley in 1887 to Francis (Frank) Truelove and Emily Ellis. His parents had married in 1880 and lived at first with Emily's parents at Healey Street, Batley. Emily's father, Henry Ellis, was a local rag merchant.

By the 1891 Census Frank and Emily had moved to 54 Healey Street and now had two children Sarah Harriet (1882) and Joseph Henry. Frank, a rag machine tooth maker, died in 1902. In 1906 his daughter, Sarah Harriet, married Ernest Ineson at Staincliffe Parish Church.

In the 1911 Census Emily is still living at 54 Healey Street with Joseph Henry who is now working as a Piecer at Messrs. Briggs and Sons, Docking Mills, Carlinghow, Batley.

Joseph Henry enlisted in Dewsbury as a Regular on the 3rd July, 1914. His records show he was 5' 3 ½" tall, weighed 108 lbs, his chest measurement was 34in and he had grey eyes and dark brown hair. He disembarked on the 27th December, 1914.

In May 1915 his mother received news from Captain J E Forster that Joseph had been wounded on the 8th of May. He further stated that at the present time Joseph had not been traced as having passed through any dressing station and was presumably a prisoner of war.

Emily wrote to the Authorities in June saying:

"I received a letter on the 9th June from Captain J E Forster informing me that my son was either wounded or he thinks he is presumed a Prisoner of War, please inform me without delay and oblige."

His mother had hoped she would receive news of him but eventually, after several months, she said she was confident that if he were alive and well he would have sent an intimation of his circumstances. There was a further complication when it was believed his pay had been stopped for 12 days for some misdemeanour but this was discounted as the offence occurred in a different area to where he was known to have been on the specific dates. It was officially believed to be a case of mistaken identity. She had requested via the local paper that, "She would be most grateful if any soldier or relative could relieve her of her protracted anxiety."

Emily died in 1918 aged 65 years.

In 1920 Joseph's sister, Sarah Harriet Ineson (nee Truelove), signed a Declaration that she was his Next of Kin living at 21 Alma Terrace, Batley and gave the names and ages of her 4 children. Doris May (14), Gladys (11), Ada (6) and Ernest (2).

Private Joseph Henry Truelove 3/2930, 1st Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment is Remembered with Honour at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Researcher

Susan White, Batley History Group, March 2015