

**William Higgins**



**Rank:** - Private

**Number:** - 3/851

**Regiment:** - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

**Killed in Action:** - 31/10/1914 Age: 25 years

**Cemetery:** - Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Panel 31

## **Family Details**

William was born in Balk Street, Batley in c.1889 son of Michael and Ann Higgins nee Connor whose marriage in 1884 was registered in Dewsbury District. Michael came from County Mayo and Ann from Sligo in Ireland.

Michael had a previous marriage and Patrick was born in Leeds in 1869, Margaret 1875 James 1877 and Catherine c.1878 were all born in Batley

Jane was born in 1885, Thomas January 1886 but died aged 5 weeks, Annie 1887, William 1889. In 1891 the family was living at 39, Balk Street, Batley and whilst Michael was a coal miner Ann also worked as a rag sorter. William was followed by Harriett 1892, Leo born 1894 died February 1895 aged 7 months, Joseph 1896, Ellen 1897 died in September 1897 aged 5 months, Agnes 1898 but sadly died aged 22 months in April 1900, Lily Ann 1899 but sadly survived only 3 weeks, Edward 1901, Kate was born in February 1902 but only survived a few minutes, Francis 1904, Irene Theresa 1905, Ronald George was born in Caledonia Road, Batley in 1907.

Before 1911 the family had moved to live at 18, Stanley Place, Park Road, Batley and William was employed as a warp spinner. Seven of their fourteen children had not survived infancy.

## **Service Details**

In August 1914 the Regiment was in Dublin and were part of 13th Brigade in 5th Division.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1914 they landed at Le Havre.

In 1914 they took part in: -

The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, including the Action of Elouges (23-24 August)

The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois

The Battle of the Marne (7-10 September)

The Battle of the Aisne (12-15 September)

The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914 ( 10 October-2 November)

The First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 22November)

We have found no newspaper reports of his death but records show he was killed in action on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914.

William was awarded the 1914 Star + Clasp. The British War Medal, Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group