

August 1917, the War Diary of the 8th Y&L lists;

The battalion coming up to the Ypres Salient with their senior officers reconnoitering the line in front of Zillebeke on the 25th.

On the 26th/27th August the battalion was in close support to an attack made by the 7th Rifle Brigade. That had concluded on the 29th when it was reported 'Battalion held front line without special incident.' They were relieved the following day. The casualties for this tour in the line were 12 Other Ranks killed and 3 Officers and 41 Other ranks wounded.

One of the 12 Other Ranks killed was Joseph Edwin Clark. It is not known precisely what happened. However, he was buried at this location (Map Ref J.13.d.90.87) and his personal belongings were collected and sent back to his mother in January 1918.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
CLARK	W Yorks R	Pte	1101
	Yorks Lanc R	Pte	34401
J. E. Clark			
Medal	Serial	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	0/2/02 B.17	271	M. in A 30.8.17
BRITISH	"	"	"
15 STAR	0/2/148	17	"
Theatre of War first served in (3) Egypt			
Date of entry therein 6.12.15			

Clark's Medal Index Card which lists him as missing in action and details of his personal effects which were returned to his mother

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to:
 Officer i/c Records,
 and the following No. quoted.
 4476/602 ✓

From 10 JAN 1918
 To Mrs R. D. Clarke,
 2 New Lane, Lissethwaite,
 Bradford, Yorks.
 Station York Date 10-1-1918

Place _____
 Date _____
 Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of the articles as stated opposite.

Yours faithfully,
 (Sign here) Harry Briston Clarke

The Officer i/c Records,
 Station _____

SIR OR MADAM,
 I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 34401 Rank Pte
 Name J. E. Clark Regt 8th Y & L R
 and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipts of the same on the form opposite:-
 Correspondence, photos, 2 pocket knives, 2 watches,
 spectacle case (empty), mirror, cigarette case,
 miscellaneous cards, sketches, pipe/lighter, 2 bags
 & a Dictionary.

These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded.

Yours faithfully,
 Major J. Colonel,
 O. I. C. No. 2 Infantry Records, York.
 Officer in Charge of Records.

Bradford Weekly Telegraph published on 21/9/1917

Private Joseph E Clark

"joined Bradford pals on its formation, wounded 1st July 1916 and transferred to Yorks and Lancs Regt on his recovery. Four times wounded prior to his death. Worked at Raglan Foundry Leeds Road, having previously worked as a plumber at Sticker Lane.

Regiment C O Major JE Barlow wrote to his mother ' I hasten to offer my sympathy and tell you how much we all regret losing such a good fellow from our battalion. Your son was with me in my company and we went through hard times together. He was always as brave as a lion, a good true hearted little soldier. I had spoken to him just before he was killed and he was very cheery and looking forward to his relief that evening. I am proud to have had such a fine boy in my company and I offer my deepest sympathies in your great loss. I am sure such a good fellow will be missed tremendously from your home.'

FOUR TIMES WOUNDED

A LION OF A MAN

SUCH A FINE BOY

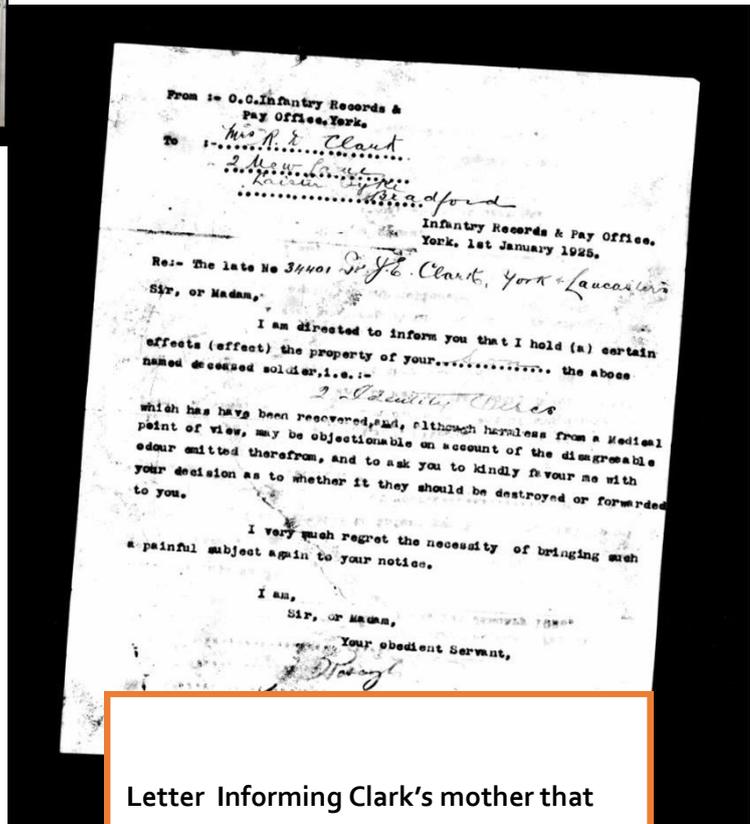
BODY FOUND

Joseph's grave maker was subsequently lost. However, his mother Rebecca, then aged 69 and still living at 2 New Lane, received a letter in 1925 telling her that her son's body had been found and identified by his two identity tags. The offer was made to return these to her although the letter stated 'although harmless from a medical point of view, may be objectionable on account of the disagreeable odour emitting therefrom.'

Details of the War gratuity paid to Joseph Clark's mother

EXHUMATION

Joseph's body was exhumed and reburied in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery (BELOW) Plot X, Row D, Grave 13 where it remains to this day.



Letter Informing Clark's mother that his body had been found and identified

The many visitors to this cemetery in Ypres itself may come across Joseph's gravestone with its badge of the York and Lancaster Regiment and wander on...

but now, maybe some from Bradford might stop here for a while and remember this soldier was once a Bradford Pal!

