Blackpool Parents' Great War Sacrifices

Local Newspaper, 13 October 1917

Few Blackpool parents have suffered more through the war than Mr & Mrs Mayor of 51 Queens Road, South Shore. Mr Mayor is a stoker at the Borough Gasworks and one of his sons, three of whom are supposed to be killed, worked with him. Mr and Mrs Mayor had six sons. Of these, five joined the forces, the remaining one being rejected on physical grounds.

The oldest son Pte John Ward (32), lost his life on April 9th 1916. He emigrated to Canada about six years ago, and on the outbreak of war promptly joined a Canadian regiment, leaving a wife and three children. Lance Corporal Edmund Mayor (20), of the 1/5th Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, was in the Territorials at Blackpool prior to the outbreak of war. He went out right at the beginning, though then only 17 years old, and after seeing much heavy fighting he paid the penalty on September 9th, 1916.

Lance Corporal Joseph Mayor, of the 7th Kings Own, has been missing since July 31st. Though his parents have not received any official information of his death, there would unfortunately appear to be no doubt of it, according to letters received from pals at the front. He was seen to be severely wounded on July 31st, and before he could be rescued another shell burst and he ws seen no more. Mr and Mrs Mayor's two other sons who are serving are Pte James Mayor and Pte William Mayor. The former was injured in France, and is now in Mesopotamia. He is in the Kings Own. William, who is in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, is stationed at Lyndhurst. The bereaved parents, who are great losers financially by the death of their sons, are only receiving 6s 6d a week for Edmund and 2s 2d for Joseph and William. They get nothing for Joseph because his death is not yet been notified,

(Transcribed by Michael P Coyle, from a contemporary news cutting)

MP Coyle
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