Leonard Ashton



Rank: - Ex-Private

Number: - 71377

Regiment: - Royal Defence Corps 11th Training Reserve Battalion

Died of illness: - 4th October 1919 aged 20 years (tuberculosis epididymitis)

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery, Yorkshire N 172

Batley News, 11 Oct 1919 (classifieds), 2 Oct 1920 (classifieds)

Family Details

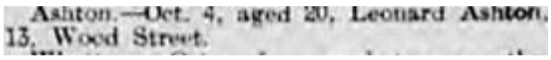
Leonard was born in Liversedge on 30th April 1899 the son of James William and Nancy Ashton nee Mountain. He was baptised at St. John's Church, Cleckheaton on the 27th September 1899 when his father gave his occupation as a labourer. The couple had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 10th July 1892.

In 1901 the family which included William born 1896 Littletown and Sarah Ann 1901 Scholes was living at Oddfellows Street, Scholes and James William gave his occupation as a coal miner hewer. Before 1911 the family had moved to live at 4, George's Terrace, Field Lane, Batley and James William was employed as a fettler at a woollen mill. Before 1917 they moved to nearby 13, Wood Street, Batley.

Service Details

Leonard attested at Dewsbury on the 27thApril 1917 giving his age as 17 years and 11 months after being sent a statutory notice. He was 5 ft 5 inches tall and gave his occupation as a shoddy packer living at 13, Wood Street, Batley. On the 15th August 1917 at Pontefract he was appointed to the 4th West Riding Regiment. At some stage he was sent to Clipstone Training Camp but on the 10th November 1917, he was transferred to the 11th Training Reserve Battalion at Brockton, Rugelely. He was sent to York and he was at Dringhouses on the 18th December when he was sent to Grimsby.

On the 18th April 1918 he was discharged as being medically unfit to serve and was diagnosed as having Tuberculosis Epididymitis which attributed to Clipstone Camp and being locked in a hut all night and needed an operation in hospital.

He did try to find work as a rag grinder but died on 4th October 1919 at Dewsbury Infirmary. 
Ashton.—Oct. 4, aged 20, Leonard Ashton, 13, Wood Street.

Leonard is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group