Joshua Bailey





Rank: - Private

Number: - M/283980

Regiment: - Royal Army Service Corps attached to "K" Anti-Aircraft Battery

Died of influenza: - 20th December 1918 aged 29

Cemetery: - Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cemetery 11.B.7

Batley Reporter, 3 Jan 1919, 20 Jan 1922 (classifieds)

Family Details

Joshua was born in 1889 the youngest son of William and Hannah Bailey (nee Earnshaw). The couple had married in 1870 at Batley Parish Church and Matthew Earnshaw was born in 1876 followed by Florence (1878), Thewlis (1880), Thomas (1882), Sarah Ann (1884), and Willie (1887). In 1881 William was a fruiterer and fishmonger living with his young family at Mill Road, Batley Carr.

His father, William, died in May 1895 and his mother continued to run the green grocery business in Mill Road until her death in 1903.The family continued the business. In 1911 the census shows that Matthew was a green grocer, Thewlis, Thomas and Joshua were a general carrier working from the same address all on their own account, Sarah Ann was a fruiterer described as a worker and also living in Mill Lane.

Joshua attended Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church Sunday School where he married Flora Robinson daughter of Joseph Robinson on 11th October 1911. A son, Ernest, was born in 1915. Sadly, this child died aged 3 in January 1919 of scarlet fever. Flora lost her husband and child within a month of each other.

Joshua was employed as a manager at the Dewsbury and Batley Ice Company where, at the time he enlisted, he was the manager of the Wakefield depot.

Service Details

Joshua joined the Forces in January 1917 and his wife returned to live with her parents in Carr Street, Batley Carr. He went to France on March 21st 1917.

When the Armistice was signed his employees requested his release which was granted. His demobilisation was due to take place on December 21st but on the 19th he was stricken with influenza and entered hospital. He died on December 20th 1918. Sadly, his only child, Ernest, died the following month of small pox.

Joshua is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Warwick Road School, St. Paul's, Hanging Heaton and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials. He was awarded the Victory and the British War Medal.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group

