Arthur Berry





Rank: - Private

Number: -56181

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 3rd Battalion

Died of influenza at Training Camp: - 11th July 1918

Cemetery: - Heckmondwike Upper Congregational Chapel Yard, B.2.15.

Batley News, 13 Jul 1918, 20 Jul 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Arthur was born in Heckmondwike on 28th April 1897 the son of John William and Martha Ann Berry nee Lambert. He was baptised on 6th June 1897 at St. James Church, Heckmondwike. The couple had married in Dewsbury District in 1890 and Louisa was born on 17th October 1891.

In 1901 the family was living at 12, Battye Street, Heckmondwike.

Martha Ann sadly died in 3rd Qtr 1903 and in 1909 his father married Martha Ann Jowett.

In 1911 the family was living at 21, Kilpin Hill Lane, Dewsbury in a five roomed home and John William was employed as a printer for a newspaper and 13-year-old Arthur was a piece mender whilst 19-year-old Louisa was a rag sorter. Arthur changed his career and served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Bell Bros. engineers, Ravensthorpe. Although he was doing work of national importance he still enlisted. His father in 1918 had for over 25 years had been employed at the Batley News Office as head machinist and stereo typer. The family moved to live at 147, off Halifax Road, Batley before Arthur enlisted in 1918. Arthur was a member of Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike a scholar and worker in the Sunday School and also being concerned in the organisation of the church.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted on 15th April 1918 and was sent to training camp at Whitley Bay. He was taken ill with the flu epidemic which was sweeping the country which was followed by an attack of pneumonia few days before his death but it was not thought serious until the Wednesday evening before his death and next morning a wire was sent to the Batley News office saying he was critically ill. Inquiries were made by telephone but sadly he had died, suddenly, a few moments before on the morning of Thursday, 11thJuly 1918 in the V.A.D Hospital, Whitley Bay.

The Matron of the hospital spoke very highly of the deceased sending sympathetic letters to his relatives and friends and in one said that nurses and officials of the hospital accompanied the coffin to the station at Whitley Bay from where it was sent to Batley. The internment took place on the Sunday afternoon and the Rev. Matthew Stanley conducted the service. The pall bearers were composed of deacons of the church, Sunday School officials and members

of the Young Men's Class. A large number attended including family. friends and former work colleagues.

At the time of his death both his sister and step mother were also ill with influenza.

Arthur is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group