William Bromley





Rank: - Private

Number: - B/3192

Regiment: - Otago Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force

Died of Wounds at Military Hospital, Church Lane, Tooting, London S: -

19/07/1916 Age: 26 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire B 619

Dewsbury District News, 29 Jul 1916 (deaths). Dewsbury Reporter 29 Jul 1916

Family Details

William was born on 11th November 1890 in Limehills, South Island, New Zealand the son of William John and Annie Bromley (nee Copley). The couple had married in New Zealand in 1889. His sister Gertrude was born in 1893 in Winton, New Zealand followed by his brother, James Frederick in 1897.

Annie Copley was born in Batley in 1870 the daughter of William Copley and Martha nee Hirst and the family emigrated to New Zealand in 1879 with the exception of her elder sister Eva.

Eva Copley had married John Bedford in 1878 and remained in Batley. John and Eva Bedford lived in Providence Street, Batley in 1916 and John arranged for William to be brought to Batley for burial.

Service Records

William enlisted on the 25th August 1915 giving his employment as an engine driver at the Limehills Lumber Company.

The Otago Infantry Regiment was a military unit that served within the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in World War I during the Gallipoli Campaign and on the Western Front. This Regiment and the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment were composed mostly of men from Otago and Southland. The Otago Infantry Regiment represented the continuation of the Dunedin and Invercargill Militia Battalions formed in 1860.

When he enlisted, he was 5ft 7inches tall, had a fresh complexion, brown eyes, and dark brown hair. He had an old fracture on his nose. On enlistment he joined "D" Coy 8th Rufts and went to France on 13th November 1915.

He joined the unit at?? Camp Ismalia on the 5th February 1916.

William was wounded on the 10th July 1916 and first went to a 13th Casualty Clearing Station at Boulogne before being brought to England where he died of wounds to his left thigh, face and hand, syncope following operation.

His cousin, born in Australia, Norman Edwin Copley the son of his mother's brother, John Copley born Batley 1863, died of wounds received at Gallipoli and

died on board hospital ship “Rewa” of pneumonia between Mudros and Malta on the 1st November 1915.

William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on the New Zealand Roll of Honour WW1 and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group