William Busfield





Rank: - Private

Number: - 121217

Regiment: - Royal Army Medical Corps

Died of pneumonia at Blackpool: - 19th July 1917 aged 31 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire R 28

Batley News, 21 Jul 1917, 28 Jul 1917 (photo)

Family Details

William was born in Batley in C.1886 the son of Thomas and Martha Jane Busfield (nee Clay). His parents had married at Dewsbury in 1877. Farsley born Thomas was a woollen spinner living at 2, Wilson's Buildings, off Bradford Road, Batley with his wife and children Arthur born 1878, Miriam 1881, William and a boarder Sarah Clay in 1891. John Albert was born in 1880 but died aged six weeks.

In 1901 the family was living at 10, Purlwell Hall Road, Batley.

In 1911 the census tells us that two of their children had died in infancy and William was living with his parents and Sarah Clay at 10, Unity Terrace, Purlwell Hall Road, Mount Pleasant, Batley. He was employed as a weaver.

He was a popular member of Hanging Heaton Orchestral Society and attended Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Church.

His mother died in September 1914 and in early 1917 Thomas married Sarah A. Masters. Thomas died in February 1919.

Before enlisting he worked at Wilson Brothers, Little Orme Mills, Clerk Green, Batley.

Service Records

Newspaper reports state that he tried to enlist three times but was eventually accepted as Ciii on the 27th June 1917 into the Royal Army Medical Corps. He had brown hair, was four feet nine inches tall, flat feet, weighed 109 pounds and was employed as a woollen piecer.

He was sent to Blackpool for training but less than three weeks later he was admitted on the 18th July 1917 at 8 pm to the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital, Blackpool with acute pneumonia and died at 12.15 am on the 19th July.

Two telegrams were received on the Friday morning one saying he was dangerously ill and the other to say he had died of double pneumonia.

The internment on the following Sunday afternoon was conducted by Rev. T.P. Ellis. Hanging Heaton Orchestral Society conducted by Mr. C. Haigh attended

and acted as bearers. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Busfield, Mrs. Redgwick (sister), Mrs. Arthur Busfield (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. William Lodge (aunt and uncle), Mrs. Clay (aunt) Mrs. Etherington and Mrs. Saville (step sisters), Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John Baines, Miss. Nellie Saville, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Busfield (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lodge (cousins), Mrs. Edmund Lodge (cousin),Mrs. Albert Lodge (cousin), and Mr. Fred Lodge (cousin) were the family mourners.

The floral tributes included a harp "*With deepest sympathy from the committee and members of Hanging Heaton Orchestral Society."*

*"*An *artificial wreath from "The workpeople of Messrs. Wilson Bros., Little Orme Mills, Clerk Green".*

He was not entitled to any medals but is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial and Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Chapel.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group