Willie Clegg



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 232838

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery “D” Bty. 62nd Bde.

Died at Beckett Park War Hospital of Middle Ear Disease: - 22/03/1919 Age: 22 years-

Cemetery: - Birstall Churchyard, Yorkshire 1543

Batley News, 29 Mar 1919. Dewsbury Reporter, 29 Mar 1919

Family Details

William was born in Birstall on 29th September 1896 and baptised at St. Peter's Church on 14th February 1897 the son of Brooke and Lavinia Clegg (nee Ramsey, m. 1874).

In 1901 he was living with his family Rachel 1887, Minnie 1889 at Cross Carr Street, Birstall. His father was employed as a cloth finisher.

His father died in June 1908 when they were living at 87, Brookroyd Lane, Batley and his mother married Tom Clough on the 25th March 1911 at Brownhill. It would appear they went to live at his home because in 1911 the address given was 87, Brownhill and there were Tom, Lavinia, Norman and Urma Clough and Rachel and Willie Clegg. Willie was a cloth finisher following his father's trade.

His mother died in January 1917.

On the 9th April 1917 he married Beatrice May Hare at St. Peter's Church, Morley. They both gave their address as 3, Granny Avenue, Churwell and his profession was a mechanical engineer.

Before the war he was employed at Messrs. Hudson's Foundry, Bruntcliffe.

Service Details

Willie enlisted on 10th December 1915 at Gildersome was posted on the 14th May 1917 and went to France on the 1st September 1917. He also served in Italy making his service abroad one and a half years.

He arrived home on leave on 8th March 1919 and five days later complained of pains in the ears. He was admitted to Beckett Street Hospital, Leeds suffering from middle ear disease and an operation was performed but he never regained consciousness.

He was buried at St. Peter's Churchyard on Wednesday 26th March where his parents were buried. Bearers and a firing party from the Reserve Battery Honourable Artillery Company, attached to the R.H.A. stationed at Leeds attended and the coffin was borne in an 18-pounder gun drawn by a six horse team.

Numerous people gathered at the church and the mourners were:- his widow, Mr.& Mrs Hare, Mr& Mrs. Buttery, Misses V.& P. Hare, Mr.& Mrs. J. Hudson, Mr& Mrs. J. Brown, Miss A.J. Clegg, Mrs Ineson (aunt) Mrs. W. Ineson (cousin) Miss Ineson etc. A large number of wreaths were placed on the grave.

He was awarded the British and Victory Medals

Willie is remembered with Honour at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill and Birstall and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group