# Benjamin Crowther





**Rank: -** Gunner

**Number: -** 189607

**Regiment: -** Royal Garrison Artillery 232nd Siege Bty.

**Killed in action on Villeret Pontru Road S S E of Hagincourt: -** 26/09/1918 Age: 34 years

**Cemetery: -** Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension V.D.7

Batley News, 19 Oct 1918 (photo), 25 Jan 1919. Batley Reporter, 4 Oct 1918

**Family Details**

Benjamin was born in Batley in 1884 the youngest son of Adam and Sarah Crowther Nee Parker, who had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 19th April 1862. Adam had previously married Lydia Crawshaw in 1856 and Sam was born later the same year. Lydia sadly died in 1861.

Hannah was born in 1859 the daughter of Sarah but their daughter Lydia was born in 1864 in Heckmondwike followed by Henry 1867 in Healey, Batley, Peter 1872, Keneely (Cornelius) 1875, Elizabeth 1878 and Benjamin.

In 1895 the family lived at 14, Healey Street, Batley and on the census, Adam gave his occupation as a hand loom weaver. In 1901 they were still at the same address but Adam gave his occupation as an oil extractor and Ben was working as a rag grinder.

The family had all left the family home in Healey Street between 1901 and 1911 and Adam and Sarah went to live at 20, Crowther Street, Healey, and Batley. The census states that they had seven children still living and two had died in infancy.

In 1911 Benjamin and his West Ardsley born wife were living 2, Talbot Buildings, Wellington Street, Batley and he was employed as a woollen rag warehouseman.

His father, Adam, died in July 1913 and mother Sarah in February 1914.

Benjamin attended Healey Council School and Healey Congregational Sunday School. He worked for his brother George who was a rag merchant in Wellington Street before moving to work for Messrs. J. Auty and Co. Clerk Green Mills, Batley as a soak presser.

On the 3rd December 1907 he married Elizabeth Hadwen Hemingway at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley. Benjamin made his mark rather than a signature. Ivy was born in the 1st Qtr of 1914.

On the 8th April 1920 Elizabeth married George Sneyd at Batley Parish Church.

**Service Details**

Benjamin attested on the 10th December 1915 when he lived at 2 yard, 1, Wellington Street, Batley. At his medical examination he was passed as A2 and

on the 8th December 1917 the firm of Joseph Auty wrote to the recruiting Officer at Pontefract requesting a re-examination because he had been in bed for three months with pneumonia earlier that year, they pointed out that he was not a good writer therefore they were requesting it on his behalf. He was re-examined on the 11th December 1917

He was mobilized on the 15th February 1918 at Pontefract. He was attached to No 4 Depot R.G.A. 3rd Siege from the 2nd March 1918. He was posted to France and from Base sent to 232nd Siege Battery from 17th May 1918.

The Batley News reported that Benjamin had been killed whilst working on the guns on September 27th and was buried nearby by his comrades but no official news was received by his wife. On 30th December 1918 she wrote requesting details of her husband's belongings and identity disc and also again on the 28th April 1920 when she was living at 23, Cobden Street, Batley. She persisted in trying to obtain his medals and she wrote requesting his medals on the 16th June 1921 but it was not until the 12th November 1921 that she received them.

His wife later went to live at 76, Lady Ann Road, Soothill, Batley.

Benjamin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group