Robert Ewart







Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 167696

Regiment/Battalion: - Royal Garrison Artillery 196th Siege Battery

Died: - 6th November 1918

Cemetery: - Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas-de-Calais. V111.G.17

"REST IN PEACE"

Batley News 16 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Robert was born on the 31st January 1891 in Bigar, Lanarkshire, the eldest son of William and Janet (nee Maxwell).

Shortly after his birth the family moved to Settle where William was a police constable.

William was born in 1893 followed by Thomas Maxwell (1893), James (1895), John Graham (1897), Alexander (1900), Balfour Hislop (1903), and Edgar (1904). Before 1911 the family had moved to Batley Carr where his father was a police sergeant and the census shows there was another child who had died in infancy. Robert was not with the family but was a boarder at 5, Boston Street, Sowerby Bridge and working as a boiler stoker at a worsted mill.

On the 12th May 1913 he married Emily Clegg the daughter of Jabez Clegg at St. Andrew's, Purlwell.

His son, William, was born on the 25th September 1913 followed by Wilfred on the 5th February 1916.

Before enlisting he worked as a firer at J. Newsome & Sons, Batley Carr and was a member of the Dewsbury Branch of the Engineers' and Fireman's Association.

He attended St. Andrew's Purlwell and was a member of Batley Carr Working Men 's Club. At the time of his death his wife and children resided at 115, Oldroyd's Place, Mount Street, Batley.

Service Details

Robert enlisted at Batley in July 1917 and was sent to France in April 1918.

He was slightly gassed and taken to a field hospital in October 1918 and whilst in hospital developed influenza which turned to pneumonia and he died on 6th November 1918. The family were informed by a nurse who was with him when he died saying he had died peacefully and sent the contents of his pockets. In November 16 1918 the Batley News reported: - "He *was slightly gassed three weeks ago whilst in hospital he was attacked by influenza, pneumonia followed and the chaplain said he was buried near Boulogne."*

At the time of his death his wife and two children were living at 115, Oldroyd Place, Mount Pleasant and his parents had moved from Mount Street to 9, Thornfield, Savile Town.

He was the third son of William and Janet to be killed during the conflict.

At the time of his death John was in France, Tom in India, Alec in training in England and George Edward had been discharged from the army. His brother in law, Driver J. Brooke had been invalided from France.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr; St.Andrew's Purlwell, Batley War Memorial and Terlincthun British Military Cemetery, Wimille, Pas-de-Calais.





Researched by members of
Batley History Group