George Charles Francis





Rank: - Private

Number: - T/327357

Regiment: - Army Service Corps 977th Motor Transport

Died of Pneumonia: - 31st October 1918 aged 24

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire O 355

"UNTIL THE LAST CALL"

Batley News, 9 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details:

George was born in Morley on 4th February1894, the son of George and Clara (nee Bonnell) Francis of Little Fountain Street, Morley. He was baptised on 8th March 1894 at St.Paul's, Morley and his father was described as a farm labourer. The couple had married in 1890. Our research shows that George Francis aged 27 of 45, Little Fountain Street, Morley was interred at Batley Cemetery in November 1893.

In 1901 the family were living with his paternal grandparents in Scotchman Lane, Morley and they were still at 28, Scotchman Lane a decade later and George was working as a cloth finisher.

On 20th November 1915 he married Marian Long at St John's, Carlinghow when his occupation was described as a lift attendant and his father was George (deceased) a farmer. After their marriage they went to live at 65, Carlinghow Lane, Batley and he worked for J.T & J. Taylor at Blakeridge Mills, Batley as a lift attendant. They later moved to 1, Exley's Buildings, Carlinghow Lane, Batley.

The couple had two children, Evelyn who was born in June 1916 followed by Eric in June 1918.

Service Details:

George signed his attestation papers on 27th March 1916 when he was described as being 22 years and 30 days; his height was 5 feet and 41/2 inches and had flat feet. He rejoined from the reserves in Batley in April 1917 and joined the Army Service Corps (Motor Transport). He was admitted to the field ambulance hospital on the 26th October with influenza but was transferred to Norwich Military Hospital 2 days later with pneumonia where he died on 31st October 1918.

In a letter of sympathy, a Major wrote: -

"He has served in this unit almost a year and has gained the respect and devotion of all ranks. Your husband will be a real loss to this unit."

A junior officer said: -

"Your husband was thought a great deal about his quiet ways and singleness of purpose making him quite a favourite amongst his fellows."

George Charles was brought home to Batley and was interred at Batley Cemetery on 9th November 1918.

George is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. John's Church, Carlinghow and Batley Cemetery.

He was not eligible for any medals.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group