Tom Heesom Gibson



Rank: - Private

Number: - 13082252

Regiment: - Pioneer Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps

Died: - Killed in the air raid on Belfast 05/05/1941 Age: 33 years.

Cemetery: - Hessle Cemetery, Hull Comp. 60. Plot 6. Grave 5.

Tom Heeson was born in 1908 the son of Edwin Heeson and Alice Gibson nee Head who had married in 1895 registered Hull.

In 1930 he married Amy Gaunt in the Hull District. Tom was formerly in the fish trade in Hull and because there was a large number of bombings in Hull, he and his wife came to Batley in September 1940 to work for Messrs Powell, fish buyers, Providence Street. Later he and his wife took over the fish shop in Oxford Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley formerly occupied by Messrs Bradley. The couple had two daughters.

In January 1941 he joined the Pioneer Corps and went to Belfast.



BATLEY SOLDIER KILLED IN BELFAST.

Mrs. Tom Gibson, Oxford Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley, has been notified that her husband, Private Tom Heeson Gibson, R.A.P.C., was killed in the air-raid on Belfast on Monday.

He was formerly in the fish trade at Hull and came to Batley nine months ago to work for Messrs. Powell, fish buyers, Providence Street. Later he and his wife took over the fish shop in Oxford Street formerly occupied by Messrs. Bradley.

Private Gibson joined the Army in January. He leaves two daughters, the elder of whom will be ten years old on May 29th.

Batley News, 10 May 1941

The Belfast Blitz consisted of four German air raids on strategic targets in the city of Belfast in Northern Island, in April and May 1941 during World War 2, causing high casualties. The first was on 7-8 April the second on 15 April. The third raid on Belfast took place over the evening and morning of 4–5 May 1941; 150 were killed. Incendiary bombs predominated in this raid. The fourth and final Belfast raid took place on the following night, 5–6 May. In total over 1,300 houses were demolished, some 5,000 badly damaged, nearly 30,000 slightly damaged while 20,000 required "first aid repairs".

Tom was one of those killed in the raid, he was brought home to Hessle.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group