Alfred Leo Gildea





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 11254199

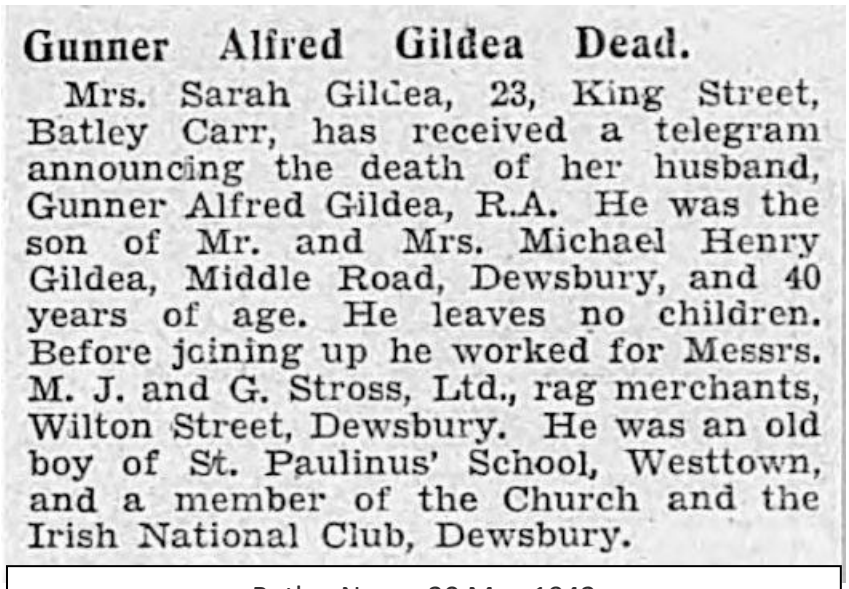
Regiment: - Royal Artillery 292 Bty., 62 Lt. A.A. Regt.

Died: - Killed in Action 03/06/1942 Age: 40 years

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. S. Grave 773.

Alfred Leo was born on 3 March 1902 the son of Michael Henry and Catherine Gildea nee Coyne who had married in 1899, registered Dewsbury. James was born in 1899 but sadly died shortly after birth, other siblings were, Patrick 1904, Cornelius Hart 1906 John 1909, James 1911, 1913, Catherine 1915, Ann 1920. In 1902 his parents lived at High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury and he was baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 9 March 1902. His paternal uncle Alfred Gildea, who he was named after, was killed in World War 1.

Alfred was educated at St. Paulinus' School, Westtown, and was a member of the church and the Irish National Club, Dewsbury.



Gunner Alfred Gildea Dead.

Mrs. Sarah Gildea, 23, King Street, Batley Carr, has received a telegram announcing the death of her husband, Gunner Alfred Gildea, R.A. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Henry Gildea, Middle Road, Dewsbury, and 40 years of age. He leaves no children. Before joining up he worked for Messrs. M. J. and G. Stross, Ltd., rag merchants, Wilton Street, Dewsbury. He was an old boy of St. Paulinus' School, Westtown, and a member of the Church and the Irish National Club, Dewsbury.

Batley News, 30 May 1942

Alfred married Maria Brannan in 1933 and John Thomas was born in 1934 but sadly died aged 21 months. Before joining up he worked for Messrs. M.J. & G. Stross Ltd. rag merchants, Wilton Street, Dewsbury. Alfred and Maria lived at 23, King Street, Batley Carr.

Alfred joined the 292 Battery, 62 Lt A.A. Regiment which was an air defence unit of the British Army. He was posted to Portsmouth. Sadly, Alfred died of a Coronary Thrombosis and Hyperpiesis.

A brief notice of his death appeared in the Dewsbury Reporter: "News of the death of her husband Gunner Alf Gildea (40), son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Henry Gildea of Middle Road, Dewsbury, has reached Mrs. [Sarah] Gildea of [23, King Street] Batley Carr. He was a member of the Dewsbury Irish National League Club." In an acknowledgement for sympathy received, it was stated that "Mrs. Alfred Leo Gildea wishes to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and floral tributes during her recent sad bereavement. Also, the Irish National League Club, Dewsbury, Eastborough Working Men's Club and the licensee and customers of the Carr Hotel." Prior to "joining up he worked for Messrs. M.J. and G. Stross, Ltd., rag merchants, Wilton Street, Dewsbury. He was an old boy of St. Paulinus' School, Westtown, and a member of the church." The following notice of his death also appeared in the local press:

GILDEA – On the 3rd inst., aged 40 years, Gnr. Alfred Leo Gildea, King Street, Batley Carr.

Thanks to Peter Bennett