Frank Gamble





Rank: - Private

Number: - T4/220157

Regiment: - Army Service Corps 887th Mechanical Transport Coy.

Died from wounds received in a bombing attack: - 8th April 1917

Cemetery: - Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece B.217

Batley News, 21 Apr 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Frank was born in Hanging Heaton on 7th February 1885 the son of Simeon and Isabella Metcalf Gamble nee Chippendale who had married at Batley Parish Church on 6th August 1878. He was baptised at Hanging Heaton New Connexion Chapel on 22nd March 1885. Benjamin Metcalfe was born on 20th August 1878 and baptised on 1st December 1878. Simeon was a skewer maker.

George Frederick was born in 1883 at Kirklington which was also Isabella's birthplace but they returned to live at Hanging Heaton before the birth of Frank, Cicely 1887, Percy 1889 and were living in 1891 at 51, High Street, Hanging Heaton with Simeon's widowed mother.

Ann Maria was born in September 1894 followed by Elizabeth in September 1896.

Simeon died in May 1904 and in 1911 Isabella was living at 51, High Street, Hanging Heaton in a 3 roomed home with six of her children. The census shows that there was another child who had died in infancy. Frank was working as an oil extractor.

For 11 years before being called up he worked for Messrs. J. & J. Saxton Ltd, Alexandra Road, Batley as a foreman oil extractor. He was actively involved with Hanging Heaton Parish Church and was a member of the Young Men's Bible Class and also a popular member of St. Paul's Musical and Dramatic Society of which his wife was also a member. He was also a Rechabite and for several years Chief ? of Hanging Heaton Tent of Rechabites.

On Sunday 5th November 1916 at St. Paul's Church he married Martha Julia Matchell who was well known in Hanging Heaton and was in service with Mr. R.S. Balden J.P. at "Bywell" Leeds Road, Hanging Heaton.

Service Details

He began on 9th November 1916 just a few days after his wedding and went to France in January 1917 without coming home on leave.

The officers and men of the ASC – sometimes referred to in a joking, disparaging way as *Ally Sloper's Cavalry* – were the unsung heroes of the British Army in the Great War. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. They cannot move without horses or vehicles. It was the ASC's job to provide them. In the Great War, the vast majority of the supply, maintaining a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from Britain. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

On Easter Saturday an official message came that he was wounded but did not say if serious or not but on Monday a communication came from the records office at Woolwich saying he had died from his wounds on April 8th.

Frank died of wounds on Easter Sunday whilst serving with the Salonika Forces.

From April to June 1917, the 35th Casualty Clearing Station was at Sarigol. The graves are those of men who had been wounded in April and May 1917 during the attacks on the Petit-Couronne.

We have not to date been able to establish more of his service details.

Frank 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