James William Gay



Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 12303

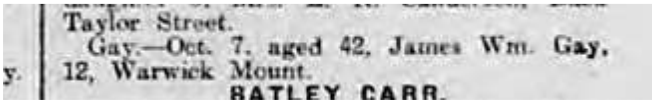
Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) (Formerly Durham Light Infantry) 3rd Battalion (Depot)

Died at home after war: - 10/10/1919 Age: 42 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire O 435

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS"

Batley News, 11 Oct 1919



Taylor Street.
Gay.—Oct. 7, aged 42, James Wm. Gay, 12, Warwick Mount.
BATLEY CARR.

Family Details

James William was born in Bishopwearmouth, Co. Durham, c.1877 the son of Henry Thomas and Elizabeth Gay (nee Smith, m. 1873, registered Sunderland). His father was a fireman on a steam ship and in 1881 the family was living at 9, Elgin Street Lane, North Bishop wear Mouth. He had an elder brother George H born 1875 and a sister Elizabeth Gibson 1879 and living with them was his maternal grandmother Mary A. Smith. Before 1891 the family had moved to 33, Marlborough Street, Bishop Wearmouth and Henry now referred to himself as a mariner whilst James William was working as a butcher's assistant. Samuel Worthington was born in 1882 and Ambrose Wallace in 1884.

"His" child Gertrude Sylvia Mary was born on 19th September 1901 according to his service records.

On the 7th January 1911 James William married Katie Eleanor Boocock at the Parish Church of Lockwood, Huddersfield giving his occupation as a painter and decorator, living at 84, Bentley Street, Lockwood. He was in fact living with his widowed mother-in-law and the Boocock family. Marjorie was born in June Qtr 1913 in Huddersfield District but sadly died in Dec Qtr 1913. Gertrude Sylvia Mary was born on 19th September 1901, according to his service records and was shown as an illegitimate child. Katie Boocock had a female child and made a bastardy charge against Henry Peace. These amounts were awarded: - 5s 10d to 29/2/1916 then 22s to 3/4/1917 then 30s.

Child Allowance 2s from 1/3/1916 to 3/4/17 then 5/- 18/9/17.

Pension expires 1/10/18.

Renewed 30/- for 26 weeks from 3/4/18

Renewed again 30/- from 4/12/1918 to 3/6/19

Renewed again 30/- from 6/8/19 to 7/10.

Service Details

His service records have survived and he attested on the 3rd November 1914 at Huddersfield into the West Riding Regiment (Depot) saying he had served previously with the Durham Light Infantry but his time had expired. He was 5ft.8

inches tall with grey eyes and brown hair, weighing 114lbs. and his religion was Church of England. He was discharged at Halifax on 27th November 1915 being no longer fit for war service under paragraph 392 (XV1) K.R. Authority , his conduct and service was described as good and on discharge he intended to live at 126, Lower gate, Lockwood. He had been awarded the South African Medal for serving in the South African campaign in the 1890's.

Before November 1917 he was living at 15, Warwick Mount, Batley and he had

He was sent to a sanatorium for 26 weeks from the 3rd April 1918 and his records state his condition may have been aggravated since the declaration of war but he left on the 1st October 1918 when his pension expired with 100% disability. His pension was extended and in a medical of 1st September 1919 he was said to have pulmonary tuberculosis and sanatorium treatment was recommended.

James William died on the 10th October 1919 and was buried at Batley Cemetery.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group