Thomas William Gear



Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 27408

Regiment: - Royal Army Medical Corps

Died of illness: - 26/06/1916 Age: 34 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire N “U” 52

Batley News, 1 Jul 1916

Family Details

Thomas William was born at Crewkerne, Somerset in 1882 the son of James and Sarah Ellen Gear nee Grinstead who had married on the 18th December 1881 at Crewkerne, Somerset. In 1891 he was living at Skiningrove, Yorkshire with his parents and siblings, Charles born 1884 in Pontypridd, Elsie Maud 1886 Crewkerne, Albert Ernest 1889 Crewkerne. His father was a miner so would have moved around the country to find work. Thirza Matilda was born in 1894 in Pogmoor before the family moved to Barugh near Barnsley before 1901.

Thomas was a boarder at the home of Mark Speight of 6, Villa Terrace, Barugh and was working as a coal miner hewer when the 1901 census was taken. On the 9th April 1901 at All Saints Church, Darton he married Harriett Speight. Arthur was born in Darton in 1902, Alberta 1906 and Eleanor 1909 in Crigglestone before they moved to live at 97, Mann's Buildings, Howden Clough before 1911. Jessie was born in 1912.

Thomas William was actively connected to Howden Clough Wesleyan Church and was assistant superintendent of the Sunday school when he went up for service. From arriving in Howden Clough, he was a member of the Birstall Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and was one of the first batch of the Birstall ambulance men who answered the call to the Colours within a fortnight of the outbreak of war. He worked at Howden Clough Colliery as a roadsman before the war.

Service Details

Thomas William answered the call within two weeks of the outbreak of war. He was at Tidworth Camp, Hants. in February 1916 when he became ill and his wife was notified that it was thought he was suffering from inflammation of the stomach. About five weeks before his death it was necessary for him to undergo an operation but sadly, he died on Monday 26th June 1916 in his wife's presence.

His body was brought home and he was buried at Batley Cemetery.

His father-in-law had also moved to Mann's Buildings, Howden Clough and he died in November 1915 and his sister-in-law Florence in March 1919.

His brother Albert Ernest was killed in action on the 9th May 1918.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill; Howden Clough Wesleyan Church Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group