Norman Goddard





Rank: - Private

Number: - 62310

Regiment: - Royal Army Medical Corps 2nd Wessex Field Ambulance

Died: - 31st October 1918 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - Saint Pol British Cemetery, Saint Pol-sur- Ternoise, Pas-de- Calais, France 11.C.15

Batley News, 16 Nov 1918. Batley Reporter, 15 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Norman was born in Batley in c 1897 the youngest child of George Batty and Julia (Judith) Goddard (nee Lancaster). The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on November 1872.

Ruth was born in Soothill in 1874 followed by Ada born in White Lee in 1877 and Emily in Soothill in 1881. In 1881 the family was living in Clutton Street.

Shortly after that the family left Batley to live in Germany where Ethel Annie 1893, Carrie 1886, George Holdsworth 1887 and John William were born before the family returned before 1891 to live at Farsley. The family returned to Batley before the birth of Norman in 1897. In 1901 the family was living at 62, Purlwell Lane where George was working as a woollen press setter and John William was a piecer.

Norman, when he was a boy attended Purlwell School and Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and later the Gospel Hall. It was reported that Norman was a bright, genial, kind hearted young fellow.

Judith died in November 1909 when the family was living at Purlwell Hall Road.

On the 16th December 1910 George, Carrie, John William and Norman left Liverpool on the Empress of India arriving at New Brunswick on the 23rd December. The papers say they were going to stay with George's daughter. They later returned to England and Norman worked with his father who was head finisher at Headfield Mills, Savile Town.

The family lived at Unity Terrace, Purlwell Hall Road, Mount Pleasant and later Cardwell Terrace, Savile Town.

Service Details

Norman voluntarily enlisted in August 1915 and took part in the evacuation from the Dardanelles. In the Dardanelles he was assisting to carry a wounded comrade on a stretcher when a fragment from a shell struck his kit which he had thrown over his shoulder. The missile partly penetrated a tin of salmon he had in his bag and this doubtless saved his life. When he was sailing away from the Dardanelles the boat was struck by a torpedo that did not explode. He spent some time in Cairo and took part in the Mesopotamia campaign. Later he was

sent to German East Africa and was there for twelve months suffering four attacks of malaria and one of black fever.

A letter written by him to Mr. Webster Haigh to acknowledge a postcard was printed in the Batley News of 9th December 1916 when he was serving with the Mushra Lake Force in British East Africa: - "*I don't get many letters out here and it is good to know one is not forgotten altogether. It is wild here I can tell you. I would prefer to be in France. It isn't the heat that bothers me but the fever. I have been in hospital once with malaria and I suppose I shall keep having it until I get away from here. Still, I am quite comfortable. I am out here all on my own. The pals I came out with are------but never mind I shall come back safe. Although thousands of miles away in Darkest Africa where white men are scarce, I keep smiling and doing my bit."* The article stated that he was a Batley Conservative Club member.

Eventually he was invalided to Cape Town and was sent home for six weeks. He was sent to France around October 1917 and served on the Western Front.

When it was at full strength a Field Ambulance was composed of 10 officers and 224 men. It was divided into three Sections. In turn, those Sections had Stretcher Bearer and Tented subsections. R.A.M.C. officers and men did not carry weapons or ammunition.

He was accidently run over by a lorry and sustained a fractured leg and internal injuries on the 31st October 1918 and died in the hospital tram en-route back to base.

Norman is remembered with Honour at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel, Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials

He was awarded 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group