George Samuel Green





Rank: - Storekeeper

Number: -

Regiment: - Mercantile Marine S.S. “Hyperia “Liverpool Naval Transport B 26

Drowned at sea: - 28th July 1918. Aged 35 years

Memorial: - Tower Hill Memorial, London.

Batley News, 17 Aug 1918 (photo)

Family Details

George Samuel was born in Churwell on 31st October 1881 the son of William and Sarah Jane Green (nee Darby) and was baptised at Churwell Wesleyan Chapel on 24th November 1881. His parents had married at Batley Parish on 15th September 1880.

William was a railway signal man for the London and North Western Railway Company and within the next ten years had moved to live in Soothill Lane, Batley. Florence M was born in c1890 in Coseley, Staffs.

George attended Mill Lane School and was well known in Soothill.

In 1901 the family had moved to Broom Street, off Soothill Lane and George was working as a railway porter.

His mother died in April 1906. His father remarried and went to live at Princess Street, Batley.

In September 1906 George Samuel married Ethel Carter. He changed his occupation and became a confectioner, stationer and newsagent at 18, Commercial Street, Batley. Ethel helped him in the shop where they also lived.

He was connected to Soothill Congregational Church and latterly Zion Methodist Chapel. Whilst in business in Batley he joined the Tradesmen's Association and played with their football and cricket teams.

Ethel went to live with her relatives Councillor and Mrs. John Ramsden at 21, Victor Street, Batley when he enlisted.

Service Details

George joined the Mercantile Marine in 1915 and was at sea almost continuously until 1918.

Ethel received a letter from the ship's owners: -

"We regret to have to inform you that we are in receipt of information from the Ministry of Shipping stating that the ship on which your husband was serving was sunk by enemy action on July 28th and that unfortunately your husband has been drowned."

The merchant vessel was torpedoed by German Submarine UB-52 without warning 84miles N by NW of Port Said. Apart from the crew casualties 57 French servicemen lost their lives in the attack.

George Samuel was awarded the Mercantile Marine War Medal and is remembered with Honour at Zion Methodist Church, Batley, Tower Hill Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



The Mercantile Marine War Medal was awarded by the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom to members of the Merchant Navy for one or more voyages through a war or danger zone during the course of WW1. The reverse of the medal shows a merchant ship ploughing her way through stormy seas, an enemy submarine sinking and a sailing vessel in the background. The base of the reverse has the inscription For War Service Mercantile Marine 1914 - 1918.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group