George Clifford Greenwood







Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 646508

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery (Territorial Force)

Died of heat stroke: - 12th August 1917 aged 31 years

Cemetery: - Basra War Cemetery, Iraq 1V.B.14

Husband of Annie F. Greenwood, of 17, Talbot St., Batley.

Batley News, 8 Sep 1917

Family Details

George Clifford was born in Ravensthorpe in 1885 the fourth son of John George and Letitia Greenwood (nee Spurr) who married in 1877. The 1881 census records the couple living in Bath Street, Batley and John George was a plumber and painter employing one boy. They had two children, Joseph born 1879 and Harold born in 1881 aged 2 months. Sadly, Harold died in November 1882. Alfred was born in 1883.

Letitia was admitted to Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield on 13th February 1891 and was released in September 1892.

The Stanley Royd records show that John George was a master plumber but failed in business and went to America in 1889 promising to send for her, he had sent no money to her since early 1890 and no letter since July 1890.

In 1891 George Clifford was living at Longlands Road, Dewsbury with his aunt and uncle, Abraham and Mary E. Haigh and grandmother Jane Spurr. 12-year-old Joseph, who was working as a grocer's assistant and Alfred were living at Fearnside's Yard, off Commercial Street, Batley with their aunt Ellen Greenwood.

The 1901 census show that Letitia and her three sons were living at 29, Cross Park Street, Batley and George was working as a grocer s assistant. Letitia died in April 1902 and was buried at Batley Cemetery and the burial records state she was the wife of John George Greenwood.

In 1911 George Clifford was staying with his married brother Joseph and his family at 29 Cross Park Street, Batley.

In 1913 George Clifford married Annie Fox Ineson, the daughter of Charles Ineson, the caretaker of Zion Chapel. She died in May 1961.

William Ineson Greenwood was born on the 16th May 1916.

George Clifford was actively connected with the Zion Chapel, and a good worker there, being a Sunday school teacher and secretary of the Band of Hope. He resided at 118, Purlwell Lane and worked at Batley Co-operative Society's Central Grocery Store. Charles Ineson died the same week as George Clifford whilst on holiday with his family.

Service Details.

George Clifford enlisted in August 1916 and left England for Mesopotamia in June 1917 and his wife received a letter written on 22nd July and despatched en-route saying he was “quite well”.

In September she received an official letter from the Records Office at Woolwich stating that he had died from heat stroke on August 12th “at a place unstated”. Records show he died at 3rd British General Hospital, Basra.

The week before she received this letter her father and two of his daughters went to Scarborough for a few days. Walking along the front near the Spa her father missed the car which would have taken him to North Marine Road and he decided to walk up the hill, he was overcome and had to go the rest of the way in a cab. Her father collapsed shortly after leaving the cab and although two doctors were at hand he died shortly afterwards. The family suffered two bereavements in the same week.

His widow moved to live at 17, Talbot Street where she lived with her sister for many years until her death in May 1961.

GREENWOOD, Gnr. G. C., 646508. 373rd Bty. 96th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Died of sunstroke 12th Aug., 1917. Age 31. Husband of Annie F. Greenwood, of 17, Talbot St., Batley. IV. B. 14.

George Clifford was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Zion Methodist Church, Batley and Batley War Memorial.