Adam Gregory



Rank: - Private

Number: - 595573

Regiment: - Labour Corps (Formerly Driver 12897 R.F.A.)

Died at home after war: - 26th December 1921 aged 36 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire O 564

Batley News, 31 Dec 1921 (classifieds)

Family Details

Adam was born in Prees (Whixall), Shropshire in c.1885 the son of Edwin and Ellen Gregory (nee Halliday, m. 1872, registered Birkenhead) of Shropshire.

Edwin was an agricultural labourer living with his family at Moss View next door to the lift up bridge near the canal side at Prees in 1891. His children living with him were Henry 1872, Mary Jane 1874, Theodore 1877, Eve 1879, Florence 1883, Adam and Maud 1887. A decade later Adam was an inmate at Stoke Farm Reformatory School at Stoke Prior, Worcestershire.

On 30th October 1917 at St. Mary's Church, Batley he married Johanna Cassidy who was the daughter of the Batley rat catcher, Thomas Cassidy who lived in New Street, Batley.

In 1923 Joanna was living at 173, Ivy Cottage, Soothill Lane, Batley

Service Details

Adam embarked for France on the 27th August 1915. When he first embarked for France, he was 12987 in the 16th DAC (Divisional Ammunition Column) suggesting his subsequent move to the Labour Corps may have been due to being wounded, injured or ill. The same record shows he was discharged to Z Reserve on 9 April 1919 suggesting he was OK health wise at that time.

Assuming he remained with the 16th DAC for the rest of his service overseas this is the background; -

This Division was established by the Irish Command in September 1914, as part of the Army Orders authorising Kitchener's Second New Army, K2. Early days were somewhat chaotic, the new volunteers having very few trained officers and NCOs to command them, no organised billets or equipment. The Division moved to England and into barracks in Aldershot by the end of the month. The training and preparation of the Division was slowed by the loss of many of its units to the 37th and Guards Divisions when they were created in 1915.

December 1915: The Division finally moved to France and concentrated in the Bethune area. It served on the Western Front with distinction throughout the war, taking part in the following engagements:

1916
The Battle of Guillemont in which the Division captured the village

The Battle of Ginchy
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

1917
The Battle of Messines
The Battle of Langemark, a phase of the Third Battles of Ypres

1918
The Battle of St Quentin
The Battle of Rosieres
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

18 June 1918: After suffering very heavy casualties a decision was taken to return the Division to England for refit and it was then significantly reconstituted. The Division lost virtually all of its remaining Irish units at this point.

1 August 1918: returned to France.

The Final Advance in Artois.

The Division suffered the loss of more than 28,000 casualties during the war.

It is possible that his illness or injury caused his return home before the war ended. He was in the Labour Corps at some stage and it is possible he was moved there as a driver either whilst overseas or when back home. He was discharged to Z Reserve in April 1919 which suggest he was still fit. The balance of evidence suggest he may have moved whilst still overseas.

Adam died on 27th December 1921 and was buried at Batley Cemetery on the 30th December when he lived at 3, Providence Street, Batley and his employment was given as a warehouseman, (from burial records).

Adam was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group