Willie Howarth



Rank: - Driver

Number: - T/10672536

Regiment: - Royal Army Service Corps

53 Welsh Infantry Division Ammunition Company based in East Farleigh, Kent.

Died: - Died as a result of a road accident 29/06/1942 Age: 40 years

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery, Section T Grave 716.

Batley News, 4 Jul 1942

Willie was born on 3 February 1904 the son of Haydn and Polly Howarth nee Dent who had married on 17 May 1902 at St. Clement's Church, Longsight, Manchester. Polly died in November 1907 in Lancashire and in 1913 Haydn married Eleanor 'Nellie' Thompson. In 1911 Willie was living at her home in Lancashire described as grandson whilst his father was living in Savile Town with his father and working as a coal miner. Arnold was born in 1916.

Willie married Priscilla Wilson on 26 Feb 1927 at Purlwell Wesleyan Methodist Church, Batley giving his address as 6, Carlton Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury and his occupation as house painter (journeyman). Jessie was born later that year. The family lived at 17, Lower North Street, Batley.

Willie was employed by Ned Ramsden, painter and decorator, Dewsbury before he joined the Forces. Willie, Priscilla and Jessie left their home to go on a cycle ride on 11 June, but they collided with a lorry at West Ardsley. Priscilla was killed and Willie and Jessie were taken to Batley Hospital. Dr. S.M. Newman, police surgeon, saw Willie within an hour of him being admitted and he was suffering from shock and a deep laceration on his right thigh. He improved after a few days but due to a secondary infection in the wound his condition deteriorated. Under further treatment he improved but then on Friday his condition became worse. He died of septicaemia following laceration of the right thigh.

Willie is remembered with Honor at Batley War Memorial; Addenda and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

TRIPLET CYCLE CRASH—SECOND FATALITY.

Batley Father and Mother Dead —Young Daughter in Hospital.

The death occurred in Batley Hospital on Monday of Driver Willie Howarth (38), R.A.S.C., of 17, Lower North Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley, who was seriously injured whilst riding a triplet cycle when it collided with a lorry at West Ardsley on June 11th. His wife, Mrs. Priscilla Howarth, was killed and their daughter Jessie, who was also on the cycle, is still in Batley Hospital.

Driver Howarth was formerly employed by Messrs. Ned Ramsden, painters and decorators, Dewsbury.

An inquest on Mrs. Howarth was opened at Morley on June 13th and adjourned until July 16th, and at Batley Hospital on Tuesday Mr. S. H. B. Gill (Deputy Coroner) opened and adjourned an inquiry into Driver Howarth's death until the same date.

Mrs. Sarah Brown, 15, Lower North Street, sister-in-law, said Mr. Howarth left his home with his wife and daughter on June 11th for a cycle ride. The next she heard was that her sister was dead and that her brother-in-law and his daughter were in hospital. She had visited Mr. Howarth from time to time in hospital, and he told her his cycle was hit by a motor lorry at West Ardsley and he was knocked off.

Dr. S. M. Newman, Police Surgeon, said he saw Driver Howarth between half an hour and an hour after he was admitted, and he was suffering from shock and had a deep laceration on his right thigh. He improved after a few days, but due to a secondary infection in the wound his condition deteriorated. Under further treatment he improved, but last Friday his condition became worse. Death was due to septicaemia following laceration of the right thigh.

The lorry with which the cycle collided was owned by Mr. S. Gosling, Swincliffe Hill, Gomersal, and driven by James McMahon, of Heckmondwike, who was accompanied by Thomas Summers, of Staincliffe.

The funeral of Mr. Howarth takes place to-day at Batley Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group