Arnold Ingham





Rank: - Private

Number: - 10539736

Regiment: - Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Died: - Killed in an air raid on a Southern town 12/06/1941 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. T. Grave 904.

Batley News, 21 Jun 1941 (photo)

Arnold was born on the 21 January 1914 the son of Joseph Thomas and Frances Annie Ingham nee Robinson who had married on 27 February 1897 at St. Peters Church, Birstall. George Wilfred was born in 1898-1905, Winifred May 1899-1902, Violet 1901, Mary Elizabeth 1905, George Cyril 1908, Leslie 1910-1912 and Arnold.

Th family had lived at the Top of Heckmondwike and Arnold was a choir boy at Christ Church, Staincliffe. Since leaving school he had worked in the finishing department at Messrs. J.T.& J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills, Batley. He was also on Batley Parish football committee. In 1939 the family lived at 17, Old Mill Lane, Batley but moved shortly later to live at 16, Wilton Street, Batley.

Arnold joined the Forces in March 1921 and was sent to Portsmouth. Arnold was sleeping in his tent along with colleagues when an oil bomb exploded setting fire to the hut. He was rescued and taken to a military hospital but unfortunately passed away 20 minutes later from multiple injuries and burns. In a letter written the previous day he indicated he would be moving only four hours after he was killed. He had not had any leave since joining up and his parents had not seen him in uniform. He was the first employee at Blakeridge Mills to die in World War 2.

Arnold was given a full military funeral at Batley Cemetery after a service at Batley Parish Church. A bodyguard was formed by members of the RAOC unit, who bore the coffin draped with a Union Jack. As the cortege passed Blakeridge Mills many of his former old work friends witnessed the last journey of their former colleague.

Arnold is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group