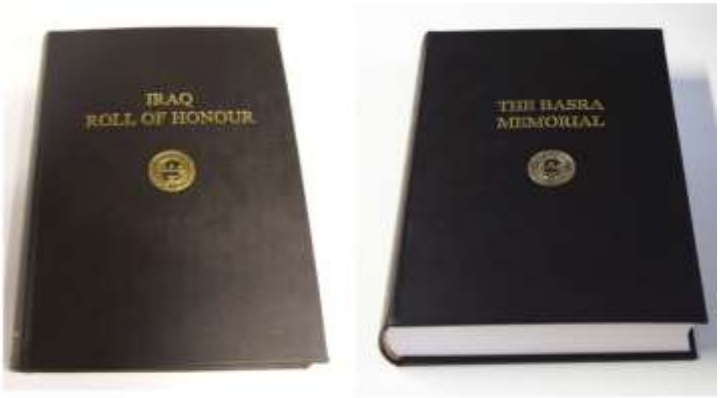
Norman James





Rank: - L/ Cpl

Number: - S/9574

Regiment: - Seaforth Highlanders 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds in Persian Gulf: - 26/12/1916 Age: 25 years

Cemetery: - Amara War Cemetery, Iraq XVI. J. 6.

Batley News, 6 Jan 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Norman was born in Batley in 1892 the youngest son of Tom and Elizabeth Ann James nee Bairstow formerly Fletcher who had married in 1883 in Barnsley District.

Elizabeth Ann Bairstow had previously been married to miner, William Fletcher in 1870 and Herbert was born in 1873 followed by Caroline 1874, Annie 1876, Louisa 1877 and Mary Alice 1879, Sadly William died and Elizabeth Ann married miner, Tom James.

Leonard William Fletcher was born in Rotherham in 1886 before the family moved to live in Batley and Arthur was born in 1887 in Soothill followed by Walter 1889 and Norman in Batley. In 1901 the family was living at 11, George Street, Batley. Before 1911 the family had moved to live at Belvedere Terrace, Byrom Street, Batley and Norman was working as a pawnbroker's assistant. Later his parents moved to live at 26, Norfolk Street, Batley.

Norman attended Batley Parish Day School and later went to work for Messrs Jackson's Stores, Batley, Mr. Dan Kitchen, pawnbrokers, Wellington Street, Batley and before enlisting was employed as assistant manager for Mr. Guest, pawnbroker, Thurnscoe, Rotherham. He was a smart young boxer and an all-round athlete.

Service Details

Norman enlisted in August 1915 and after training was drafted to France. He was attacked by trench fever and was sent home but in October 1916 he was sent to Mesopotamia.

The last news from him was dated 22nd November in which he said he had arrived at base in Mesopotamia after a very tiring journey. He was expecting to be sent to the trenches very soon and wished everyone at home a Merry Christmas. On the sea journey he had taken part in a boxing contest and won a small prize.

The news of his death received from the Records Office at Perth came as a shock to his parents.

His brother Arthur James, Highland Light Infantry had been in France for four months and before the war worked as a check clerk at Batley Co-operative Society. Sgt. Walter James formerly of the Batley Territorial's was attached to the ASC in Leeds. He was a time-expired man, who was rendered unfit for foreign service by an illness whilst serving with the Territorial's. He attempted three or four times to re-enlist and was eventually accepted by the ASC.

Norman was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Hanover Street Congregational Sunday School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group