Charles Kaye





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 162386

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 217th Siege Battery

Died of Wounds / Killed in Action: - 22/11/1917 Age: 40 years

Cemetery: - Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium X11.C.10

Batley News, 1 Dec 1917, 8 Dec 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Charles was born in Batley in c. 1877 the son of Littletown born Jesse and Sarah Ann Kaye (nee Parkinson, m. 1872, registered Dewsbury).

John William was born in 1871 followed by Albert 1872, Abel 1875 and Charles and was living at Carlinghow Lane, Batley in 1881 and Jesse was employed as a mechanic turner. His brother, Jesse was born in 1881 but sadly died in early 1882.

In 1891 the family was living at No.1, Spring Mill Yard, Carlinghow Hill and Jesse was described as an engineer on the census of that year.

His father died in 1896.

On the 3rd August 1907 Charles married Annie Epton at Rashcliffe Parish Church (St. Stephen's), both giving their address as Yews Hill Road and Charles was employed as a spinner. Frank was born in Lockwood in 1908 and in 1911 the family was living at Fletchers Buildings, Upper Row, Mirfield Moor and Charles was employed as a mule tenter at a worsted mill.

Charles was connected with Birstall Wesleyan Chapel and Birstall Temperance Hall. Prior to enlisting he worked at Messrs Taylor Yielding and Co. previously being employed at Messrs Briggs and Co., Dock Ing Mills, Carlinghow. He had also been in business on his own account since 1915 as a hardware dealer in Birstall but this had to close when he enlisted.

They had three more children after coming to live in Birstall, Albert was born in 1913, George Thomas 1914 and Lily 1917.

Service Details

Charles enlisted in June 1917 and went to France in September 1917.

He had only been in France a few weeks when he was slightly wounded in his left hand and right arm but after a short spell in hospital rejoined his battery.

An officer wrote to his wife: -

"It is my painful duty to inform you that your husband Gunner E. Kaye of my battery was seriously wounded whilst in action on November 22nd and

succumbed to his injuries a few minutes afterwards. Gunner Kaye was a splendid soldier, always cheery and willing, and we shall all miss him in the battery."

His wife and children lived at this time at 4, Smithies Lane, Birstall, his wife later moved to live at 11, Wentworth Cottages, Field Head Lane, Birstall.

Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Birstall and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group