Randall Kitchingman







Rank: - Private

Number: - 17864

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Depot

Died of appendicitis: - 5th December 1916 at Batley Hospital aged 27

Cemetery: - Batley J 148

Family Details

Randall was born in Heckmondwike in 1889 the son of Harry and Annie Kitchingman (nee Ward). He was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on Wednesday 27th November 1889 giving the address as Kilpin Hill Lane and Harry's occupation as a plasterer. Mary Alice was born in 1890 at Occupation Lane, but sadly died aged 4 weeks in February 1890. In 1891 the family with his elder sister Eleanor (1884) were living at 2, Occupation Lane, Staincliffe.

Elsie was born in 1892 followed by Jennie (1894), Hubert (1899) where the family in 1901 was living at 16, Lobley Street, Heckmondwike. Arnold was born in July 1902.

Annie died in 1906 and Harry in July 1910.

Eleanor had married Briecliffe Wilson in 1906 and in 1911, Elsie, Hubert and Arnold was living together with the couples two children in a two roomed house in Henry Street, Dewsbury. Jennie was a visiting in Upper Road, Batley Carr and Randall was in Dewsbury Hospital, as a patient and his occupation was given as a miner.

On 26th October 1912 Randall married Nellie Smith at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. He gave his occupation as a dyer's labourer and both gave their address as 25, Hirst Road, Mill Road, Batley Carr. Jeannie was born in 1913 followed by Winifred in 1914 and Elsie.

As a boy Randall attended Staincliffe Church Day Schools and was later associated with Batley Carr Church Schools.

Before enlisting he worked for Messrs. Wilman Bros. Rag and shoddy merchants.

Service Details

Randall enlisted in August 1914 but was not sent to the Front until July 1916 but was invalided home suffering from gas poisoning. Within a month he was drafted to the Front again, but he was soon back in an English hospital, unfit for active service. He continued to serve in the army and was given 10 days leave when he became seriously ill and was admitted to Batley Hospital but died after an operation for appendicitis. The family lived at Oldroyd's Yard, Batley Carr.

Randall was interred at Batley Cemetery on Saturday 9th December with military honours. The service was conducted by Rev. E.C. Edwards and as well as a large number of family mourners 25 wounded soldiers from the Staincliffe Military Hospital with Sergeant Major Hemingway also attended. A firing party, comprising of the Dewsbury B and C Companies of Volunteers was present under Sergeant H. Wright and Bugler L. Oldroyd sounded the Last Post.

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

Randall is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group