William Pitt Kitson



Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 50779

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 99th Siege Battery

Died of Wounds, Gas poisoning and Bronchial Pneumonia: - 28/06/1918 Age: 28 years

Cemetery: - Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France 1.C.4

Batley Reporter, 5 Jul 1918 (photo)

Family Details

William Pitt was born in Birstall on the 1st September 1889 the son of Timothy and Sarah Florence Nightingale Kitson (nee Jackson, m. 1883, registered Dewsbury) and was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel, Birstall on the 17th October 1889. John Henry born 1884 in Batley and his elder sister, Ann Elizabeth, who was born on 5th March 1888 when her parents were living at Roebuck Street, Birstall were in 1891 living at Kirkgate, Birstall with their parents and a boarder aged 70 years Mary Heppenstall and Timothy gave his occupation as a hairdresser.

Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 7, Smithies Moor Lane, Birstall and Timothy was a barber by trade.

In 1911 the family was at the same address and William was working as a wholesale drapery salesman.

William worked for Messrs. Hotham and Whiting, wholesale clothiers, of Leeds and was connected with Birstall Wesleyan Sunday School where he was superintendent-secretary, a member of the chapel choir, and secretary of the Wesleyan Guild.

In 1916 he married Eva Ainsworth, daughter of Mr. Albert Ainsworth of Glen Villas, Bradford Road, Birstall.

Service Details

William enlisted in November 1914 and went to France on 18th May 1916.

News arrived by telegram on Sunday 27th June that William was dangerously ill and the following morning another telegram was received to say that he had died from bronchial pneumonia caused by gas-poisoning.

His brother 2nd Lieut. John Henry Kitson had been killed in action only two months earlier on the 14th April 1918.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St Saviour's Brownhill; Birstall Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (St John's); Temperance Hall – Smithies Lane, Birstall; Birstall and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of Batley History Group