George Lee



Rank: - Ex-Rifleman

Number: - C/6775

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Corps 18th Battalion

Died at Home: - 06/10/1921 Age: 31 years

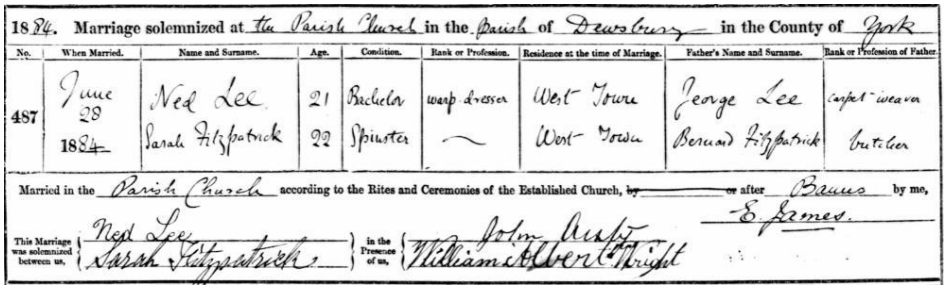
Cemetery: - Dewsbury, Yorkshire I. "U" 230.

Family Details

George was born in Mirfield on 1st October 1890. His father was Edward J. (Ned) Lee, a Power Loom Tuner born in Mirfield in 1864. His mother was Sarah (nee Fitzpatrick) born in Belturbet, County Cavan, Ireland around 1863. They were married on 28th June 1884 at Dewsbury All Saints Church.

Their other children were; Willie, born in 1885, Bernard Alfred, born in 1886, Elizabeth, born in 1888, Edward Joseph Leo, born in 1895 and Gertrude, born in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family are living at Wellhouse Lane, Mirfield and in 1901 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe.



1884. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Dewsbury in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
487	June 28 1884	Ned Lee	21	Bachelor	warp dresser	West Town	George Lee	carpet weaver
		Sarah Fitzpatrick	22	Spinster	—	West Town	Bernard Fitzpatrick	butcher

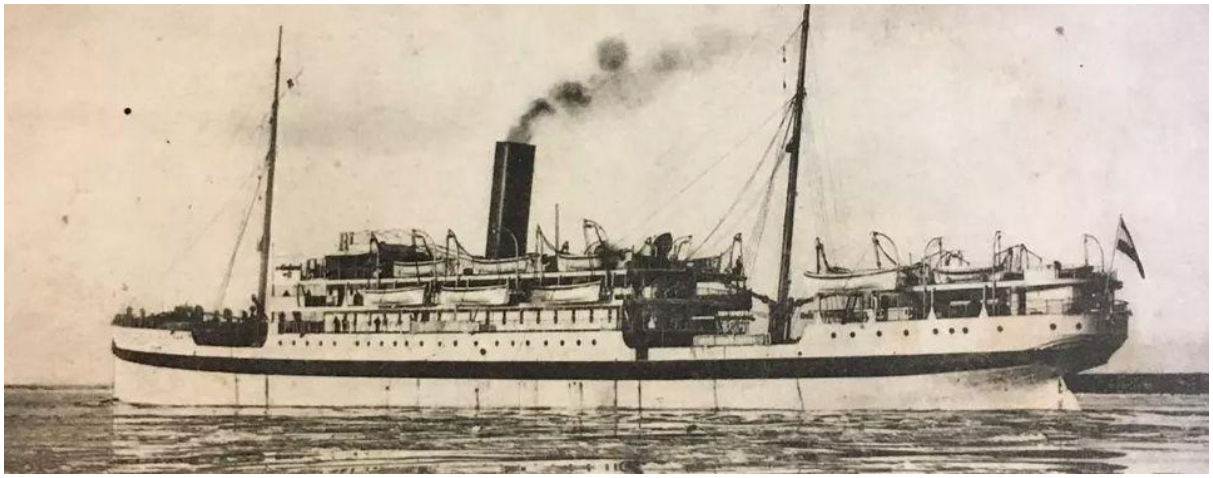
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, ~~by~~ ~~or~~ after Banns by me, E. James.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Ned Lee, Sarah Fitzpatrick. In the Presence of us, John Austin, William Albert Wright.

George was married in 1910 to Priscilla Gibson (born in 1888 and died in 1975). On the 1911 Census taken on 2nd April his occupation is a cloth finisher and they are living with his wife's family at 13, Thornville Walk, West Town, Dewsbury. They had two daughters; Madge, born in 1911 and Stella Helena, born in 1913.

Priscilla worked in the woollen trade like her older sister Elizabeth and by now there must have been money in the family as she was able to send both the girls to the boarders at St Joseph's College, Bradford. She was a supervisor at the mill and must have been known for her hard work! George, her husband went to fight in France in the 1914-1918 war. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and wounded whilst a prisoner. He returned to England in 1918. On th 23rd of October 1918, just one month from the end of the war, he wrote home.

"Dear wife, I am writing this letter on this boat (SS Sindoro). I hope it will find you and my two little daughters in the best of health also your mother and father and all those at home. Well love, it won't be long now before I will be able to see you in reality with the help of God. When I get to hospital, I shall send you a letter letting you know where I am then you will have to try and come and see me so don't get too excited when you get the news that I am in old England….. with best love to you and….. George"



The post card was written whilst George was onboard SS Sindoro, a Dutch ship which had been converted into a hospital ship and been used for the exchange of prisoners. The ship would have arrived in Boston Lincolnshire, which was the port used for the exchange of prisoners.

Service Details

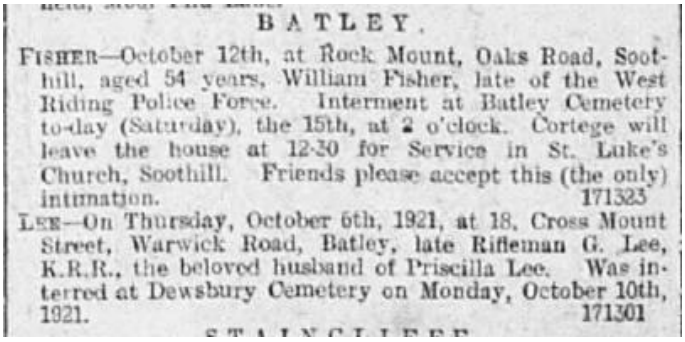
George enlisted on 6th September 1915 and served in the 18th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps as Rifleman C/6775; he was wounded in 1916 which involved his repatriation to the Lord Derby War Hospital in Warrington from 12th October to 25th November 1916. After returning to the Western Front he was taken prisoner on 3rd May 1917 during the Battle of Bullecourt near Arras, France. German Prisoner of War records now available through the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland show that on 20th June 1917 he is held at a concentration camp in Saltau, Lower Saxony and on 27th December of that same year he is held at Hameln (Hamelin) about 80 miles further south. Both records state that he had been wounded in the right thigh and that his home address was 2, Pitt Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Released after the Armistice, he was admitted to the 2nd London General Hospital in Chelsea on 22nd November 1918 and was discharged on 11th March 1919 as sick, being issued with Silver War Badge number B146930. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He died at his home at 18, Cross Mount Street, Batley on 6th October 1921 from Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused by war service. He is buried in Dewsbury Cemetery.

George is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Batley War Memorial.

He was not recorded as official war casualties due to his date of death being after the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission cut-off date of 31st August 1921. Thanks to Dewsbury Sacrifices for allowing use of their research.



BATLEY.

FISHER—October 12th, at Rock Mount, Oaks Road, Soothill, aged 54 years, William Fisher, late of the West Riding Police Force. Interment at Batley Cemetery to-day (Saturday), the 15th, at 2 o'clock. Cortege will leave the house at 12-30 for Service in St. Luke's Church, Soothill. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation. 171323

LEE—On Thursday, October 6th, 1921, at 18, Cross Mount Street, Warwick Road, Batley, late Rifleman G. Lee, K.R.R., the beloved husband of Priscilla Lee. Was interred at Dewsbury Cemetery on Monday, October 10th, 1921. 171301

Batley Reporter, 14 Oct 1921 (classifieds), 6 Oct 1922 (classifieds)



Researched by members of
Batley History Group