# Robert Martin






Birstall people were shocked on Wednesday when they heard the sad news that popular Robert ("Bobby") Martin,21 years' old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Martin, 87, Low Lane, Birstall, had been found dead in bed that morning.

Interviewed by a News reporter, Bobby's father, a well-known fish frier, said: "We gave Bobby a call, as usual, to wake him up, but we heard nothing, so his mother went to wake him. She was awfully shocked when she found he was dead in bed. It was a terrible surprise, because he was quite normal last night." Bobby was educated at Birstall National played cricket with Drighlington and Oakenshaw. He was discharged from the R.A.F. recently owing to ill-health, after about nine months' service, and then resumed his employment as clerk with a Cleckheaton firm.
He was also in the Home Guard. He leaves two sisters. An inquest is being held at Birstall today. The funeral is at Birstall Churchyard to-morrow (Saturday).

Martin, 21-years-old cricketer son of Mr. John Thomas Martin, fish fryer, Low Lane, Birstall, and Mrs. Martin, who was found dead in bed, was due to asphyxia while in an epileptic fit, stated Dr. Wm. O'Neill at last Friday's inquest at Birstall. The Coroner (Mr. C. J. Haworth) returned a "Misadventure" verdict. Mr. Martin said his son had been subject to epileptic fits since he joined the R A.F. in October, 1941, hut since his discharge in June this year he had only one such attack. He was a clerk at B.B.A., Ltd. Cleckheaton. Mrs. Martin said her step-son

was quite normal the previous night and she called him as usual in the morning. When there was no reply, she went upstairs and found him in bed. She did not think he was dead.

Police-Sergeant F. Harding said that deceased's 15-years-old sister was sleeping in the same room but did not hear anything. Constable W. Cooper said the boy's face, which was congested, was buried in the pillow.

The funeral at Birstall Churchyard last Saturday was conducted by Rev. J. Wallis (Curate) and was attended by a detachment of deceased's fellow Home Guards, in charge of Major Harry Walker.

Principal mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Martin, father and step-mother: Miss I. Martin, sister; Mr. and Mrs. W. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. F. Martin. Mr. C. Martin, Mrs. G. Martin, Mrs. E. Brooke and Mrs. A. Bedforth, uncles and aunts; and Mrs. E. Sykes (cousin). Others present included Messrs. Vincer, J. R. MacKay, R. Day. L. Dove. A. Friedlander, J. Greenwood. R. Anthony and C. Varley, Mesdames H. Carr. A. Ryder, Wilson, D. Thompson, N. Wells and E. Wheeler, Misses J. Tattersfield, Gray, M. Dixon and M. G. Mitchell.



**BIRSTALL MOTHER'S TRAGIC DISCOVERY.**

**21 Years' Old Son Found Dead.**

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The Late Mr. "Bobby" Martin.

Bobby was educated at Birstall National School and played cricket with Drighlington and Oakenshaw. He was discharged from the R.A.F. recently owing to ill-health, after about nine months' service, and then resumed his employment as clerk with a Cleckheaton firm. He was also in the Home Guard.

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Batley News, 12 Dec 1942

In addition to flowers from relatives, friends and workmates there were the following: Batley and Birstall Home Guard Machine Gun Section; comrades in the Home Guard; and members of the Woodland Cricket Club.




Researched by members of
Batley History Group