George Mortimer





Rank: - Private

Number: - 3990

Regiment: - Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 2nd/6th Bn. (Transport Section)

Whilst training at Braintree Essex, returned to his billet and shot himself: - 13/11/1916 Age: 20 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire R 480

"GEORGE THE DEARLY BELOVED HUSBAND OF VIOLET MORTIMER MAY HE REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 18 Nov 1916 (photo)

Family Details

George was born in Batley in 1897 eldest son of John Alfred and Ann Maria Mortimer (nee Schorer, m. 1896, registered Dewsbury). Charley was born in 1898 and the family moved to live at 39, Crowle Street, Sculcoates near Hull where John Alfred was a general labourer, but they returned to Batley before the birth of Elizabeth in July 1901. Ann Maria died in November 1902 and was buried at Batley Cemetery.

In 1911 John Alfred and the three children were living at 35, Prospect Terrace, Healey Lane, Batley. John Alfred was working as an insurance agent for the Prudential and George was a woollen shoddy grinder.

George attended Batley Parish Church School and also the church. He was at one time a member of Batley Working Men's Club. His father set up a business as a carrier and nail contractor and before enlisting George helped him in this business.

George married Violet Bedford on the 10th Oct 1916 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton. He gave his occupation as a carrier and a soldier of Wellington Street, Batley.

Service Details

George was a Derby recruit being called up in March 1916 and was sent to Braintree, Essex for training. He was being trained to be a transport driver but around August 1916 had a rupture whilst riding and was sent to Colchester Hospital for an operation where he remained for a few weeks.

He came home on sick leave, the second week in November and set off on the Friday morning with the intention of visiting a sick relative in hospital he returned to Batley and finally set off on Sunday evening from Dewsbury at around 10pm. The next afternoon a telegram arrived:-

"Your son died here today."

The Braintree Advertiser printed the following: -

"An inquest was held by Mr. Coroner Harrison at Braintree on Monday respecting the death of Pte. George Mortimer of a transport section, who was found earlier

in the day in a bedroom shot through the head with his own rifle. It was stated in the evidence that the deceased had recently married and had just returned to duty from sick leave. He had overstayed his time. He had been suffering from? which had a depressing effect upon him."

The funeral took place at Batley Cemetery on the 17th November when, in addition to the family there was present an N.C.O. and a private from the deceased's section.

His brother, Charles had been to France but was invalided home because of shell shock and was stationed in the south of England.

George is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group