Frederick Nelsey





Rank: - Private

Number: - 36638

Regiment: - Essex Regiment 1st/5th Bn

Killed in Action in Palestine: - 03/11/1917 Age: 35 years

Cemetery: - Gaza War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine XXV1. F.15

Batley News, 24 Nov 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Frederick was born in Leeds in 1881 the son of Harrison and Maria Nelsey nee Brough who had married on the 27th September 1877 at St. George's Church, Leeds. He was baptised at St. John the Baptist Church, Leeds on the 3rd August 1891 when the family lived at 44, Granville Terrace and his father's occupation was a brick-layer.

Harrison was born in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire and Maria from Staffordshire but they moved to Leeds before the birth of Alice 1878. Before 1891 the family had moved to 10, Dundas Street, Leeds with additions to the family of Frederick, Beatrice 1884, Ethel 1886 and Herbert 1889.

Hilda was born in 1891 followed by Marie 1894 and Louis Howard 1898 and before 1901 the family had moved to 34, Bexley Terrace, Potter-Newton where Frederick was working as a pawn broker's assistant.

On the26th December 1904 Frederick married Lizzie Milburn at Trinity Wesleyan Church, Roundhay Road, Leeds. Winifred was born in 1905 but sadly died shortly after birth. Frederick Harrison was born in April 1907. Before 1911 the family was living at 24, Oaks Road, Batley and was employed as a pawnbroker's manager. His mother died in April 1915.

He was connected with Batley Parish Church and was one of the first to join the Local Volunteer Corps.

The family moved to live in Commercial Street where he set up business as a general dealer having previously been the manager of Jackson's Stores. He left this business after four years to join the Forces.

Service Details

Frederick enlisted in January 1917 and set out for Egypt in July 1917.

His Division fought at the Third Battle of Gaza (27 October -7 November) including the Capture of Gaza (1-7 November).

It was believed he had been killed when they captured Gaza. He was officially reported to be the first local man to be killed whilst serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

His youngest brother, Louis Howard, was missing on the 3rd September 1916 and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

His brother, Herbert, was killed on the 3rd May 1917 and is on the Arras Memorial.

Frederick was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group