Albert Arthur Smithson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4043

Regiment: - Cameron Highlanders 3/4th Battalion

Died of Injuries at Ripon: - 7th January 1916 aged 23 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire N 408

"AT REST"

Batley News, 15 Jan 1916. Dewsbury Reporter, 15 Jan 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Albert Arthur was born in Batley on 23rd April 1892 the son of Joseph and Annie Smithson (nee Grant) who had married at Batley Parish Church on 3rd March 1891. Albert Arthur was baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 5th June 1892 when the families address was given as Purlwell and his father's occupation was a butcher.

Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 189, Taylor Street, Batley with the addition of Elsie born in 1895.

Doris was born in 1902 followed by Sarah Elizabeth 1904 and Gertrude in 1906.

Joseph died in April 1909. It must have been hard for Annie because her children were so young. The 1911 census shows that Annie was working as a cloth weaver and eighteen-year-old Albert Arthur was a shop assistant. A report in the Batley News states that he formerly worked for the Cash Clothing Company and later Messrs. George Jessop and Sons, clothiers, Batley. He was a member of the Batley Branch of the Shop Assistants' Union.

The 1911 census also shows that there had been children six born alive to the couple and one had died in infancy. This was probably Edith who was buried at Batley Cemetery on the 12th April 1891 aged 5 weeks the daughter of Joseph Smithson of Charles Street, Purlwell, Batley.

Albert was associated with the Zion Methodist Church and Sunday School and was also a member of Hanover Street P.S.A. and he had a large circle of friends.

Service Details.

Albert Arthur joined the Forces around October 1915 and was sent for training to Ripon.

He was staying in a Y.M.C.A. hut with a friend, also from Batley and they left the hut at Ripon on Thursday evening and owing to the prevalence of a strong wind they crossed the road with their heads down. A motor car came down the road, the horn was sounded, and the deceased's friend heard it. He shouted to Albert but presumably he did not hear and a moment later he lay injured in the road. The car did not stop and Arthur was taken to hospital on a stretcher.

His mother was sent a telegram telling her about the accident and she immediately went to Ripon but he had sadly died in the early hours of Friday morning before she had got there.

He was buried at Batley Cemetery on the 10th April 1916.



Author's Notes

The tablet shows the name PERCY Smithson was being remembered but several members of Batley History Group searched without success for any details. When reading the list of names sent from Zion Church to the Town Council from The Manse, Caledonia Road, for the inclusion of names for the town memorial Percy was crossed out and the name Albert Arthur put in its place. There was also an additional name of Godfrey Moore of Fox's Yard, Batley.