Gilbert Wilson





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 107106

Regiment: - Royal Engineers 98th Field Coy.

Died of illness: - 30th August 1918 aged 28

Cemetery: - Fienvillers British Cemetery, Somme, France C.27

"GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN". FROM HIS LOVING MOTHER, FATHER & SISTER."

Batley News, 7 Sep 1918, 14 Sep 1918 (photo)

Family Details:

Gilbert was born in Batley on 8th May 1890 to Alfred Wilson and his wife Lavinia (nee Clough) born in Ravensthorpe.

In 1891 the family were living in Upton Street, Batley.

Gilbert was the eldest of two children to Dewsbury born Alfred. His sister Gertrude (1897) was baptised at Carlinghow St. John's Church on 7th April 1897 when the family were living at 6, Blakeridge Lane, Batley and Alfred was a mill hand.

In 1901 the family were living in Back Henrietta Street and Arthur and Sarah Clough were living with them.

By 1911 the family had moved to 8, Westbrook Terrace, Batley. Alfred and Gilbert were described as warpers and Gertrude was also working at a mill as a mender. Gilbert eventually worked at G. &J. Stubley's as a warper.

Gilbert attended Batley Parish Church.

Service Details:

He attested in Batley on 25th October 1915 giving his age as 25 years and 5 months. He was transferred from training to base camp on 20th November 1916 and disembarked for France on 16th December 1916.

He joined the Royal Engineers in the 98th Field Company.

The war of 1914-1918 relied on engineering. Without engineers there would have been no supply to the armies, because the RE's maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport. RE's also operated the railways and inland waterways. There would have been no communications, because the RE's maintained the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment. There would have been little cover for the infantry and no positions for the artillery, because the RE's designed and built the front-line fortifications. It fell to the technically skilled RE's to develop responses to chemical and underground warfare. And finally, without the RE's infantry and artillery would have soon been powerless, as they maintained the guns and other weapons. Little wonder that the Royal Engineers grew into a large and complex organisation

In 1916 the 98th Field Company was attached to the 21st Division.

They took part in the Battles of Mamentz and Bazentin on the Somme.

They fought throughout 1917 and 1918.

He was home on leave from 1st January 1918 until 16th January 1918.

Gilbert died from acute gastro enteritis on 30th August 1918 and his records show that it was aggravated by exposure and fatigue.

In an obituary in the Batley News

"In loving memory of Driver Gilbert Wilson R.E. beloved son of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wilson of 8,Westbrook Terrace, Carlinghow, Batley who died from gastro enteritis at a clearing station in France, on August 30th 1918----- In our hearts you are fondly remembered, Sweet memories cling round your name, Hearts that hold you in deepest affection, Will love you in death just the same. From father, mother and sister.

Gilbert was awarded the British War Medal 1914-1920 and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church, St. John's Church, Carlinghow and Fienvillers Military Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group