Norman Windle





Rank: - Sapper

Number: - 106899

Regiment: - Royal Engineers 231st Field Company

Killed in Action: - 9th April 1918 aged 28 years

Memorial: - Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 1

Batley News, 27 Apr 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Norman was born in Batley on the 22nd April 1889 the son of Alfred and Sarah Ann Windle (nee Kay). He was baptised at Purlwell Methodist Chapel on the 13th August 1889. The couple had married in 1885.

In 1891 the family was living at 26, Kent Street, Batley and his Newcastle born father was working as a cloth finisher. The family included Isaac (1872), Richard (1874), Joseph Kay Normington (1876), Isabella (1881), Herbert (1885) and Norman.

Alfred had previously been married to Ruth Terry but she had died in April 1884 and Sarah Ann had been married to John Normington who had died in 1879.

The children of this marriage were Herbert who was born October 1885, Alfred October 1887 but who sadly died aged 6 weeks, Norman and Arthur in 1892 who died in February 1893.

Alfred died in January 1893 and in 1901 Sarah Ann and the younger children were living at 7, Knowles Hill, off Dark Lane, Batley. She was working as a weaver to support her family and Herbert was an apprentice joiner.

Before 1911 they had moved to live at 32, Norfolk Street, Batley. His mother died in May 1914 and Isabella in 1912.

Norman was associated with Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and was a member of Batley Working Men's Club. Before enlisting he was employed by Messrs. G. & J. Mortimer, contractors, Carlton Grange, Batley as a mason and bricklayer.

On the 4th March 1916 Sapper 106899 Norman Windle of 32, Norfolk Street, Batley married Elsie Bailey at Trinity Church, Tempest Road, Hunslet, Leeds.

Service Details

Norman signed his attestation papers on the 4th August 1915 at Batley giving his brother Herbert as his next of kin. After his marriage he lived at 17, Colwyn Terrace, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.

He went to France on the 3rd June 1916 and last came home in November 1917 although he did meet his brother, Herbert, who was a First Airman with the R.A.F. twice whilst they were in France.

A section unit officer wrote to his wife to say that he had been killed by a sniper's bullet when he was retiring with his unit after defending a bridge.

At the time of his death his brother First Airman Herbert Windle was employed in aircraft work in France.

Norman is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group