

## Wilcock Robertshaw



**Rank:** - Gunner

**Number:** - 11051926

**Regiment:** - Royal Artillery 242 Bty., 48 Lt. A.A. Regt.

**Died:** - Died of Malnutrition 01/07/1945 Age: 23 years.

**Cemetery:** - Labuan War Cemetery, Malaysia R.B.16.

Wilcock was born in 1921 the son of Lionel and Ivy Robertshaw (nee Biggs, m. 1921, registered Dewsbury). William was born in 1923 and Raymond in 1925. In 1939 the family lived at 52 High Street Terrace, Batley, but in 1945 they were living at 33, Warwick Road, Batley.

Wilcock attended Warwick Road School and Batley Carr Parish Church Sunday School. He was later employed by Wilfred and Johnson's, Watergate, Dewsbury and was a member of Batley Carr Working Men's Club.

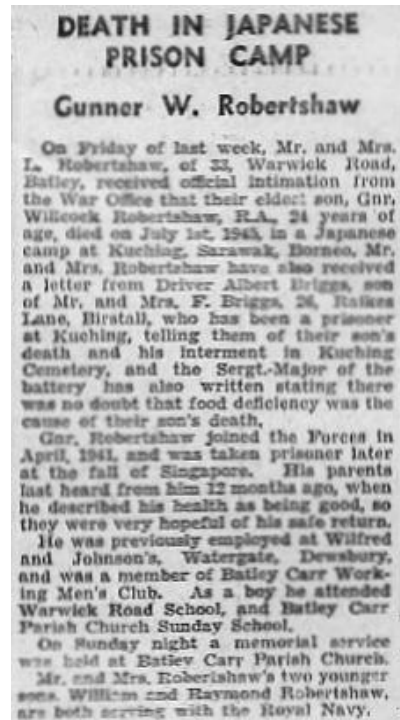
Wilcock joined the Forces in April 1941 and was taken prisoner when his troop ship was captured by the Japanese Navy whilst sailing off Java towards

Singapore at the time of the fall of Singapore in 1942. His parents last heard from him in July 1944 when he described his health as being good, so they were very hopeful of his safe return.

Initial intimation of his death at Kuchin, Sarawak, Borneo came from the War Office but this was supported by a letter from Driver Albert Briggs 26, Raikes Lane, Birstall, who was also a prisoner, telling them of his death and interment at Kuching Cemetery. The Sergeant Major of the battery also wrote stating that there was no doubt that food deficiency was the cause of their son's death.

Labuan (part of Sabah, Malaysia) is a small island in Brunei Bay, off the coast of north-west Borneo.

Wilcock is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial; Batley Carr Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Batley News, 17 Nov 1945



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group