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.

PRISON CAMP

Gunner W. Robertshaw

On Friday of last week, Mr. and Mrs. L. Robertshaw, of 33, Warwick Road, Estiey, received official Intimation from the War Office that their eldert son, Gnr. Willcook Robertshaw, R.A., 24 years of age, died on July 1st, 1984, in a Japanese camp at Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo, Mr. and Mrs. Robertshaw have also received a letter from Driver Albert Briggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Briggs. M. Raftes Lane, Birstall, who has been a prisocer at Kuching, telling them of their son's death and his interment in Kuching Cometery, and the Sergt-Major of the battery has also written stating there was no doubt that food deficiency was the cause of their son's death.

April, 1981, and was taken prisoner later at the fall of Singapore. His parents has heard from him 12 months ago, when he described his health as being good, so they were very hopeful of his safe return. He was previously employed at Wilfred and Johnson's, Watergate, Dewsbury, and was a member of Batley Carr Working Men's Club. As a boy he attended Warwick Road School, and Batley Carr Parish Church Sunday School.

On Sunday night a memorial service was held at Batley Carr Parish Church. Mr. and Mrs. Robertshaw's two younger sons. William and Raymond Robertshaw, are both serving with the Royal Navy.

Batley News, 17 Nov 1945

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.



Researched by members of Batley History Group