

William Smith



Rank: - Marine

Number: - PO/X 100217

Regiment: - Royal Marines

Died: - Died of Wounds sustained three months ago 30 March 1941

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. B. Grave 521.

Batley News, 5 Apr 1941 (photo)

William was born on 27 May 1917, the son of John and Ellen Smith nee McDonald, who had married in 1902. John Edward was born in 1903 followed by James 1905, Mary Elizabeth 1906, Ellen 1907, Annie 1908, Katherine 1911 who were living in a two roomed home at 9, Cobden Street, Batley in 1911. His father was a hewer in a coal mine. Philip was born in 1913, Jane in 1915, William and Teresa 1921.

His father died in January 1924 when the family lived at 24, Victoria Street, Carlinghow, his mum, Ellen, October 1928 and his sister Teresa in June 1925. Before the age of nine he went to live with his aunt Miss Catherine MacDonald at 7, Churchfield Street, Batley.

William was a member of Batley Irish Democratic League and attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. He was a keen rugby footballer, assisting Junior Elevens and was well known as a Batley billiard player. He became a Marine 10 months before his death and previously worked as a piecener for Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons, Batley. William was wounded in the leg by shrapnel in the south of England at around Christmas 1940, and came home on sick leave for 28 days, being seen walking around Batley with the aid of crutches. He returned to Portsmouth and unknown to his relatives he returned to hospital in late March. He died at the Royal Naval Hospital, Hasler, Portsmouth Hants. from an acute infection to the right shoulder on 30 March 1941.

James was accorded a Services funeral which was held at Batley Cemetery on 5 April.

James was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.

BATLEY MARINE DIES in HOSPITAL.

Struck By Shrapnel in the South.

Marine William Smith, Churchfield Street, Batley, who was wounded in the leg by shrapnel in the South three months ago, died in a Naval Hospital on Sunday.

Marine Smith, 23 years-old son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, came home on sick leave for 28 days after sustaining his wounds, but unknown to his relatives he re-entered hospital last week. He was last in Batley five weeks ago when he walked with the aid of crutches, and was expecting to join a ship in the near future.

He became a marine ten months ago and previously worked as piecener for Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr Mills. He attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Batley, and was a member of Batley Irish Democratic League Club. He was a keen Rugby footballer, assisting Junior Elevens and was well-known as a Batley billiards player.

Marine Smith's family have seven relatives serving. Two brothers are Sergeant Phillip Smith (R.E.) and Private John E. Smith (Pioneer Corps) and a brother-in-law and four cousins are with the Colours. Another brother is Mr. Jim Smith and his sisters are Mrs. Jack Jones, Dewsbury Moor, Mrs. Arthur Ramsden, Ravensthorpe, and Miss Nellie Smith. Since his ninth year Marine Smith has lived with his aunt, Miss K. MacDonald, in Churchfield Street.

He is to be given a Services funeral.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group

