

Kenneth Steels



Rank: - Sergeant (Wireless Operator / Air-Gunner)

Number: - 1379988

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 612 Squadron, Code letters WL

Died: - 6th May 193 aged 22

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery, Section S Grave 36.

Batley News, 15 May 1943

Kenneth was born on 5 February 1921 the son of Thomas William and Ada Steels nee Firth who had married on 25 Jul 1914 at Primitive Methodist Chapel, Upper Road, Batley Carr.

On 9 October 1922 Thomas became a post man for Dewsbury and Batley area. The family lived at 11, Woodfield Terrace, Trinity Street, Batley Carr.

Kenneth attended Batley Carr Council School and Batley Grammar School and was Sunday School secretary and cricketer for Upper Road Methodists. He worked as a clerk at the Batley Health Office until enlisting in the RAF in 1941. At Whitsuntide 1941 he went to Canada for nine months training, spending some time in South Carolina. He returned to Britain in March 1942 and after a short leave resumed his training here.

He married Elsie Ineson on 13 Jun 1942 at Cross Bank Methodist Church, Batley. They went to Ilkley for their honeymoon. Elsie later moved to Leeds, at the time of his death she was living at 33, Cardigan Road, Leeds 6.

No. 612 (County of Aberdeen) Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force, first flew Whitleys on anti-submarine patrols across the Channel and Bay of Biscay. At the time of St Steels' death, the squadron was operating with Wellington Xs from Davidstowe Moor, Cornwall. WE have found no newspaper reports of how he died but his death was registered at Bodmin, Cornwall. (Thanks to Bill Berry)

Kenneth was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group