

Arthur Reginald Sykes



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 1118985

Regiment: - Royal Artillery 129 Field Regt

Died: - 24 Sept 1942 aged 35 years

Cemetery: - Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery, Kolkata, India Plot H Grave 46

Batley News, 3 Oct 1942 (photo)

**“AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING, WE SHALL REMEMBER HIM”**

Family Details:

Arthur Reginald was born in Batley on 9 July 1907 the son of Fred and Alice Sykes nee Harrop. In 1911 the family lived at Clutton Street, Soothill. He attended Park Road School and later worked at J.T. & J. Taylor's as a cloth finisher, being a playing member of Soothill Cricket Club and played with Ossett Rugby Union Football Club.

In 1932 he married Florence Edith Whitehead and they lived at 35, Purlwell Lane, Batley. Valerie M was born in 1933. His mother died in 1932 and his father went to live in Castleford.

Arthur joined the Royal Artillery in August 1941 and in September 1942 was sent to India, his family receiving a message to say he had arrived only one week before his death. He died in hospital in India on 24 September 1942. At the time of his death his father-in-law was in Batley Hospital and died on 25 September. A double tragedy for his wife.

He was awarded the 1939-5 Star and 1939-5 War Medal

Arthur is remembered with Honour at Zion Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial.



The Front page of the Batley News follows:

FATHER'S DEATH IN HOSPITAL SECOND SHOCK FOR BATLEY LADY

News That Her Husband Died in India Reached Her The Day Before

By a tragic circumstance the death on Saturday morning of a well-known and highly respected Batley man, Mr. John Edward Whitehead (83), of 100, Purlwell Lane, followed the receipt of a telegram last Friday night by his daughter, Mrs. Sykes, of 35, Purlwell Lane, to say that her husband, Gunner Arthur Reginald Sykes (35), of the Royal Artillery, died the previous day in a military hospital in India.

A joint service for Mr. Whitehead and his son-in-law, Gunner Sykes, at the former's funeral on Tuesday, was attended by relatives and friends of the two men.

Mr. John Edward Whitehead died in Batley Hospital, where he had been a patient over three weeks. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. George Whitehead, of Batley, and all his life had been an ardent worker for Zion Methodist Church, where he was at one time a Sunday School teacher.

Few people had such a long and distinguished record of service at Messrs. G. and J. Stubley's Mill, where he was a spinner and was employed for 56 years before he retired on pension in 1928. When he completed 50 years' service he received a clock from the workpeople and staff. He and Mrs. Whitehead, who survives him, celebrated their golden wedding in 1939.

For many years Mr. Whitehead was a member of Batley Co-operative Society and Batley Liberal Club. He was particularly well-known by members of the bowling section of Batley C., A. and F. Club and was, in his younger days, a keen follower of rugby. Members of the Club sent a subscription to Batley Hospital instead of a floral tribute to the funeral.

Mr. Whitehead leaves a widow; one son, Mr. F. Whitehead, of Castleford; two daughters, Mrs. Naylor, of London, and Mrs. Sykes, of Batley; and nine grandchildren.

A Soot-hill Cricketer.

Gunner Arthur Reginald Sykes, a native of Batley, was the son of Mr. Fred Sykes, now living at Castleford. Since he left Park Road School he had worked for Messrs. J., T. and J. Taylor, Batley. He joined the Army 13 months ago and had been in India with the Royal Artillery only a few weeks; notification that he had arrived there was received during the week prior to his death. Gunner Sykes was a playing member of Soot-hill Cricket Club and played with Ossett Rugby Union Football Club. He leaves a widow and a nine-years-old daughter.

Joint Funeral Service.

A service at the home of the late Mr. Whitehead before his interment at Bat-

ley Cemetery on Tuesday was conducted by Rev. R. W. Callin, newly-appointed Superintendent Minister of Zion Methodist Circuit who spoke of Mr. Whitehead's valued association with Zion Church and referred to the tragic death of his son-in-law. Mr. Callin also officiated at the graveside.

Relatives of Mr. Whitehead at the funeral service included the widow; Mr. and Mrs. F. Whitehead (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. Naylor (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. R. Sykes (daughter), Mrs. T. Fozzard (sister-in-law) and son Cyril, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Ward, of Leeds (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs. Mann (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. Bromley, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. J. Whitehead and sister (cousins), Miss Emmie Whitehead (niece), Mr. F. Whitehead (Pudsey), Mrs. S. Mann (Stanningley), Mrs. F. J. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. C. Mann and Mrs. F. Mathers, Mrs. J. E. Clegg, Mrs. N. Hewlis and Mrs. E. Chesham.

Relatives of Gunner Sykes present included: The widow; Mr. Fred Sykes, of Castleford (father), Mr. and Mrs. A. McDonald (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. L. Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. N. Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. C. Sykes (brothers and sisters-in-law), Mrs. Doreen Fisher (sister), Mrs. W. Sykes and Mrs. F. Riley (aunts) and Mrs. Nightingale (cousin).

Friends of the two men who attended included Mr. B. Grange, Mrs. I. Roberts, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. G. Parkin and Mrs. Creighton (Birstall), Mesdames J. Thresh, R. Benson, C. Cardwell, D. Archer and R. Pole, Mr. C. Kitson (Soot-hill Cricket Club), Mr. C. Hodgson and Mr. H. Horsfall (representing Stubley's Mill), Messrs. R. Jackson, Biltcliffe, Collinson, E. W. Spedding, O. Wilson, J. W. Walker, A. D. Lumb, C. L. Ward, G. H. Gale, O. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. G. H. Tomlinson, Mr. F. Tomlinson, Mr. E. Lawson, Mr. A. Oates and Mr. H. Bromley (bowling green), Mrs. Earnshaw, Miss Chappell, Miss Haley (A.T.S.), Mrs. Haley, Mr. T. Bruce, Mrs. L. Littlewood, Mrs. W. Burnett, Mrs. J. Shepley and Mrs. Redman.

Relatives friends and neighbours sent floral tributes.