

James Copeland Taylor



Rank: - Signalman

Number: - 2601679

Regiment: - Royal Corps of Signals, 50th Operation Training Corps.

Died: - Died in the UK, collapsed on route march 09/10/1942 Age: 38 years.

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. F. Grave 518.

James Copeland was born on 6 July 1904, the youngest son of Whitworth and Alice Taylor nee Hoyle who had married in 1898 and lived at Snowden Street, Batley when James was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel, Batley on 31 July 1904. Elsie was born in 1900 followed by William Whitworth Hender on 31 December 1901, James and Constance Mary in 1911. In 1911 the family lived in a five roomed home at 9, Knowles Road, Batley and Whitworth worked as a law clerk. James attended Purlwell Council School and won a Lee Scholarship to Batley Grammar School from where he went to work at Lloyd's Bank at Dewsbury,

Huddersfield, Manchester and York. He was a member of the old Batley Liberal Club and Glee Party. He had been a member of the choir at Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel, Batley.

In 1939 he was living at 2, Gun Cliffe Drive, York and was a member of the Friends Settlement at York and was also in the choir at York Old Priory. In 1941 he married Lillian J Barks in York and they lived at The Crossways, Muncaster, York. He joined the Army from York in May 1942.

James was sent to Slaithwaite, Yorkshire for training and was sent on a route march. The sergeant in charge described, at the inquest, that after a halt of about 10 minutes, he had only marched about three quarters of a mile when James staggered sideways out of the ranks and fell face downwards in the road. He went to his aid but found no sign of life.

His father, a solicitor's managing clerk, of 38, Blakeridge Lane, Batley asked if his son had been treated for varicose veins or weak ankles and if he had been on duty before the march.

Major W.F. Blakeney said Taylor had been treated for varicose veins but he had not been absent from his duties.

The Coroner said he had received a letter suggesting that as Taylor was formerly in a sedentary occupation he should have been examined once a month, if this had been done, he might have been placed in a lower category and been able to do his own job.

BATLEY MAN'S COLLAPSE ON ROUTE MARCH.

Painful War-Time Tragedy.

An inquest was held at Meltham on Monday on Signalman James Coupeland Taylor (38), R.C.S., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Whitworth Taylor, of Blakeridge Lane, Batley, who collapsed and died on a route march at Slaithwaite last Friday. Signalman Taylor was granted a Lee Scholarship from Puritwell Council School, Batley, to Batley Grammar School, and joined the Army in May from Lloyd's Bank, York, where he and his wife resided. He had been on the bank's staff at Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Manchester. He was a member of the old Batley Liberal Club and Glee Party.

Signalman Taylor's home address was The Crossways, Muncaster, York. He was a member of the Friends' Settlement at York, of York Old Priory and Hick Lane Church choir Batley.

At the inquest the coroner (Mr. E. W. Norris) recorded a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

The sergeant in charge stated that the men, after a halt of ten minutes, marched only about three-quarters of a mile when Taylor staggered sideways out of the ranks and fell face downwards in the road. Those who went to his aid found no signs of life.

The soldier's father, Mr. Whitworth Taylor, solicitor's managing clerk, of 38, Blakeridge Lane, Batley, asked if his son had been treated for varicose veins or weak ankles, and if he had been on duty before the march.

Major W. F. Blakeney said Taylor had been treated for varicose veins, but he had not been absent from his duties.

The Coroner said he had received a letter suggesting that, as Taylor was formerly in a sedentary occupation, he should have been examined once a month; if this had been done he might have been placed in a lower medical category and been able to do his own job.

The Major: "Taylor was examined once a fortnight. Everyone would like to do his own job in the Army, but the Army's need must come first. Whatever job he had he would have had to go on route marches.

Dr. H. Guest (pathologist at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary) said death was due to syncope associated with a large thymus gland — one of the largest he had ever seen in a man of his age — but it could not have been detected by medical examination. Death was accelerated by exertion.

Batley News, 17 Oct 1942

The Major replied that Taylor was examined once a fortnight and everyone would like to do their own job in the Army but the Army's needs must come first. Whatever job he had he would have had to go on route marches. Dr. H. Guest (pathologist) at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary said death was due to syncope associated with a large thymus gland- --one of the largest he had ever seen in a man of his age--- but it could not have been detected by medical examination. Death was due to exertion.

Rev. J.R. Harland conducted the service at Batley Cemetery. Bearers in charge of Lieutenant R. Parryman were L/Cpl. W.F. Swift, Signalmans P.G. Beattie, R. Earle, F.G. Whittaker, and J. Stocks.

James Copeland is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group

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The Funeral.

Rev. J. R. Harland conducted intermen at Batley Cemetery on Tuesday.

Bearers, in charge of Lieutenant B. Parryman, were L/Cpl. W. F. Swift, Signalman P. G. Beattie, R. Earle, F. G. Whittaker and I. Stocks.

Family mourners were Mrs. Joan Taylor (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Whitworth Taylor (father and mother), Mr. and Mrs. Hender Taylor (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Horsley (brother-in-law and sister, Hull), Mr. and Mrs. Austin Barks (father-in-law and mother-in-law, York), Mr. Newsome Taylor (also representing his cousin, John Taylor, now with the R.A.F. in Canada), Miss Sarah Jane Taylor (uncle and aunt), Mr. George Taylor, Miss Angela Horsley (nephew and niece), Mr. and Mrs. A. Buttary (York), Mr. Frank Fearnside (Reddish, late of York), Mr. Harold Benson (representing Mrs. Boddy, York), Mrs. Herbert and Miss Annie Brearley, Mrs. Joseph Brearley (Dark Lane), Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Ruth Charlesworth, Messrs. Stead and Hildred Walker, Miss Smallwood (representing manager and staff, Lloyd's Bank, York), Mr. R. Oxley (Lloyd's Bank, Huddersfield) and Mr. Percy Wigglesworth (Bradford). A.R.P. Post D.2, Clifton, York, was represented by Messrs. Trefell, Hinsley and Cooper.