



Tragic Death Of Staff Sergt. Edgar William E. Gifford

The death is announced as a result of enemy action on Thursday in this country of Staff-Sergt. Edgar William E. Gifford, of the R.A.O.C., at the age of 30 years.

Staff-Sergt. Gifford was the son of Mr. John E. Gifford of Cheltenham, but formerly of Wallbridge Mills, Frome, and the late Mrs. Gifford.

He married Miss Kathleen Nash, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Nash, of St. George's Terrace, Trowbridge, and it was only a few months ago he and his wife came to reside at 'Appledore', North Bradley. In his younger days he was a pupil at a Frome school, and when he joined the Forces about 18 months ago he attended the Royal College of Science at Woolwich. Later he went to France and was successfully evacuated from Dunkirk.

There is one little son, two years of age, and he also leaves three sisters and one brother.

The funeral took place at St. Nicholas' Church, North Bradley, on Tuesday afternoon, when the service was conducted by the Rev. Canon S. D. M. Davys, M.A.

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and there was an escort from the Trowbridge Barracks accompanied by three buglers from the C. L. B., under Bandmaster F. Conner, who sounded the "Reveille" and "Last Post". Staff Sergeant Relf, who was in the same unit, and a friend of the deceased led the escort.

Mr. Leslie Watts played suitable music on the organ, and the hymns sung were "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." And "Lead, Kindly Light."

The mourners were:- Mr. Philip Gifford, Norton St. Philip (brother). Miss Mickie Gifford, London (sister). Mrs. Fussell, Bristol (sister). Mr. and Mrs. F. Nash (father-in-law and mother-in-law). Mr. Jack Franks, Mrs. Rummings. Miss Margaret Rummings and Miss Kathleen Rummings, Lance Corporal Nash was unable to be presentment.

The following were the floral tributes:-

To my adorable darling Giff, from his ever sorrowing mate, Kathleen.

To dear Dada, from his baby John.

From Mickie, the girls and Daddy.

Lu and George.

Philip and Doris.

Mother, Dad and Rose (Trowbridge).
Fred and Dorothy, Trowbridge
Officer Commanding, Officers, NCO's and men of the 8th Field Army Workshops
Mr. and Mrs. Rummings.
Kathleen, Margaret and Robert.
Mr. and Mrs. Franks and family.
Janet.
Mrs. Deacon, Win and Vi.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Stokes.
Mr. and Mrs. Stafford
Staff Sergeant Eccles.
Mrs. Matthews and family, Rose and Crown.
Mrs. E. Lee.
With heartfelt sympathy, from unknown friends.

Mrs. Gifford and Relatives wish to thank all kind friends for their sympathy and for the beautiful floral tributes.

Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser, 14 September 1940