

Arnold Robinson (Robbie) Ramsbottom



Rank: - Private

Number: - 4748383

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment, The Hallamshire Battalion (Former 4th)

Died: - Killed in Action after landing in Normandy 25 June 1944 age 25 years

Cemetery: - Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, Calvados, France 11.G.7.

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944 (photo)

Arnold Robinson was born c 1919 the son of Hirst and Alice Ramsbottom nee Cooper who had married on 15 May 1915 at St. Peters Church, Birstall. In 1919 Hirst and Alice were living at 1, Britannia Cottages, Birstall.

Arnold (Robbie) was a member of the Birstall Temperance Cadets and worked at Messrs. R. Dewhurst & Co. Ltd. (printers) before he was called up. He was in fact the first from the firm and second from Birstall to be called up. He joined the Hallamshire Battalion

and was the drummer in his company's dance band and also played in the military band.

The Hallamshire Battalion served with the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division and first saw action as part of the ill-fated Norwegian Campaign in April 1940. The battalion spent the next two years "defending" Iceland before returning to Scotland for garrison duties and to prepare for the invasion of North West Europe. Robbie served in Iceland during this time. The Hallamshire's landed in France on 9 June 1944 and moved into the front line four days later. Twelve days after landing they were involved in the attack on Fontenay-le-Pesnel (Operation Martlet) against the 26th Panzer Grenadier Regiment. The attack was successful but at the expense of 123 members of the battalion killed or wounded. The battalion was involved in the capture of the docks at Le Havre before the Germans could destroy the vital installations. Here they captured 1,005 prisoners, three Dornier flying boats and a submarine.

His parents, who lived at Sunny Mount Terrace, Leeds Road, Birstall, received the news that Robbie was killed on the 25 June having served for almost five years.

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

Robbie is remembered with Honour at the British Normandy Memorial, column 94 and Batley and Birstall War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group

**AFTER FIVE YEARS'
SERVICE**

**Pte. Arnold ("Robbie")
Ramsbottom Killed In Action**

Mr. and Mrs. H. Ramsbottom, 12, Sunny Mount, Birstall, have received news that their only son, Pte. Arnold Robinson ("Robbie") Ramsbottom, was killed in action in France on June 25th last.



Pte. Ramsbottom, who was the first man to be called up from Messrs. R. Dewhurst and Co., Ltd., was also the second "Birstallite" to join the Forces. He had been in the Forces for nearly five years, and took part in the Norwegian campaign and has twice seen Arnold Ramsbottom, service in Iceland. He was the drummer in his company's dance band and also played in the military band. Before his call-up he was a member of Birstall Temperance Cadets.