

## Norman Victor Riley



**Rank:** - Corporal

**Number:** - 4624186

**Regiment:** - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

**Died of Wounds:** - Italy 27 January 1944

**Cemetery:** - Anzio War Cemetery, Italy 1V.D.8

Batley News, 19 Feb 1944

Norman Victor was born on 6 November 1914 in Birstall, the son of Herbert and Louisa Riley nee Whiteley who had married in 1912. Walter was born in 1912, Jack 1920 and Eileen in 1924. The family lived at Nab Lane, Howden Clough.

Norman attended Birstall Council School and Howden Clough Methodist Church. He was formerly employed in the green-grocery department of Birstall Co-operative Society.

In 1938 he married Doris Mary Ineson and in 1939 they were living at Industrial Avenue, Birstall but because of the war resided with her parents at Roman Road, Brookroyd, Batley with their daughter.

His brother Walter was training to be a navigator, Jack was a fitter-armourer in the RAF and Eileen was a typist at an aircraft factory.

Norman joined the West Riding Regiment and in 1942 the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed in North Africa and took part in a number of key battles, notably at

Battle of Medjez Plain, the Battle of Banana Ridge and in the Battle of Djebel Bou Aoukaz in 1943. In the early morning hours of 22 January 1944, troops landed on the fifteen mile stretch of coast near the pre-war resort towns of Anzio and Nettuno. The landings continued until the 29 January and at first there was very little resistance however, they were to see some of the most desperate fighting of the war. Norman was injured and died of his wounds on 27 January 1944.

Norman was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Birstall War Memorials.



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group