

Geoffrey Smith



Rank: - Private

Number: - 14637725

Regiment: - South Staffordshire Regiment 5th Bn.

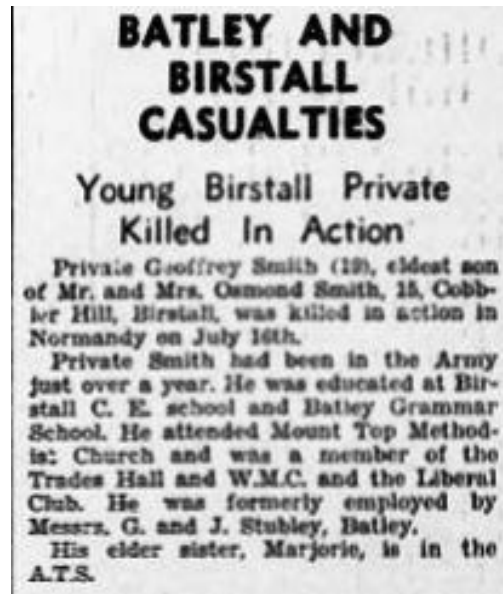
Died: - Killed in Action 16 July 1944

Cemetery: - St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France V11.H. 20.

Geoffrey was born in 1925 the eldest son of Osmond and Clara Smith nee Holmes, who had married on 7 June 1919, at St. Mary's Church, Gomersal. Marjorie was born in 1923 and Ronald in 1927.

Geoffrey was educated at Birstall Church of England School and Batley Grammar School. He attended Mount Top Methodist Church and was a member of the Trades Hall and W.M.C. and the Liberal Club. He was formerly employed by Messrs G. and J. Stubley, Batley before he enlisted in 1943. The family lived at 15, Cobbler Hill, Birstall.

The 5th, 1/6th, 2/6th and 7th battalions, all Territorial's, all served as part of the 59th alongside battalions of the North Staffordshire Regiment. The 7th Battalion was part of 176th Brigade and the 5th, 1/6th and 2/6th was in 177th Brigade. The division was sent to France in late June 1944 to fight in the Battle for Caen. The division performed well and was considered by Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery as one of the best in the 21st Army Group. However, due to a severe shortage of infantrymen in the British Army at the time, the division was broken up in August 1944



Batley News, 5 Aug 1944

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

He is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 180; Batley Grammar School; Mount Top Methodist Church and Batley and Birstall War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group