

## Harry Spencer



**Rank:** - Gunner

**Number:** - 1118984

**Regiment:** - Royal Artillery 65 Field Regt. Roll: Driver in Charge

**Died:** - Died of a gunshot wound, the result of an accident 31/01/1942 Age: 27 years

**Cemetery:** - Batley Cemetery Sec. T. Grave 802.

Harry was born on 13 July 1914 the only son of William and Mary Spencer (nee Ake, m. 1905, registered Dewsbury) of Batley. Harry attended Staincliffe Church school and was a member of the old Staincliffe Liberal Club. Before he joined the Royal Artillery in August 1941, he was a warehouseman employed by Messrs. F. Arnold Walker, Prospect Mills, Staincliffe. The family lived at

Dewsbury Gate Road, Batley. His father was employed in the boot repairing department of Batley Co-operative Society and was a well-known member of Staincliffe Cricket Club.

In March 1940 Harry married Miss Alice Crowther of Brighouse and the couple went to live at 142, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury.

In August 1940 Harry joined the Royal Artillery and came home on leave in mid January 1941. He had returned to his billets and on Wednesday 28 January whilst he was sitting on his bed a shot rang out. The rifle trigger of the guard who was on duty downstairs had accidentally been released and the bullet entered Harry's thigh. On Saturday 31 January he died in hospital and at the inquest on the Monday a verdict of "accidental death" was recorded.

**DEWSBURY MOOR  
GUNNER'S  
TRAGIC DEATH.**  
**Shot When Guard's Rifle  
Went Off.**

We regret to report the death on active service of Gunner Harry Spencer (27), of 142, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Spencer, Dewsbury Gate Road, Staincliffe.

Gunner Spencer, who was home on leave only a fortnight ago, was sitting on his bed in his billet on Wednesday last week, when a shot rang out. The rifle trigger of the guard who was on duty downstairs had accidentally been released and the bullet entered Gunner Spencer's thigh. He died in hospital on Saturday. At the inquest on Monday an "accidental death" verdict was recorded.

Before he joined the Royal Artillery last August, Gunner Spencer was a warehouseman for Messrs. F. Arnold Walker, Prospect Mills, Staincliffe, and only ten months ago married Miss Alice Crowther, of Brighouse. He attended Staincliffe Church school and was a member of the old Staincliffe Liberal Club. His father, Mr. Wm. Spencer, who is employed in Batley Co-operative Society boot repairing department, is a well-known member of Staincliffe Cricket Club.

Rev. H. Challiner conducted the funeral at Batley Cemetery on Wednesday, with service in the chapel. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was borne by former school friends.

Batley News, 7 Feb 1942

Rev. H. Challinor conducted the funeral at Batley Cemetery on Wednesday 4 February with a service in the chapel. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was carried by his former school friends. Family mourners were his wife, Alice, his parents, Mr & Mrs. Willie Spencer, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Spencer, Mr. & Mrs. George Waterworth, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ashmore (aunts and uncles), Mr. & Mrs. Robinson (cousins), Mr. & Mrs. Crowther (in-laws). Many friends were also present.

Harry is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Addenda. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

