

Harold Stones



Rank: - Private

Number: - 4861452

Regiment: - Leicestershire Regiment 2/5th Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action, 16 October 1943 age 27.

Cemetery: - Minturno War Cemetery, Italy V111.E.10.

Harold was born in Ravensthorpe on 19 March 1916 the son of Arthur and Isabella Stones nee Marsden who had married at Thornhill Lees on 9 February 1895.

Lily was born late in 1895 followed by George Willie 1896-1897, Leonard 1898-1900, Hilda 1900, Frank 1901, Annie 1905, Edward 1906-1909 Harry 1908, Jane 1909-1909, Lewis 1911, Olive Maud 1912, George 1913.

Harold attended St. Saviour's Church School and St. Saviour's Church and was a member of Ravensthorpe Liberal Club. He was employed by the Lion Stores, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

In 1938 he married Alice Ellor and the couple lived at 2, Naylor's Yard, Mill Road, Batley Carr.

Harold enlisted in 1940 and served in Italy.

The 2/5th Battalion, of the Leicestershire Regiment was created in 1939 as a duplicate of the 1/5th Battalion, and containing many formers of that battalion, was part of the 138th Infantry Brigade of the 6th Infantry Division and was sent to France in April 1940. The battalion fought in the Battle of France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in 1940, taking part in the Dunkirk Evacuation, before returning to England. The battalion, briefly commanded by Richard Gale, remained there for the next two-and-a-half years on home defence and anti-invasion duties, leaving for North Africa in early 1943, fighting in the Tunisian Campaign, including the Battle of Kasserine Pass, until the campaign ended in mid-May 1943. After resting for the next three months the battalion's next action was in Allied Invasion of Italy, where, holding off against numerous German counterattacks, heavy casualties were sustained. After a brief rest the battalion breached the Volturno Line in October.

The Volturno Line was a German defensive position in Italy during the Italian Campaign of World War II. The line ran from Termoli in the east, along the Biferno River through the Apennine Mountains to the Volturno River in the west. Following the Allied invasion of Italy in September 1943 the German forces

**BATLEY CARR SOLDIER
MISSING IN ITALY**

Well-Known in Ravensthorpe

Mrs. A. Stones, 2, Naylor's Yard, Mill Road, Batley Carr, has received news from the War Office that her husband, Pte. Harold Stones (27), has been missing on active service since October 16th and is probably a prisoner.



Before he joined the Army three years ago Private Stones was employed by the Lion Stores, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe. A native of Ravensthorpe, he attended St. Saviour's Church School and St. Saviour's Church, and was a member of Ravensthorpe Liberal Club. He was serving in Italy. Mrs. Stones received a letter from her husband on October 18th.

Harold Stones.

Batley News, 27 Nov 1943 (photo);
27 May 1944

set up a series of defensive lines across Italy, intended to delay the Allied advance. The Volturno Line was the southernmost of these.

Harold was killed in action on 16 October 1943 aged 27. Alice married Arthur Watson on 22 Feb 1950

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group