

Donald Threadgold M.M.



Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 4689911

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry, 16th Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action, Salerno, Italy 12/09/1943 Age: 34 years.

Cemetery: - Salerno War Cemetery, Italy I. B. 43.

Donald was born on the 24 Feb 1909, in Dewsbury, the son of Charles Herbert and Ada Threadgold (nee Hemingway) who had married on 15 August 1908 at Dewsbury, St Philip the Apostle (Mission) Church, Dewsbury. In 1911 the family lived at 142, Moor End Lane, Dewsbury. On the 26 September 1931 he married Lucy Hudson at St. Thomas s Church, Batley. He gave his address as Rock Cottage, Brewerton Lane, Dewsbury Moor. Edith was born in 1932 followed by

Mary 1935 and Donald 1940. His father had been in the RAF during the First World War.

Donald was a warehouseman for Messrs. Joseph Field, Dewsbury. He was a member of Batley Working Men's Club. The family in 1939 lived at 55, Queen Street, Batley. Donald was a member of the Territorial Army and was called up at the outbreak of war.

He went to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. The 16th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry was part of 139 Brigade of the 46th Infantry Division. The 46th Infantry Division fought during the Battle of France, the Tunisian Campaign, and the Italian Campaign. In March 1939, after Germany re-emerged as a significant military power and occupied Czechoslovakia, the British Army increased the number of divisions in the Territorial Army (TA) by duplicating existing units. The 46th Infantry Division was formed in October 1939, as a second-line duplicate of the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division.

Donald took part in the battles for Libya and Tunisia. His last letter home was in April from North Africa when he said he was OK. His wife did not know that he had won the Military Medal in that theatre of war for "*gallant and distinguished service*" until a reporter went knocking on her door with the official announcement of the award.

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side. Allied objectives were to draw German troops from the Russian front and more particularly from France, where an offensive was planned for the following year. Commonwealth and American forces landed near Salerno on 8-9 September 1943 and there was fierce fighting for some days in the bridgehead that they established. Sadly, Donald was one of those killed.

**FIRST BATLEY
ITALY CASUALTY**

**GALLANT SERGEANT
WHO WON M.M.**

A Batley man who won the Military Medal only a few months ago is now officially reported to have been killed in action with the Allied Forces in Italy.

The soldier, Sergt. Donald Threadgold, husband of Mrs. Lucy Threadgold, 55, Queen Street, Batley, is, so far as we can ascertain, the first local casualty to be reported from Italy.

Mrs. Threadgold last heard from her husband in April, when he wrote from North Africa to say that he was "O.K." She did not know that he had won the Military Medal in that theatre for gallant and distinguished service until a "News" reporter called with the official announcement of the award.

A Territorial, Sergt. Threadgold was called up on the outbreak of war and served with the B.E.F. in France, where he was among those evacuated from Dunkirk. He also took part in the battles for Libya and Tunisia.

He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Threadgold, of Dewsbury Moor, and was formerly a warehouseman for Messrs. Joseph Field, Dewsbury. He was a member of Batley Working Men's Club, and, in addition to his wife, leaves three children, Edith, Mary and Douglas.



Batley News, 23 Oct 1943

WE CANNOT, LORD, THY PURPOSE SEE BUT ALL IS WELL THAT IS DONE BY THEE

Donald was awarded the Military Medal; The Africa Star; 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the Military Medal, The Africa Star, 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal



Researched by members of
Batley History Group