

Alfred West



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 1126327

Regiment: - Royal Artillery 92 Field Regt.

Died: - 14/06/1942 Age: 39 years

Cemetery: - Ranchi War Cemetery, India 5. C. 7.

Alfred was born on 21 June 1902 in Dewsbury, the son of William and Elizabeth West nee Padgett. Charles Edwin was born in 1904 and Norman 1906. In 1911 the family was living at 93, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

Alfred married, in 1929, Annie Longbottom nee Link. She was formerly married to Arthur Longbottom and lived in Soothill Lane, who died in 1924. The family lived at 68 Victoria Street, Batley Carr, Charles Edward Longbottom was born in 1915 and Mary Elizabeth West 1928 in Batley.

After the fall of Rangoon in March 1942, the probability that the Japanese would occupy the whole of Burma constituted a grave threat to India and Ceylon. The forces available for defence were dangerously weak, apart from those deployed on the north-west frontier and on internal security, there were only seven divisions, and these lacked ancillary troops and equipment. The air force and airfields were inadequate and the fleet as a whole was in no position to dispute command of the Bay of Bengal. In March and April 1942, 100,000 tons of shipping were sunk in the bay. Internal disturbances in India presented an additional threat, and some of the worst troubles occurred in districts of Bihar. In May 1942 five further divisions reached India, followed by two more in June and the air force strength was increased. Ranchi became an important base, and the 70th Division, less one brigade, was posted there to meet any sea-borne attack on the Orissa coast, and to form the only reserve to support Assam and Bengal.

Alfred was killed on the 14 June 1942, in Nepal.

GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST. SADLY MISSED BY HIS LOVING WIFE AND
CHILDREN

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial
and Batley War Memorial Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group