

Harry Wilkinson



Photo courtesy of James Orman

Rank: - Driver

Number: - 14522046

Regiment: - Royal Engineers, No.1 Welding Section

Died: - 25 July 1944

Cemetery: - Birstall (St. Peter) Churchyard Extension, Grave 503

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944; 5 Aug 1944

Harry was born in 1923 the son of Thomas Edwin and Ivy Wilkinson nee Butterfield, who had married on 22 September 1922 at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill. Doris was born in 1925 and Jean 1928. Harry was educated at Brownhill Church of England School and later worked at Broadhead's Farm, Upper Batley. He was also a choirboy and server at St. Mary's Mission Church, Howden Clough. The family lived at 312, Leeds Road, Birstall.

Harry was the only survivor of several men on a motor lorry which hit a mine in Normandy, was brought to England, but later died of his injuries. His death was registered in Derby District.

One of his sisters was in the land Army and the other worked as a farm hand for Mr. T. Boocock, Howden Clough.

Harry was buried at St. Peter's Churchyard on 29 July 1944.

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

Harry is remembered with Honour at Batley and Birstall War Memorials.

Buried At Birstall

The funeral took place on Saturday at Birstall Parish Churchyard of Pte. Harry Wilkinson, 312, Leeds Road, Howden Clough, Birstall, who died after enemy action in Normandy.

Pte. Wilkinson was a chorister and server at Howden Clough Mission Church and was educated at Brownhill Parish Church School, Batley.

Rev. E. St. C. M. Collins and Rev. P. C. Dalley conducted the services. Family mourners included Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Wilkinson, father and mother; Misses D. and J. Wilkinson, sisters; Mrs. H. Wilkinson, grandmother; Mr. F. Wilkinson, Mr. W. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Butterfield, Mr. and Mrs. M. Butterfield, Mrs. J. Wilkinson, Mrs. D. Brown, Mrs. W. Staton, Mrs. F. Wilkinson and Mrs. J. Walker, uncles and aunts; and Miss M. Walker, cousin.

Friends present included Messrs. K. Smithson, W. Smith, A. Morland (also representing Mr. and Mrs. H. Morland), E. Ryder, D. Walker, G. Wade, J. Binns and A. and H. Broadhead, Mesdames B. Harley, J. Thresh, T. Alderson, A. Jackson, E. Braithwaite, W. Woods, T. Kaye, C. Akeroyd, A. Oldroyd, H. Wilkinson and Broadhead, Misses Mary Smith, Muriel Smith, J. Walker, J. Boocock and D. Akeroyd, Mr. and Mrs. G. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. A. West, Mr. and Mrs. T. Boocock, Mr. and Mrs. G. Whitehead and Mr. and Mrs. N. Smith.

Flowers were from: Loving Mam and Dad, and sisters Doris and Jean; Granny; aunts and uncles at Mickieover; Uncle Arthur and Aunty Doris; Uncle Marshall and Auntie Phyllis; Uncle Joe and Auntie Mattie, and Cousins Mary, Margaret and Irene; Kenneth, Jeanne, Derek, June, Phyllis and Reg; Ella and Harry; Donald; John; Irene; Louis and Eileen; Auntie Mary; Auntie Janie and Uncle Bertie; Mrs. Thresh, Michael and Eddy; Mrs. Alderson, Ethel and Dennis; Mrs. Braithwaite and Marion; Mrs. Reed; Mrs. Speight and family; Mrs. Gear and family; Mrs. Illingworth and family; Mrs. F. Parkinson, Colin and Mr. and Mrs. N. Smith; Mrs. E. Cox; Mr. and Mrs. T. Boocock; congregation of Howden Clough Mission.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group