

Lewis Williamson



Rank: - Private

Number: - 14303925

Regiment: - Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment) 7th Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action 8 June 1944

Cemetery: - Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France XIV. J. 3.

Lewis was born in 1923 the son of Leonard and Ethel Williamson nee Thackray, who had married on 3 April 1915 at All Saints Church, Batley. Harry was born later that year. The family lived at Kilpin Hill in 1936, but later moved to 28, Mortimer Street, Healey, Batley.

Lewis attended Christ Church, Staincliffe and was a Scout. While at Scarr Lane End Council School he was a member of the school football team. He worked with his father as an assistant tuner for the Plantation Rug Company, Mirfield. His brother worked at Messrs J.T. & Taylors, Blakeridge Mills, Batley.

Lewis was a Bren Gunner and joined the Forces in 1942 and went to Africa in April 1943 and was in the invasion of Sicily. He returned to England with malaria.

The 6th and 7th Battalions of the Green Howards were part of the D-Day landings, wading ashore on the morning of 6 June 1944. By the evening of the first day, they had fought their way seven miles inland, further than any other British or American unit. By the close of the operation 180 Green Howards had lost their lives.

Operation Perch began on 7 June and was the attempt to capture Caen after the direct attack on D-day failed. The plan called for the 7th Armoured Division, supported by the 50th Division to strike south to capture Tilly-sur-Seulles, following which the 7th Armoured Division would capture Villers-Bocage and Evrecy. On 7 June, the 50th Division occupied Bayeux and advanced 3 miles (4.8 km) south. On 8 June a column from the division started south over the Caen–Bayeux railway into the Bocage Advancing 6,000 yards (5,500 m) to the bridges between Tilly and Saint-Pierre (~1 mile (1.6 km) to the east), they were joined by the 8th D.L.I. but had placed themselves in a salient facing the Panzer-Lehr Division and the SS Hitlerjugend Division.

Lewis was killed in action on the 8 July 1944.

His parents received the news he had been killed in Normandy.

REST IN PEACE

Lewis is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 27 and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group

