

William Wood



Rank: - Trooper

Number: - 4531263

Regiment: - Reconnaissance Corps 56th Regt.

Died: - Killed in Action 27/04/1943 Age: 38 years.

Cemetery: - Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia Joint grave IV. M. 6-7.

William was born in 1904 in Worsborough Bridge, Barnsley the son of Elijah and Elizabeth Ann Wood nee Bonsall who had married on 7th October 1889 at South Darley, Derbyshire. George Frederick was born in 18 followed by John Bonsall 1896, Charles Henry 1899-1910, Benjamin 1901, Annie Elizabeth 1903, William 1905. In 1911 the family were living at 1, Beaumont Terrace,

Worsborough Bridge. The family lived at Jowetts Yard, Common Road, Batley in 1939

William married Annie Rocket in 1927, (registered Eccleshall B). Irene was born in 1928 and Anne 1940. The family lived at 12, Woodfield Terrace, Batley Carr. Before enlisting he worked as a dyers labourer for Messrs. Leonard Firth Ltd. Batley Carr.

He was called up the day before war broke out and was serving in the Reconnaissance Corps. He served in France for several months. He was on the reserve, having done duty in India and in the occupation of the Rhine.

BATLEY CARR TROOPER KILLED IN NORTH AFRICA.

Trooper William Wood (38), husband of Mrs. Annie Wood, 12, Woodfield Terrace, Batley Carr, has been killed in action in North Africa. He was called up the day before war broke out and was serving in the Reconnaissance Corps.



Wm. Wood.

Firth, Ltd., Batley Carr. He has two children, Irene (aged 15) and Anne (three).

Batley News, 22 May 1943

The Reconnaissance Corps, or simply Recce Corps, was a corps of the British Army, formed during the Second World War whose units' provided reconnaissance for infantry divisions.

The Run for Tunis, an Allied effort to capture Tunis in late 1942 following Operation Torch had failed and since the end of the year, a stalemate had settled as both sides paused to re-build their strength.

The 2nd Battle of Longstop Hill or the Capture of Longstop Hill took place in Tunisia from 21 to 23 April 1943. The battle was fought for control over the heights of Djebel el Ahmera and Djebel Rhar, together known as Longstop Hill and vicinity, between the British forces of the First Army and German units of the 5th Panzer Army. The infantry of the 78th Battleaxe Division and Churchill tanks of the North Irish Horse captured Longstop Hill after bitter fighting, in which the tanks created a measure of tactical surprise by driving up the hill, a manoeuvre that only Churchill tanks could achieve. The attackers broke through the German defences, which were the last great natural barrier on the road to Tunis. The following days were a fight for Djebel Rhar. The combined Axis force was hemmed into a small corner of north-eastern Tunisia and the Allies were

grouped for their final offensive. Many of those buried at Massicault War Cemetery died in the final drive to Tunis.

THE LABOURER'S TASK IS O'ER NOW THE BATTLE-DAY IS PAST NOW UPON THE
FARTHER SHORE LANDS THE VOYAGER AT LAST

William is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial; Batley Carr Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group