Alfred Brooke



Rank: - Private

Number: - 2884708

Regiment: - Gordon Highlanders 2nd Bn.

Died: - Died whilst P.O.W. in Malai 4 (130,000 Commonwealth soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese on 15 Feb 1942), 29 November 1943 Age: 26.

Memorial: - Singapore Memorial Column 78

Alfred was born in Batley on 14 February 1917 the son of Harry and Annie Brooke nee Lord who had married in 1907. Harry had previously been married to Martha nee Oddy but she had died in August 1905 and in 1911 four of his children were living with them at 20, North King Street, Batley as well as their child Harry born in October 1907. Harry was a fish and potato frier. George was born in 1911 followed by Jack 1912, Phyllis 1913 and Alfred. Alfred was a cloth cutter or cloth raiser. In 1939 he was living at 3, Queen Street, Batley in the household of Frederick Wilson.

In 1940 he married Margery Jackson in the Spen Valley area. She went to live at Brierley Road, Shafton, Barnsley.

The 2nd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders were based in Malaya as part of the Singapore Garrison. They saw action in February 1942 in the Battle for Singapore and on the 15th of February they surrendered along with 130,000 other British Commonwealth soldiers. The battalion suffered more casualties as Prisoners of War in Japanese captivity than they did fighting on Singapore Island and mainland Malaysia.

Alfred was one of the soldiers captured. He died at Malai 4 prisoner of war camp. Information of his origin was given as c/o Mr. W. Jackson, Brierley Road, Shafton Barnsley.

Alfred is remembered with Honour at Singapore Memorial Column 78 and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group