Albert Edward Burnell





Rank: - Private

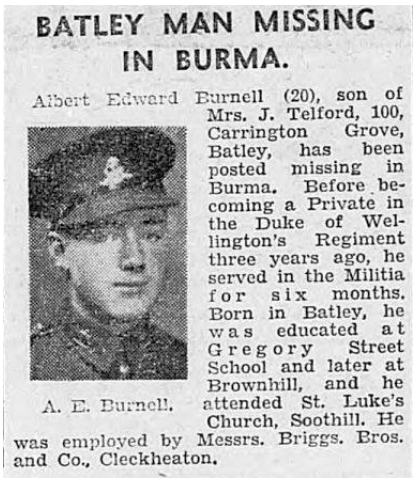
Number: - 4614531

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 2nd Bn.

Died: - Missing presumed Killed in Action 23/02/1942 Age: 20 years

Memorial: - Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar Face 13

Batley News, 11 Apr 1942 (photo); 22 Sep 1945 (photo)



BATLEY MAN MISSING IN BURMA.

Albert Edward Burnell (20), son of Mrs. J. Telford, 100, Carrington Grove, Batley, has been posted missing in Burma. Before becoming a Private in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment three years ago, he served in the Militia for six months. Born in Batley, he was educated at Gregory Street School and later at Brownhill, and he attended St. Luke's Church, Soothill. He was employed by Messrs. Briggs. Bros. and Co., Cleckheaton.

A. E. Burnell.

Albert Edward was born c1922 the son of Winifred Burnell, who lived in Soothill. On the 26 January 1924 she married Walter Richardson. Albert attended Gregory Street School but in 1931 his mother married Joseph Telford whose wife had died in December 1929 and they moved to Brownhill, he then went to Brownhill Church of England School. Albert did attend St. Luke's Church, Soothill. After

leaving school, he worked for Messrs. Briggs, Bros.& Co., Cleckheaton. Albert joined the militia for six months before joining the Duke of Wellington's in 1939. He first went abroad in March 1940.



NEWS OF SON'S DEATH IN 1942

Private Albert E. Burnell Killed in Burma

Mrs. Telford, of 110, Carrington Grove, Dark Lane, Batley, who has been hoping for news that her son, Pte. Albert E. Burnell, had been found in a Japanese prison camp, has now received a telegram stating that he was killed in Burma on February 23rd, 1942. Mrs. Telford was informed at that time that her son was missing, but has had no further news until this week.

Pte. Burnell, who was attached to the Second Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, had been in the Army six years and went abroad in March, 1940.

He formerly attended St. Luke's Sunday School, Soothill, and Brownhill C. of E. School, and was employed by Briggs Bros., Cleckheaton.

Albert E. Burnell.

In February 194**2** the 2nd Battalion was hastily mobilised as part of a force sent to reinforce Burma. Within a week of landing at Rangoon the battalion found itself defending the bridge across the river Sittang, which was then blown up before the battalion could withdraw across it.

His mother received news that he was missing and it was hoped he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese. It was not until September 1945 that she received a telegram informing her he had been killed on 23 February 1942. His mother with her new family had moved to live at 110, Carrington Grove, Dark Lane, Batley.

Albert Edward was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group