Henry Cliff





Rank: - Private

Number: - 1467474

Regiment: - Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment) 1st Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action 23 May 1944

Cemetery: - Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio X1.B.7.

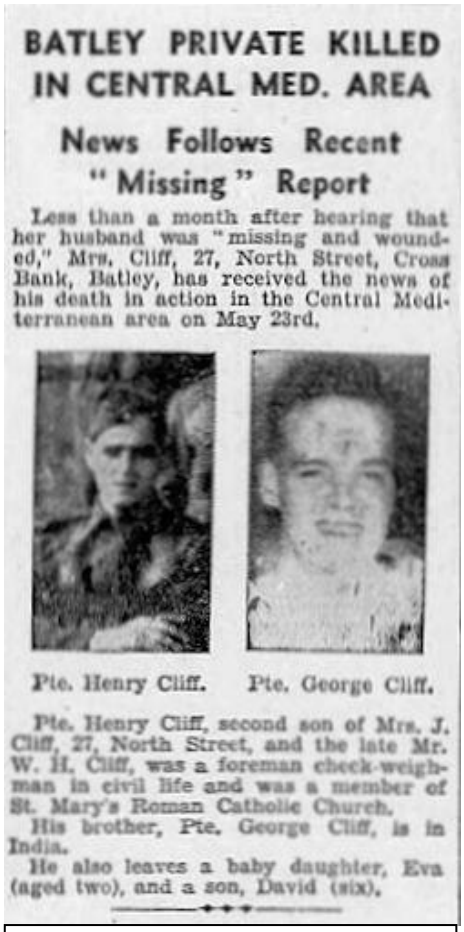
Henry was born on 29 November 1912, in Dewsbury, the son of William Henry and Jane Cliff nee Halligan who had married in 1907 in the Pontefract area. James was born in 1907 followed by Louisa 1908, Mary 1909, Ada 1910, John William 1911 in Dewsbury area, Henry 1913, George 1914, John Thomas 1916, Alice1917 and Kathleen 1918. His father died in 1924.

Henry married Agnes Ivy Green in 1937 and David Henry was born in 1938 followed by Eva in 1942. They were living at Cliffe Street, Dewsbury when the 1939 register was taken. Agnes died in May 1942 when she lived at 27, North Street, Batley. Henry remarried in 1943 to Lena Green. The family continued to live at 27, North Street,

Batley before Lena eventually moved to Thornhill Lees. In civilian life he was a check weigh-man and attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Batley.

The 1st Battalion, with 15th Infantry Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division, saw action in Sicily and Italy. In mid-April 1940 the 15th Brigade was sent to Norway and fought, very briefly, in the unsuccessful Norwegian Campaign, evacuating from there and arriving in the United Kingdom in early May but did not re-join the 5th Brigade until 3 July 1940. The 5th Division saw action during the invasion of Sicily in 1943.

In March 1944 the division, after holding its positions that it gained during First Cassino, was transferred again, this time to the Anzio bridgehead (or, more appropriately, beachhead). In May the division participated in Operation Diadem and the breakout from Anzio, which led to the capture of the Italian capital of Rome in early June. Soon afterwards the division, having sustained just under 3,000 casualties since its arrival at Anzio three months before, was then withdrawn to Palestine, arriving there in mid-July.



BATLEY PRIVATE KILLED IN CENTRAL MED. AREA

News Follows Recent "Missing" Report

Less than a month after hearing that her husband was "missing and wounded," Mrs. Cliff, 27, North Street, Cross Bank, Batley, has received the news of his death in action in the Central Mediterranean area on May 23rd.

Pte. Henry Cliff. Pte. George Cliff.

Pte. Henry Cliff, second son of Mrs. J. Cliff, 27, North Street, and the late Mr. W. H. Cliff, was a foreman check-weighman in civil life and was a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

His brother, Pte. George Cliff, is in India.

He also leaves a baby daughter, Eva (aged two), and a son, David (six).

Batley News, 8 Jul 1944

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY DEAR SOLDIER DADDY.
HIS LOVING SON DAVID.

Henry is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group