Joseph Colbeck





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4699492

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 2/4th Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action 21 April 1943 Age: 36 years

Cemetery: - Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia 11.G.3

Joseph was born on 15 May 1916 the eldest son of Harry and Anne Colbeck nee Perkins who had married in 1915. Eleanor was born in 1918 and Stanley in 1924.

Stanley attended Batley Technical College. Harry was a well-known Batley butcher in Clerk Green and Batley Carr and Joseph worked with him. He died in

October 1937 when the family lived at 25, Park Villas, Batley. In 1939 Joseph, his mother and siblings were living at 13, Ealand Crescent, Batley and Joseph was working as a railway goods worker. The family had moved to 13, Park Drive, Batley before 1943. Joseph joined the Forces in 1942 and went abroad in January 1943 when the Battalion sailed for North Africa and took part in a number of engagements before the Germans were finally defeated in Tunisia in May 1943. The 2/4th Battalion served with the 46th Division throughout the war.

Batley News, 29 May 1943 (photo)



SON OF FORMER BATLEY BUTCHER KILLED WITH FIRST ARMY.

Pte. Joe Colbeck (26), K.O.Y.L.I., has been reported killed in action with the First Army in North Africa on April 21st. He went abroad in February and had been in the Forces a year.

An old boy of Batley Technical College, he was the eldest son of Mrs. Colbeck, of 13, Park Drive, and the late Mr. Harry Colbeck, a well-known butcher at Clerk Green and Batley Carr. Pte. Colbeck assisted his father.

Joe Colbeck.

A brother, Pte. Stanley Colbeck, is in the R.A.M.C., and a sister, Pte. Ella Colbeck, in the A.T.S.

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THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD

Joseph was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Conservative Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group