Albert Victor Dale





Rank: - L/Cpl

Number: - 4621220

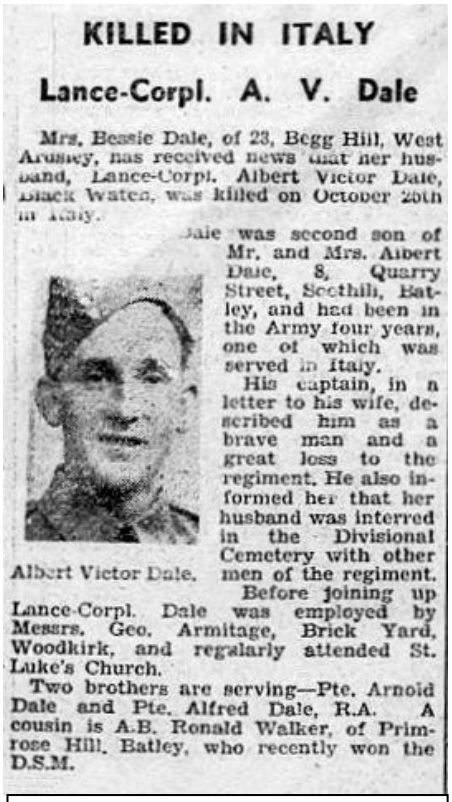
Regiment: - Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) 6th Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action 24/10/1944 Age: 29 years.

Cemetery: - Cesena War Cemetery, Italy 11.A.1.

Albert Victor was born in York in 1915 the son of Albert Victor and Margaret Dale nee Schofield, who had married in 1911. Violet May was born in 1912, Alfred 1913, Marion 1917, Hilda 1919, Edna 1921, Arnold 1923, Doreen 1928, Charles W 1930. His father came from York, but the family lived at 8, Quarry Street, Soothill.

In 1939 he married Betsy Wainwright who came from Tingley. Before joining up he was employed by Messrs. George Armitage, Brick Yard, Woodkirk and regularly attended St. Luke's Church, Oaks Road, Soothill.



KILLED IN ITALY

Lance-Corpl. A. V. Dale

Mrs. Bessie Dale, of 23, Begg Hill, West Ardsley, has received news that her husband, Lance-Corpl. Albert Victor Dale, Black Watch, was killed on October 25th in Italy.

Dale was second son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dale, 8, Quarry Street, Soothill, Batley, and had been in the Army four years, one of which was served in Italy.

His captain, in a letter to his wife, described him as a brave man and a great loss to the regiment. He also informed her that her husband was interred in the Divisional Cemetery with other men of the regiment.

Albert Victor Dale.

Before joining up Lance-Corpl. Dale was employed by Messrs. Geo. Armitage, Brick Yard, Woodkirk, and regularly attended St. Luke's Church.

Two brothers are serving—Pte. Arnold Dale and Pte. Alfred Dale, R.A. A cousin is A.B. Ronald Walker, of Primrose Hill, Batley, who recently won the D.S.M.

Batley News, 11 Nov 1944 (photo)

Albert Victor joined the Army in 1940. The battalion first went to France as part of the 51st Highland Division in January 1940. Soon after this it was transferred to 12 Brigade of the 4th Division. It moved forward into Belgium on 13 May but the battalion became part of the retreat to Dunkirk with the majority leaving on 1 June 1940. The whole battalion then reformed in the Isle of Wight as front-line defence against the expected German invasion. It remained in England and Scotland until 15 March 1943, when it was sent to take part in the final weeks of the campaign in Tunisia. They remained in Tunisia until December when it moved by sea to Egypt where, on Christmas Day, it erected a tented camp in a sandstorm near Suez and engaged in two months' training in amphibious landings on the Bitter Lakes.

The battalion was landed by ship at Naples on 6 March 1944, by which time the Italians had joined the Allies. From 06 Mar 1944 - May 1944: Italy, 04 May 1944 - 31 May 1944: Cassino, 05 Jun 1944 - 31 Jun 1944: Cassino to Florence, September 1944 - November 1944: Last battles in Italy where they advanced across one swollen river after another in the atrocious autumnal weather.

In October 1944 the battalion became involved in the attacks first on the town of Cesena on the road from Rimini to Bologna, then on Forli about 15 miles (24km) further along this road. The first, on 20 October, involved some house to house fighting in the outskirts. For three days positions west of the town, over the River Savio, were held under heavy shelling, and then the battalion was able to withdraw into the town.

Bessie lived at 23, Begg Hill, West Ardsley and she received the news her husband had been killed on October 20th. Hs captain, in a letter to her described him as a brave man and a great loss to the regiment. He said he had been interred in the Divisional Cemetery with other men of the regiment.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, I WILL REMEMBER HIM. LOVING WIFE BETSY

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group