Geoffrey Darrington



Rank: - Private

Number: - 4861381

Regiment: - Leicestershire Regiment 2nd Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action, Crete 27 May 1941 Age: 22 years.

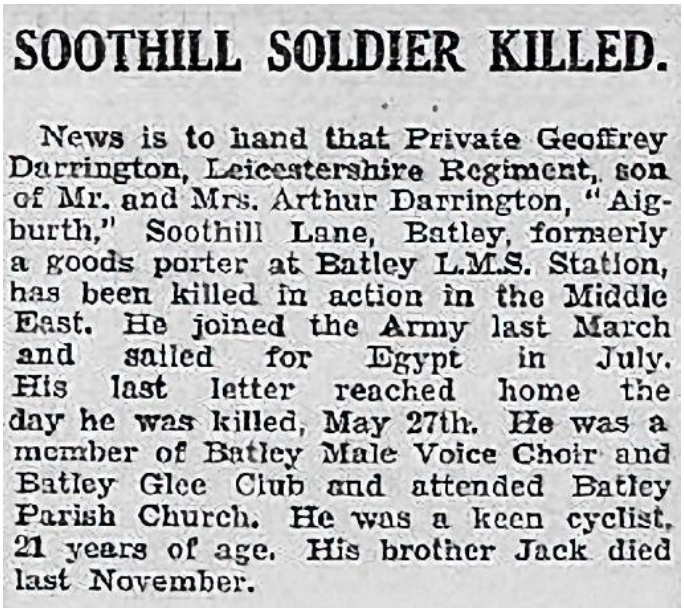
Memorial: - Athens Memorial, Greece Face 5.

Geoffrey was born in 1919 the son of Arthur and Florrie Darrington nee Johnson, who had married on 9th April 1914 at All Saints Church, Batley. Jack was born in 1916, Geoffrey, Raymond 1924, Ronald 1927. The family lived at 'Aigburth' 273 Soothill Lane, Batley. Jack died on 24 November 1940.

Geoffrey attended Batley Parish Church and was a member of Batley Male Voice Choir and Batley Glee Club. He worked as a goods porter at Batley LMS station before joining the Army in March 1940. He sailed for Egypt in July 1940.

2nd Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment served with 16th Brigade during the Second World War and saw action in North Africa and Crete from 10th Apr 1941. On 20 May 1941 1,500 enemy troops landed in Crete from the air onto

the 2nd Battalion. Berlin announced this was the opening phase of the decisive attack for Suez which they were sure absolutely sure Crete would be captured within hours. This was the first time Germany had made an airborne attack without support from land and sea, which led to the belief that the Luftwaffe was sure of their air supremacy. Geoffrey was killed two days later.



SOOTHILL SOLDIER KILLED.

News is to hand that Private Geoffrey Darrington, Leicestershire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Darrington, "Aigburth," Soothill Lane, Batley, formerly a goods porter at Batley L.M.S. Station, has been killed in action in the Middle East. He joined the Army last March and sailed for Egypt in July. His last letter reached home the day he was killed, May 27th. He was a member of Batley Male Voice Choir and Batley Glee Club and attended Batley Parish Church. He was a keen cyclist, 21 years of age. His brother Jack died last November.

Batley News, 5 Jul 1941

Geoffrey is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's) and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group