John Samuel Denton





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4622308

Regiment: - Essex Regiment 5th Bn. (Formerly Durham Light Infantry)

Died: - Killed in Action, 5 January 1944 Age: 23 years

Cemetery: - Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy XVII. D. 26.

John Samuel was born in c. 1920 in Hemsworth district the son of Walter and Alice Denton nee Yarrow who had married at St. Cuthbert's Church, Ackworth in

1918. Marion was born in Batley area in 1918, John Samuel, Sydney 1922, Minnie 1924 and Dora 1928. In 1939 the family lived at Blackburn Place, Batley.

The 5th Battalion served with the 18th Indian Infantry Brigade, part of the 8th Indian Infantry Division and saw service in Palestine, North Africa and Italy.

The invasion of Sicily in July 1943 led to the collapse of the Fascist Italian regime and the fall of Mussolini, who was deposed and arrested by order of King Victor Emmanuel III on 25 July. The new government signed an armistice with the Allies on 8 September 1943. However, German forces soon took control of northern and central Italy; Mussolini, who was rescued by German paratroopers, established a collaborationist puppet state, the Italian Social Republic (RSI), to administer the German-occupied territory.

"THY WILL BE DONE" ALWAYS REMEMBERED

John Samuel 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