Ernest Gash





Rank: - Private

Number: - 14426299

Regiment: - Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment) 6th Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds, Belgium 09/09/1944 Age: 19 years.

Cemetery: - Geel War Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium II.A.19.

Ernest was born in 1925 the son of Richard and Betsy Gash nee Drury who had married on 1 May 1909 at St. Marys Church, Woodkirk. of Batley, Yorkshire. Gladys was born in 1910 followed by, Mary 1916, Ernest 1918, Evelyn 1920, Betsy 1923 and Ernest.

In 1939 the family lived at Cardigan Quarry, Morley which was just inside the Morley boundary near Scotchman Lane.

It is not known when Ernest joined the Forces but the 6th Battalion of the Green Howards landed in France at 7.35am on the 6 June 1944 on at the eastern end of Gold Beach. By midday the battalion reported to the Brigade the success of Phase 1 and were pushing fast to the area of Capon where they were to meet strong resistance. They lost 18 of their men on that day. Their next objective was to capture Caen.

They continued to fight through Normandy and the Falaise Pocket moving through Belgium and in early September they were near Geel. The Corps were to force a crossing across the Albert Canal, and the division was tasked to attack towards Geel, which lay in an angle between the Albert and the Bocholt-Herentals Canals. In the early morning of 8 September, the 6th Green Howards crossed the canal unopposed using a small number of Goatley boats as a ferry, taking over three hours to do so. Geel was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting encountered by Commonwealth troops since they had left Normandy.

Ernest was wounded and died of wounds on 9 September 1944. Some of the casualties were originally buried in a meadow near the centre of the commune and some in the St. Dymphna civil cemetery. They were later moved to Geel War Cemetery.

SLEEP ON, DEAR SON AND TAKE THY REST GOD'S WILL BE DONE AND HE KNOWS BEST

Ernest is remembered with Honour at Soothill Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group