Alec Goodall





Rank: - Fusilier

Number: - 14521613

Regiment: - Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) 1st Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds 28 June 1944

Cemetery: - Assisi War Cemetery, Italy 1V.H.11

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944 (photo)

Alec was born in Batley on 18 October 1909 the son of George and Rebecca Sykes Goodall nee Preston who had married on 24 August 1907 at St. Thomas Church, Batley. Geoffrey Preston was born in 1915, Kenneth Gordon 1912 and Margaret 1920. Rebecca died in March 1939 when the family lived at 60, Laurel Grove, Batley.

Alec attended Brownhill Parish Church and was a chorister. He was a member of Batley Rescue Service and was a builder by trade, working for Batley Corporation General Works Department.



PADRE'S MESSAGE TO CARLINGHOW WIFE

Killed Whilst Tending Wounded

Rev. L. Hayes, C.F., with the Central Mediterranean Forces, has written to tell Mrs. Goodall, of 6, Westbrook Terrace, Batley, that her husband, Fusilier Alec Goodall, has been killed in Italy.

He writes: "I feel you would like to know that he died in the execution of his duty. He was himself attending a wounded case when he was wounded, and died soon afterwards. As far as I know he did not suffer, which is a great consolation.

"I can tell you that it was a great shock to us at the Regimental Aid Post. He was always so cheerful and helpful, and the doctor (for whom Fusilier Goodall was batman) thought worlds of him."

Alec Goodall.

Rev. Hayes, who conducted the burial service, says details concerning his interment place will come later.

The son of Mr. Geo. Goodall, of 60, Laurel Grove, Carlinghow, and the late Mrs. Goodall, Fusilier Goodall, a builder by trade, was employed by Batley Corporation General Works Department, before joining the Forces 20 months ago. He went abroad in November and was in Africa a month before going to Italy.

A member of Batley Rescue Service, he formerly attended Brownhill Parish Church, where he was a chorister.

There are two brothers in the Forces, Signalman Geoffrey Goodall, R.C.S., in India, and Pte. Kenneth Goodall, Pioneer Corps, and a sister, Mrs. Margaret Bromley, is a munition worker.

In 1936 he married Phyllis Hall going to live at 6, Westbrook Terrace, Batley. Alec joined the Forces in October 1942, going to Africa in November, a month before going to Italy.

The 1st Battalion was part of the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade, 8th Brigade, 8thIndian Infantry Division. It served with them in the Italian Campaign.

When the spring came the 8th Indian Division was switched in great secrecy (along with the bulk of the British Eighth Army, now commanded by Lieutenant –General Sir Oliver Leese,) 60 miles west across the Apennine Mountains to concentrate as part of Lieutenant-General Sidney C. Kirkmans British X111Corps., serving alongside the British 4th and 78th Infantry Division, 6th Armoured Division, , as well as the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, along the River Garigliano at a part of the river better known as the Gari.. Their heavily opposed night crossing of the Gari in May 1944, supported by Canadian tanks (1st Canadian Armoured Brigade) with which the division had formed a particularly close fighting relationship over the previous six months, was critical to the Allies ' success in this, the fourth and final Battle of Monte Casino. Following this, the division advanced some 240 miles in June across mountainous country, fighting many actions against rearguards and defended strong points. In late June they had reached Assissi and the division was rested. Just before the end of June, Alec, was wounded. Rev. L. Hayes. C.F. with the Central Mediterranean Forces wrote to his wife: - "*I feel you would like to know that he died in the execution of his duty. He was himself attending a wounded case when he was wounded and died soon afterwards. As far as I know he did not suffer, which is a great consolation. I can tell you that it was a great*

shock to us at the Regimental Aid Post. He was always so cheerful and helpful and the doctor (for whom Alec was a batman) thought worlds of him."

Rev. Hayes conducted the burial service.

TO THE MEMORY OF A DEAR HUSBAND ALWAYS REMEMBERED

Alec 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