Clifford Holmes





Rank: - Guardsman

Number: - 2660677

Regiment: - Coldstream Guards 4th Bn.

Died: - Killed inside tank whilst advancing towards Germany 29/03/1945 Age: 27 years.

Cemetery: - Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany 3.B.3.

Clifford was born on 22 April 1917, the son of Tom and Emma Holmes nee Allman who had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 29 April 1911, Alice was born in 1912. Tom died in 1934 and Emma, Alice and Clifford lived at 45, Occupation Lane, Staincliffe in 1939.

Before joining the Forces in 1940 he was employed at the CWS Boot Company, Heckmondwike and was a member of Staincliffe Liberal Club.

Clifford was stationed in England up to two weeks after D-Day and was on guard at Buckingham Palace, in June 1944, at the time when a V1 flying bomb badly damaged the Palace grounds, walls and an 18th Century summer house, close to the western extreme near Constitution Hill.

His mother at first was informed that he was missing from March 29th but later it was confirmed that he had been killed in action when a Commanding Officer informed her that her son was with a column of tanks advancing in Germany when a German tank appeared from a flank and opened fire. The tank in which Clifford was travelling was hit, the ammunition blowing–up and all the crew being killed instantly.



KILLED WITH REST OF TANK CREW

Guardsman Clifford Holmes

Mrs. E. Holmes, 45, Occupation Lane, Staincliffe, has been informed that her son, Guardsman Clifford Holmes (27), Coldstream Guards, has been killed in action.

On April 11th she learnt he had been missing since March 29th.

In a letter the Commanding Officer informed her that her son was with a column of tanks advancing in Germany when a German tank appeared from a flank and opened fire, Guardsman Holmes' tank being hit, the ammunition blowing up, and all the crew being killed instantly.

Clifford Holmes.

He was stationed in England up to two weeks after D-Day, and was on guard at Buckingham Palace at the time it was bombed.

Before joining the Forces five years ago he was employed by the C.W.S. Boot Company, Heckmondwike. He was a member of Staincliffe Liberal Club.

Batley News, 5 May 1945

THY PURPOSE, LORD, WE CANNOT SEE, BUT ALL IS WELL THAT'S DONE BY THEE

Clifford is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial Addenda

Researched by members of
Batley History Group