Wilfred Land





Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett

Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - S/11818

Regiment: - Royal Army Service Corps

Died: - Died following a motor-cycling accident 24/09/1940 Age: 29 years

Cemetery: - Dewsbury Cemetery Cons. Sec. J. Grave 135.

Wilfred was born in Batley Carr in 1911 the son of John and Ethel Land nee Cooper who had married on 11 August 1907 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. Clifford was born in 1908, Annie 1915 and Jeffrey 1926. John of 17, Hirst Road, Batley Carr died in April 1939.

Wilfred attended Batley Carr Council School and on leaving joined the clerical staff at Messrs, Mark Day Ltd., Dewsbury. In about 1930 he joined the Royal

Army Service Corps and after 7 years in Shangai he returned to England and was transferred to the reserves. For two years he lived at Hecklington near Sleaford, Lincs. and was secretary of the village cricket, bowling and football clubs and a member of the parochial church council.

In 1937 he married Mary Bye nee Binns of Hanging Heaton, Batley and Trevor Clive was born in 1938. She already had two sons, Jack and Abert Bye. They lived at New Street, Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton.

For some time, he worked at Dewsbury Employment Exchange and was recalled to the Colours on June 5th 1939. He was an Education Officer's clerk at an aerodrome in the south of England, going to France 2 days after war was declared and his company was one of the last to leave on the evacuation.

On the evening of Saturday 24 September Wilfred was killed near Tewksbury in a motor-cycling accident in the blackout whilst riding an Army machine. Another man was seriously injured.

Wilfred was interred at Dewsbury Cemetery the following Saturday.

Wilfred is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.





SOLDIER KILLED IN BLACK-OUT.

Hanging Heaton Staff Sergeant's Death.

MEMBER OF BATLEY CARR FAMILY.

Twenty-nine year old Staff Sergeant Wilfred Land, whose home is at New Street, Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton, died in Tewkesbury Hospital on Wednesday following a motor-cycling accident in the black-out near Tewkesbury last Saturday night. He was riding an Army machine and another man was seriously hurt. The inquest has been adjourned.

Mr. Land was born in Batley Carr and his mother resided in Smith Hill, behind the Saw Inn. His father, the late Mr. Jack Land, was a miner. He joined the office staff of Messrs. Mark Day, Ltd., Dewsbury, on leaving Batley Carr Council School, and ten years ago enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps. After seven years in Shanghai he returned to England and was transferred to reserve. For some time he worked at Dewsbury Employment Exchange and was recalled to the Colours on June 5th, 1939.

The Late Staff-Sergeant Land.

For a time he was an Education Officer's clerk at a Southern aerodrome, but he was in France two days after the outbreak of war and his company was one of the last to leave at the Dunkirk evacuation.

For two years after his discharge from the Army, Staff Sergeant Land lived at Hecklington, near Sleaford, Lincs., and there he was secretary of the village bowling, cricket and football clubs and a member of the parochial church council.

Three years ago he married Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Binns, of Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton, and in addition to the widow and his mother he leaves a son and two step-sons. A brother, Mr. Clifford Land, is serving with the A.M.P.C. A younger brother, Mr. Geoffrey Land,

Batley News, 28 Sep 1940 (photo); 5 Oct 1940

Researched by members of Batley History Group