William Lobley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 3604726

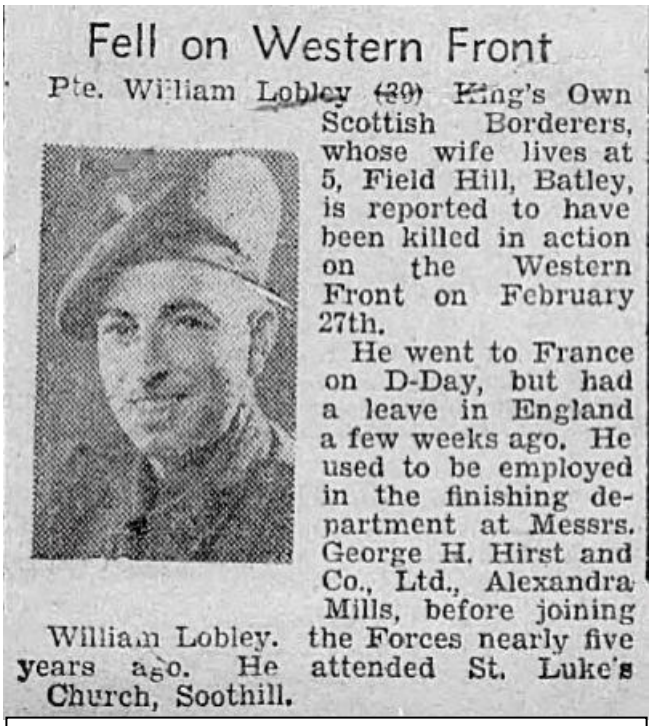
Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 1st Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds 27/02/1945 Age: 31 years

Cemetery: - Mook War Cemetery, Limburg (Netherlands), Netherlands 1.B.5

William was born on 9 July 1913 at 48, Albion Street, Otley, the son of Thomas and Annie Lobley nee Dixon who had married in 1901 in Otley. Doris was born in 1902 followed by Annie 1906 and John Dixon 1908, who was a witness at his marriage. In 1911 the family was living at 48, Albion Street in 1911. Kathleen was born in the 3rd Qtr 1915 and his mother died in early September and his father

in 1922. It would appear William went to live with his mothers' brother, William Dixon, who lived at 80, Grange Road, Batley. He sadly died in March 1919 and his aunt Lucy Dixon in January 1936.



Fell on Western Front

Pte. William Lobley (39) King's Own Scottish Borderers, whose wife lives at 5, Field Hill, Batley, is reported to have been killed in action on the Western Front on February 27th.

He went to France on D-Day, but had a leave in England a few weeks ago. He used to be employed in the finishing department at Messrs. George H. Hirst and Co., Ltd., Alexandra Mills, before joining the Forces nearly five years ago. He attended St. Luke's Church, Soothill.

William Lobley.

Batley News, 10 Mar 1945

William married Mary Ellen Bailey in 1937 and they lived at 5, Field Hill, Batley, which was a back-to-back house with Mary's brother Jim Bailey and his wife Edie. His nephew remembers that he was a lovely man and when he came home on leave, he spent hours playing with his nieces and nephews and would bring them little treats. He attended St. Luke's Church and worked in the finishing department at Messrs. George H. Hirst, Alexandra Mills, Batley before joining the Forces in about the summer of 1940.



The 1st battalion KOSB embarked for France in 1939 as part of the 3rd division of the BEF. They crossed the Belgian frontier in May 1940, and like the rest of the force, outgunned by an enemy of overwhelming numerical superiority, they were ordered to withdraw. Fighting their way to the coast, on the night of 31st May/1st June they were evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk and reached England. With the allied invasion of Europe in 1944, 1st battalion KOSB was there at the forefront, returning to France on D-Day, 6th June, landing at 'Queen' Beach. They fought through Normandy and around Caen until the town capitulated, and then advanced north through Belgium and Holland. William had been with his regiment on D-Day but had leave in England in early 1945.

William is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Thanks to Sam Dixon for family details.