# John Lawrence Naylor





**Rank: -** Lieutenant

**Number: -** 249812

**Regiment: -** Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 1st Bn**.**

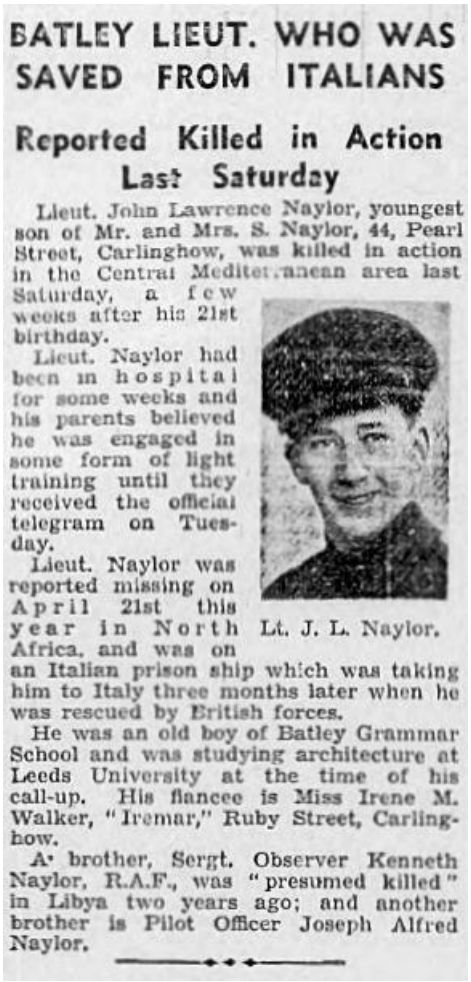
**Died: -** Killed in Action 13/09/1943 Age: 21 years

**Cemetery: -** Salerno War Cemetery, Italy II. B. 44.

Batley News, 25 Sep 1943 (photo)

John Lawrence was born in 1922 the youngest son of Sydney and Ethel Naylor nee Dickinson who had married on 9 April 1910 at Fletcher Memorial Wesleyan Methodist Church, Cross Hall, Morley. Joseph Alfred "Joe" was born in 1911 followed by Marion 1915-Sept 1915 aged 11 weeks, Kenneth 1917- 1941 and John Lawrence "Laurie". The family lived at 44, Pearl Street, Batley.

John Lawrence attended Batley Grammar School and Leeds College of Art and was studying architecture at Leeds University when he was called up to join the Forces. He was engaged to Miss Irene M Walker of "Iremar" Ruby Street, Batley.



**BATLEY LIEUT. WHO WAS SAVED FROM ITALIANS**

**Reported Killed in Action Last Saturday**

Lieut. John Lawrence Naylor, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Naylor, 44, Pearl Street, Carlinghow, was killed in action in the Central Mediterranean area last Saturday, a few weeks after his 21st birthday.

Lieut. Naylor had been in hospital for some weeks and his parents believed he was engaged in some form of light training until they received the official telegram on Tuesday.

Lieut. Naylor was reported missing on April 21st this year in North Africa, and was on an Italian prison ship which was taking him to Italy three months later when he was rescued by British forces.

Lt. J. L. Naylor.

He was an old boy of Batley Grammar School and was studying architecture at Leeds University at the time of his call-up. His fiancee is Miss Irene M. Walker, "Iremar," Ruby Street, Carlinghow.

A brother, Sergt. Observer Kenneth Naylor, R.A.F., was "presumed killed" in Libya two years ago; and another brother is Pilot Officer Joseph Alfred Naylor.

The 1st Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment landed in North Africa in mid March, 1943, to join the battle for Tunisia and Lieutenant Colonel B W Webb-Carter took command in April after his predecessor was wounded and evacuated. The Battalion then took part in two major battles at Banana Ridge 20-21 April (losing 10 killed and 35 wounded) and Djebel Bou Aoukaz, 30 April, (31 killed and 75 wounded).

John Lawrence was posted missing on the 21 April but three months later he was on an Italian prison ship, which was taking him to Italy and was rescued by British forces.

The 1st Battalion had landed and captured the Italian island of Pantellaria on 9th June, 1943. John Lawrence was wounded in Italy and had been in hospital some weeks before his death although his parents believed he was engaged in some form of light training until they received the telegram that he had died.

IN LIFE ONE OF THE FINEST IN DEATH ONE OF THE BRAVE: HE FAILED NOT IN HIS DUTY HIMSELF HE GLADLY GAVE

John Lawrence is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group