George Frederick Staples





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4393965

Regiment: - The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment), 5th Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds from exploding mortar shell whilst on manoeuvres, the result of an accident**,** 23rd June 1942

Cemetery: - Birstall (St Peter) Churchyard Extension, Grave 440.

Batley News, 20 Jun 1942 (photo)

George Frederick was born on 29 December 1919 the son of Thomas George and Annie Staples, nee Garbutt who had married at St. Peters Church, Birstall on 6 February 1915. May was born in 1916 but died shortly after birth, Mary was born in 1922. The family lived at "Holme Lee" White Lee. George attended Healey

Senior School and was employed by Messrs Parker and Hepworth, Healey, Batley before joining the Green Howards in around 1941.



WHITE LEE SOLDIER IN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

Pte. George F. Staples, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Staples, "Holme Lee," White Lee Batley, is in an emergency hospital where he is being fed through his feet. He was wounded in the head by a mortar charge while on manœuvres in the Middle East.

Pte. Staples, who went abroad with the Green Howards about a year ago, attended Healey Senior School and was employed by Messrs. Parker and Hepworth, Healey. His sister, Mary, registered recently, and is shortly going into the Women's Land Army.

Geo. F. Staples.

The 5th Battalion Green Howards had been one of the last units to embark from the beaches at Dunkirk. After retraining they were sent to the Middle East in April 1941, first Egypt then on to Cyprus. The Division except 150 Brigade went to Palestine and 150 Brigade to Western Desert and was rejoined by the rest of the Division in February 1942. George was wounded in the head by a mortar charge whilst on manoeuvres and was brought back to England. It was reported that he was being fed through his feet. He died in the Newton registration district of Lancashire on 23 June 1942 and was buried on Wednesday, 27 June 1942, of Smithies Moor Lane, Batley at St. Peter's Churchyard, Birstall.

His sister, Mary, had recently joined the Women's Land Army.

George Frederick was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Birstall War Memorials addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group