

PRIVATE FRANK HOLYOAK

Service Number: 4862889

Enlisted: 2/5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Born: 8th April 1913

Died: 22nd February 1943, Aged 29

Memorials: Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia

Plot 2, Row C, Grave 13

Burbage War Memorial

Wesleyan Memorial

St Catherine's Church Memorial



Frank Holyoak was born on 8th April 1913, the youngest son of Joseph and Eliza Holyoak of 3 Lutterworth Road, Burbage. His father operating the Blacksmiths on the corner of Lutterworth Road and Lychgate Lane, Burbage.



(L to R) Harold Holyoak, Mr Reeves and Mr Lisserman at the Blacksmiths

Frank Holyoak was employed by Messrs. Chamberlain and Co, Hosiery Manufacturers of Burbage before joining the forces.

Having joined the 2/5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, Frank was reported missing during operations in North Africa and was later reported having been killed in action. He is buried at Enfidaville War Cemetery in Tunisia.

In May 1943, the war in North Africa came to an end in Tunisia with the defeat of the Axis powers by a combined Allied force. The campaign began on 8th November 1942, when Commonwealth and American troops made a series of landings in Algeria and Morocco. The Germans responded immediately by sending a force from Sicily to northern Tunisia, which checked the Allied advance east in early December.

Meanwhile, in the south, the Axis forces defeated at El Alamein were withdrawing into Tunisia along the coast through Libya, pursued by the Allied Eighth Army. By mid-April 1943, the combined Axis force was hemmed into a small corner of north-eastern Tunisia and the Allies were grouped for their final offensive.

The Eighth Army attack on the position at Enfidaville on 19th April captured the village, but strong resistance meant no further progress was possible. Attacks further north met with greater success and Tunis fell on 7th May, Bizerta on 8th May, by 11th May, the position at Enfidaville was surrounded and resistance ceased on the following day. Most of those buried at Enfidaville War Cemetery died in the final battles from March to the beginning of May. The cemetery contains 1,551 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 88 of them unidentified.





Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia



Wesleyan Memorial


MISSING IN NORTH AFRICA

PTE. FRANK HOLYOAK
(Burbage)



Pte. Frank Holyoak.
Pte. Frank Holyoak, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. Holyoak, of Lutterworth Road, Burbage, is missing in North Africa.
He worked at Messrs. Chamberlain and Co., of Burbage, before joining the Forces, and was a keen cyclist.

Burbage Man Killed in Africa



Pte. Frank Holyoak
Reported missing during operations in North Africa last February, Pte. Frank Holyoak, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. Holyoak, of Lutterworth Road, Burbage, is now reported as having been killed in action.
Pte. Holyoak worked at Messrs. Chamberlain and Co., hosiery manufacturers, of Burbage, before joining the forces and was a keen cyclist.
Much sympathy has been extended to his mother and members of his family, who had never given up hope that better news would be heard of him.