

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Lance Sergeant Oliver George Baker (1901-1941) 855476 54th Field Company, Royal Engineers died aged 40



Oliver was born in 1901 to parents Charles and Mary Ann Baker and baptised on 26th February in Castle Bromwich.

Oliver was part of the 54th Field Company with the Royal Engineers, who were responsible for maintaining the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport to allow supplies to reach the armies.

In 1939, the Field Company became part of the 7th Infantry Division, stationed in Cairo. Later that year it was re-designated the 6th (UK) Division and became HQ Western Desert Force. On 10th October 1941 it was re-designated the 70th Infantry Division in an attempt to deceive Axis intelligence concerning the strength of the British Forces in the Middle East.

The Royal Navy transported the division to Tobruk in October 1941. Under daily aerial and artillery attacks, the division defended the Tobruk port. On 18th November, the British Eighth Army launched Operation Crusader. Heavy fighting followed as the division captured several well defended and dug-in German and Italian strong points. The Germans launched several counter attacks to throw back the 70th Division. Oliver died on 5th December 1941 during this campaign.



Tobruk Town 1941

He is remembered with honour by a cross at The Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya, North Africa. He is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich.

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