

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Bombardier Gordon Edward Gostling (1915-1944) 984498 178th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery died aged 29



Gordon was born in 23rd February 1915 to parents Edward Horace and Frances Alice Gostling (née Burgess) of Erdington, Birmingham.

They were very much a military family stemming from Gordon's grandfather William Gostling who fought in the Ashanti colonial war at Coomassie, West Africa in the 1870's.

Gordon's father served as 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Engineers during the First World War. His four uncles also served in WW1. William served as a Sergeant in the Royal Garrison Artillery, Leonard emigrated in 1913 and served with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, Herbert was a sergeant in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and Thomas was a 2nd Lieutenant with the Leicestershire regiment. Thomas suffered serious shrapnel injuries and he eventually died of his wounds.

In 1936 Gordon is registered as living with the family at 46 Beaufort Avenue, Ward End, Birmingham. By 1939 the family including his younger sister Barbara had moved to 51 Heathland Avenue, Castle Bromwich.

Gordon joined the war effort in 1939 with the Royal Regiment of Artillery, commonly referred to as the RA and colloquially known as "The Gunners" based in Woolwich, SE London.

The regiment was involved in a renewed offensive at Mayu Peninsula in the Arakan region of Burma in late 1943. This Second Battle of Arakan was tough jungle fighting to try to extricate the Japanese.

Gordon was killed in action serving with his regiment in the Arakan region on 28th March 1944 aged 29 and is buried at Taukkyan War Cemetery, Burma (Myanmar), his cross is inscribed "*sleep on in honoured rest*", he is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich.



Taukkyan War Cemetery