

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Private Glyndwr Thomas Palmer (1915-1945) 4105816 1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry died aged 29



Glyndwr's parents Henry and Edith Palmer (née Rowlands) were married in July 1912 in Pontypridd, Glamorgan, Wales and Glyndwr (Glyn) was born there on 25th March 1915.

The 1939 Electoral Register records Glyn living with the Cox family at 56 Hurst Lane, Castle Bromwich along with daughter Mildred Cox who Glyn married a year later in July 1940. At the time Glyn was working as a public works contractor's labourer and Mildred was a packer at Southall's Ltd, in Alum Rock.

Glyndwr joined the war effort with the 1st Battalion Hereford Regiment. In April 1940 the Division, part of the 159th Infantry Brigade, moved from Tenby to the Northern Ireland where they remained until November 1941. It returned to the UK and moved throughout the country to various camps. The Battalion finally went to war embarking Newhaven and landing in Normandy on 13th June 1944. The Division was involved in all the major operations in Normandy and the battles around the Falaise pocket. They lead the great 'Swan' as it was known, to Antwerp, arriving there on 3rd September having driven 260 miles in 6 days. They fought the battles there, followed by the winter fighting on the River Maas. Finally, there was the Rhine crossing, and the fight through Germany to Lubeck on the Baltic coast.

He died on 1st February 1945 aged 29 and is buried at the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery. The cemetery was created after the Second World War when burials were brought in from all over western Germany and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country. Many of those members of the land forces buried there, including Glyn, died in the advance through Reichswald Forest in February 1945. He is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green and at the memorial inside St Mary and St Margaret's Church, Castle Bromwich.



Troop movements through the Reichswald Forest February 1945

*Prepared by Alan Fewtrell 2019
alan.fewtrell1957@gmail.com*