

ERIC GEOFFREY LOCKLEY

Rank: Lance Sergeant.

Service No: 548061.

Date of Death: 24/05/1940. Age: 29.

Regiment/Service: Royal Armoured Corps, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Panel Reference: Column 2.

Memorial: [DUNKIRK MEMORIAL](#)

Additional Information:

Son of William and Rosetta Lockley, of Hoole, Chester;

husband of Elsie Lockley, of Rake Lane Christleton, Cheshire.

Grandson of William & Ellen Lockley, 26 Louise Street, Garden Lane Chester

Father of Gerry Lockley of Home Close Christleton.

William Lockley, Sapper 207254 134th Army Transport Co. Royal Engineers

Died 26 October 1917 aged 27yrs

Remembered with Honour Tyne Cot Memorial, Ypres Panel 8.

Eric Geoffrey Lockley had served in the Army with the 14/20th Hussars between 1930-1936. He left the Army in 1936 and was placed on the reserve list. Eric was then called up when war was declared, and enlisted with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. He only visited home once at Christmas 1939 before he was killed in action.



On 3rd September 1939, two days after the German Army had invaded Poland, the United Kingdom, France and their Allies declared war on Germany. Equipped with Vickers Mk.VI, the regiment acted as the reconnaissance regiment of the 4th Infantry Division of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) that was deployed to the continent shortly after the war broke out. On 10th May 1940, the German Army launched their invasion of the Low Countries, thus ending what was known as the phoney war.

The German invasion was swift and successful; the Allied forces in Belgium, which included the regiment, having to retreat to the Scheldt River. Fierce fighting continued, the BEF continuing to withdraw further until the order was given for them to withdraw to Dunkirk in northern France. What followed, from 27th May to 6th June, known as Operation Dynamo, was the remarkable evacuation of more than 338,000 British

and Allied troops back to the United Kingdom; the regiment was successfully evacuated, with the exception of their equipment.

24th May 1940

At daybreak patrols of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards were at Blaringhem, Boeseghem and Thiennes, with a detachment covering Morbecque in rear. About eleven o'clock in the morning thirty enemy tanks moved round their flank from the direction of Lynde. Tanks had been seen near Hazebrouck at about seven o'clock and later in the morning a mixed column advanced from St Omer towards the town. A counter-attack by the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards brought a vigorous reply from the enemy's stronger forces and our cavalry were forced back to Morbecque. Later in this day the defence there was reinforced by the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards and a squadron of the 13th/18th Hussars and with the help of machine guns of the 9th Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and infantry the enemy were stopped. But there were as yet no troops who could drive back the units of the enemy's armoured and motorised divisions, and these were now in possession of the ground between the forests of Clairmarais and Nieppe and had strong parties in both. Hazebrouck and Cassel were in great peril.



5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards - Cromwell Tank