

REGINALD TAYLOR, Private 4387696, 1st Bn Green Howards, 15th May 1941, Age 27

Reginald Taylor was the son of William and Catherine Taylor (nee Biggins) of Brompton on Swale. William and Catherine married in the Richmond area in 1911. They had a daughter called Florence in 1912, Reginald was born in 1913 and another daughter, Monica was born in 1916.

Reginald served with 1st Battalion, Green Howards and this battalion was very active early in the war. It proceeded to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in autumn 1939, but were brought back and sent to take part in the Norwegian Campaign.

The 1st Battalion Green Howards formed part of "Sickle Force" and were landed at Aandalsnes 17-18 April 1940. Having landed successfully, the men moved rapidly inland towards Kvam. Sickle Force secured Dombass, placing it in a position to turn north towards Trondhiem. They were then ordered to proceed onto Lillehamer. The brigade then fought a series of rearguard actions back to Dombass. Reinforcements began landing at Aandalsnes during the evening of 23 April and a battle was fought on Thursday 25-26 April 1940. Even though the British fought tenaciously, they were forced to withdraw.



The 1st Battalion subsequently spent 12 months training in Londonderry (Northern Ireland) and Reginald is buried in the Londonderry City Cemetery

It is therefore likely he died as the result of illness or possibly in a training accident. He appears to be the only Green Howard in the cemetery.

Sources

(1) CWGC Londonderry City Cemetery, RC Plot, Sec M, Grave 3

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2931589/TAYLOR,%20REGINALD>

(2) Green Howards in Norway (1940)

<https://greenhowards.org.uk/events/80-years-ago-the-green-howards-in-norway/>

Gravestone for Reginald Taylor (Photograph by Bob Dennis)