



WWII Casualty

Albert Ben Sheppard

Private 14260269, Duke Of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment



Albert Ben Sheppard was born in 1923, the son of Albert Edward & Charlotte Sabina Sheppard (nee Dyer). His birth was registered in the December Quarter of 1923 in the Warminster Registration District.

Albert's mother, Charlotte died on the 29th December 1931 aged 42. At the time of her death she was recorded as resident of 45 Codford St. Mary.

In 1933 Albert's father remarried Ellen Whatley at St. Martin's Church, Britford.

Albert enlisted with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) and was attached to the 1st Battalion, an infantry division. At the time of his enlistment, he was aged 20, and living at 45 Chitterne Road, Codford. He was employed as an apprentice blacksmith at Sutton Veny. He had been a member of the Codford Home Guard.

Private Sheppard entered the theatre of War in Italy. Being attached to 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington Regiment he was part of 3rd Infantry Brigade during the Battle of Anzio, Italy which took place from 22nd January to 31st March of 1944. During this time, Albert was wounded in the shoulder whilst pulling a dead comrade from a machine gun. He was evacuated to England on a hospital ship and during the voyage his wound turned gangrenous.

Albert Ben Sheppard died on 11th March 1944 in Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, Hampshire

A death for Albert B. Sheppard, aged 20, was registered in the March Quarter of 1944 in the Cambridge Registration District. [This seems to be an anomaly and would need further research since there should be no reason why the death was not registered in the Aldershot Registration District]

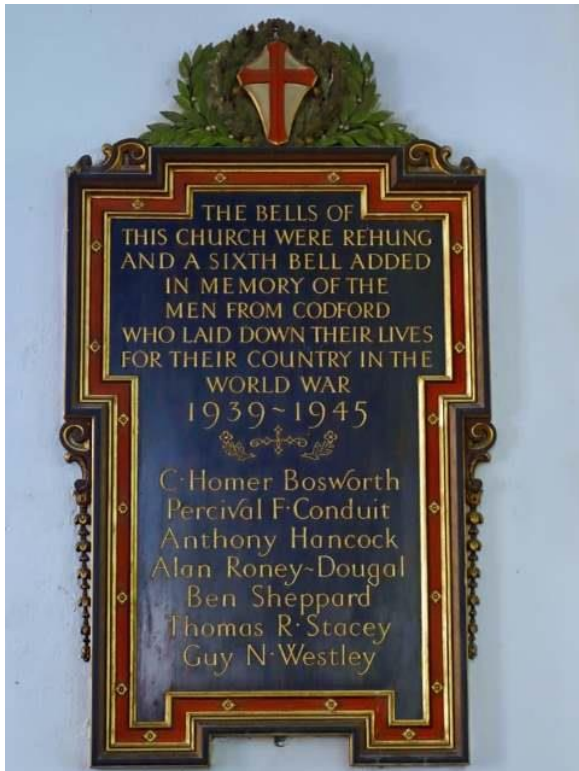
He was buried in the Churchyard of St. Mary's, Codford. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission and as such has the regulation Commonwealth War Graves Commission Portland Stone marking his burial plot.

The CWGC lists Albert Ben Sheppard as the son of Albert Edward & Ellen Sheppard of Codford. (Ellen was his stepmother). His headstone has the



following inscription – “As in Life We Loved Him So in Death We Sadly Miss Him. Dad and Mum”.

As with most soldiers Albert made a will (military recommendations) and Probate was granted to his father on 20th April 1945 at Winchester. Details recorded in the Probate Calendar are as follows: Albert Ben Sheppard of 45 Codford died 11 March 1944 at The County Hospital Cambridge. Administration (with Will) to Albert Edward Sheppard (Labourer) Effects £154 11s 1d.



Albert Ben Sheppard is also commemorated on the WWII Memorial Plaque on St. Peter's Church, Codford. The plaque indicates that the church bells were rehung and a sixth bell was added to the peel. This bell is known as the Victory Bell and was cast in 1946. The names listed include men with connections to both Codford St. Mary & St. Peter that lost their lives in WWII.



St. Mary's Church, Codford