

William Henry Burden
Private with the Army Catering Corps attached to the Royal Artillery
Service number 1063793
37 years

William Henry – known as Harry – was baptised on 5th January 1908 at Corfe Castle, son of William Henry – known as Henry - and Frances Burden, of Norden. His father was a clay miner.

William Henry Burden aged 23 and a clay miner married Frances Battrick aged 23 on Christmas day 1896. They started married life at Cocknowle, but by 1898 they had moved to Norden.

They had ten children, one of whom died aged only one day, and one who died aged 12.

William was living at Norden Common in 1920, with his parents and four siblings.

The family were still living at New Line, Norden in 1939, but were evacuated in 1942 when land close to the coast was requisitioned for the army. The family returned after the war and were living at 150 New Line when William's father, Henry died in 1954. Frances had died aged 72 in 1946.

William aged 27 married his cousin Rosie aged 20 in the middle of 1935. They lived next door to one another in New Line at Norden. Rosie never remarried and died in 1975 aged 60.

The advance north through Italy stalled during the autumn and winter months of 1944, and the cemetery at Faenza was formed at this time for the burial of those killed during the static fighting which occurred before the allied advance was renewed in April 1945.

Cooking facilities were often specifically targeted by mortars and other artillery if their location became known. If they were located sufficiently in the rear to avoid this then supplying the men in the front line with hot food became difficult and could create a morale issue particularly in the winter.

William died 15th October 1944, aged 37. He is buried at Faenza War Cemetery in Italy. Grave number V B 14.

Commemorated on the Memorial at Corfe Castle