

**PRIVATE Robert John Grainger Sankey Kings Shropshire Light Infantry of Bridge Cottage,
Farm Lane, All Stretton**

Died 11th July, 1944 aged 30 years old

Robert John Grainger Sankey was born on 24th November 1914 at Reservoir Cottage, Batch Valley, All Stretton, the son of John and Annie Sankey (nee Jarrett). John his father was a builder and had built Reservoir Cottage in 1907 where John and Annie had brought up nine children with Robert being the sixth child. The Grainger part of his name came from his Maternal Grandmother Margaret Grainger born in 1832 in Cound, Shropshire.

In 1921 Robert who was also known as John was living at Bridge Cottage, All Stretton with his parents and two younger brothers. The three daughters still in the family were living in Reservoir Cottage, with 15 year old Martha being the head of the household.

Robert married Priscilla Catherine Wynn of Brook House Farm, Leebotwood at Leebotwood Church in September 1940. Priscilla was born in Flintshire in the year 1917 one of four daughters of Joseph and Frances Wynn (nee Williams). Priscilla was working at the Mineral Water Works in 1939 before getting married.

Priscilla later married Arthur Pope in 1947 and she died 1997 in Clun, Shropshire as Priscilla Catherine Pope.

In 1940 Robert was already serving in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry at that time as a despatch rider. His service number was 4038283.

A typical Despatch Rider from World War Two.



He was transferred to the 6th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry when he was sent to Normandy.

He was killed at the battle of Caen on 11th July 1944 and is buried in Tully-sur-Seulles War Cemetery, Normandy, France. He was 30 years old.



This is the War Diary from the 11th July, 1944 for the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

0300 in the Morning

Patrol from "A" Company attacked line of hedges in front of Company positions called 'OAK'. This was to establish a base for deeper probing later in the day. Enemy still on 'OAK' and our patrol attacked with hand grenades. Patrol returned fire with Stens and 36 Grenades but had to withdraw. Lieutenant McKelvis and three other ranks wounded.

0700

Mortar shoot for one house in support of 231 Brigade attacking to HOTTOT

0730

Two fighting patrol sent out to cause diversion. Had no sooner left our lines then they were shot up by the enemy in the hedge. Lieutenant Gardner of "A" Company had got almost as far as OAK when he was killed by machine gun fire.

Enemy retaliated by putting down heavy mortar and artillery fire on forward company areas. **Casualties were quite heavy and no success at all had been achieved.**

Information from 8/DLI on right that G.A.F. Units were no in the line as infantry.