

Trooper ALFRED JOHN PARKER

556731, *3rd King's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps*
who died age 20 on 13 December 1940

Son of Alfred and Nellie May Parker, of Bushley, Worcestershire.
Remembered with honour in the CAIRO WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Our only information is supplied by the *Register* of 28 December 1940:



Trooper Parker A.J

Mrs H. Pendry of Moss Green Bushley, has received official news that their son, Trooper Alfred John Parker, and the only son of late Mr Alfred Parker, of Gravel Walk, Tewkesbury died of cardiac failure in the General hospital Egypt.

He was twenty years of age and had been in 'The 3rd King's Own Hussars' for the last year. He sailed for Norway but returned safely in June. He was educated at St Peter's Church School Bushley.

Because he enlisted in 1939, we can assume that he was either a volunteer or a member of the T.A.. After France had fallen, the **3rd Hussars** were sent to Cairo to join the 7th Armoured Brigade of the 7th Armoured Division, "*The Desert Rats*". In December 1940, General Wavell was countering an attack on Egypt from Libya mounted by Italian Fascist leader, Mussolini. Trooper Parker no doubt missed their first action during the closing stages of the *Sidi Barrani* where they sustained 25 casualties, but helped to capture with the allied units so many Italian prisoners that "*there were about five acres of Officers and two hundred acres of other ranks*".¹

Trooper Parker's fate reminds us that soldiers are lost to natural causes although war service may well have exacerbated that condition.



¹ Website: <http://www.qrh.org.uk/history1a.htm> . Hussars were formerly cavalry who by World War II were fighting in tanks. At *El Alamein* in 1942 they were re-equipped with *Crusader*, *Sherman* and *Grant* tanks.