

Sapper GEORGE CLARKE

George was born on 24 May 1920 to Harry & Marion Clarke of 1 Council Houses, Walcote. A carpenter and joiner before the war, he enlisted on 29 May 1940, was attached to the Corps of Royal Engineers and posted to the RE's home at Chatham. After training he joined 28 Bomb Disposal Company, embarking for the Middle East on 26 August 1942.

Italy declared war on Britain and France in June 1940 bringing the Italian colonies in North Africa into the war. Following a counterattack by Britain, the Italians asked for and received help from their German allies. The war continued with no decisive victory until the German-Italian forces were defeated at the Second Battle of Alamein in late 1942. They eventually surrendered on 13 May 1943.

The victory was seen as a watershed for the Western Allies but when the conflict moved elsewhere, there remained a significant amount of unexploded ordnance including landmines, widely used by both sides to impede the other's progress. George was one of six killed while clearing a minefield in Libya on 23 June 1944.



He is buried at Benghazi War Cemetery in Libya. His name also appears on the Roll of Honour at Carver Barracks in Essex for those who died whilst serving with the RE Bomb Disposal/Explosive Ordnance Units.



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*