

# Stanley Thomas Grant

Stanley Grant was born in Liphook in **1924**, the son of Percival Grant and his wife Clara (nee Betsworth). His father was a postman, born in Epsom and his parents had married in the Croydon area where Clara had been working as a cook.

His parents' first child, Joan, died in **1923** when she was just two years old. His father died in **1927** when Stanley was only three years old. In **1939**, 16 year old Stanley was living with his mother in Liphook and working as a butcher's assistant.

When war broke out, Stanley was not old enough to join up. He enlisted on 5<sup>th</sup> November **1942** joining the Hampshire Regiment. On 6<sup>th</sup> December **1943** a large draft of this regiment in Tunisia joined the Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment.

<b>Rank</b>	Private 14331629
<b>Regiment</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent, transferred from Hampshire Regiment
<b>Date of death</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> May 1944
<b>Died</b>	Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy
<b>Buried</b>	Cassino War Cemetery Plot XI Row J6
<b>Age at death</b>	20
<b>Marital status</b>	Single
<b>Address</b>	Headley Road, Liphook



*Above: men of the Royal West Kent Regiment on Monastery Hill at Cassino, Italy, 26 March 1944.*

*Right: painting of Monte Cassino during the battle in 1944.*

In January **1944**, a five month assault on the German stronghold around Cassino near Rome was started. On the 14<sup>th</sup> May during the fourth Battle, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment '*crossed the bridge, which was being heavily shelled...There was little time for orders or reconnaissance.*'

Stanley was one of the casualties and is buried in the war cemetery at Cassino with over 4000 Commonwealth soldiers and where over 4000 more, who have no known grave, are commemorated.

It is not clear exactly the connection Stanley had with Bentley. He was probably working and living in Bentley when he joined up. He is also commemorated on the war memorial in Bramshott, where his mother lived. By this time she had lost her husband, her only daughter and her only son.



*At Cassino War Cemetery, on his gravestone:*

**INSCRIPTION**

REST IN PEACE