

Geoffrey Sloan, Crocks

Geoffrey Sloan was born on 8th November **1919**, the only son of Frank and Annie Sloan, and he had an older sister called Marjorie. Both his parents' families were from the Greater Manchester area. At the start of the war in **1939**, Frank and Annie Sloan were living in Esher; Frank was the London Manager for a Cotton Manufacturing Company. After the start of the war, they came to live at Crocks in Bentley.



Geoffrey was in the East Surrey Regiment, 1/6th Battalion, a territorial battalion. They were evacuated from Dunkirk and went on to fight in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. The 1/6th and 2/6th TA Battalions of the East Surreys deployed to France at the beginning of the War. The 1/6th fought alongside the 1st Battalion in Belgium, before evacuation from Dunkirk. The 2/6th Battalion was forced to surrender at St Valery together with 51st Highland Division and the majority of the soldiers became prisoners of war. The 1/6th continued to see active service, as it landed in North Africa in March **1943** and took part in the Tunisian Campaign. From February **1944** to May **1945**, the Battalion fought in Italy, and it experienced hard fighting at Cassino between 11th and 18th May **1944**, when Geoffrey lost his life.

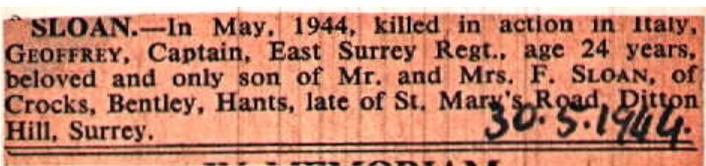
Rank	Captain 176171
Regiment	1/6 th Battalion East Surrey Regiment
Date of death	18th May 1944
Died	Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy
Buried	Cassino War Cemetery
Age at death	24
Marital status	Single
Address	Crocks, Bentley



A patrol of 1/6th Battalion entering Cassino with monastery above

Bentley Parish Magazine, Harvest 1944 :-

Captain GEOFFREY SLOAN, East Surrey Regiment
"Geoffrey Sloan was not so well known here but we had come to look upon his parents as fellow villagers, and so have felt some share in their sorrow and pride. The writer of this note has had the pleasure of seeing some of the many letters which the parents of this gifted young officer received; letters speaking of his devotion to duty, of his fine leadership, of his skill in devising and producing 'shows' and in making the most of every opportunity for promoting the happiness of the men under him; above all, for the "straightness" of his life and character throughout. This was borne out not only by the letters of his Colonel and brother officers and chaplain, but also by touching messages from his N.C.O.s and men, all bearing the same refrain – "He was such a real friend to us, we don't know how we shall get on without him." Geoffrey had gone through all the war, from Dunkirk through the Desert to Tunisia, to Egypt and then to Italy, where he fell leading his men to Cassino. He was an only son and one who had given his parents nothing but pride and happiness. And so, too, he passed bravely on his way."



Geoffrey Sloan is buried in Cassino War Cemetery. The inscription on his gravestone is:
"HE DEDICATED UNFLINCHINGLY ALL THAT HE HAD TO A GREAT PURPOSE"