

## The name on the War Memorial

1950

**Robin Lovenden HALL** (1931-50) Private.

The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry).

He was conscripted for National (compulsory military) Service in October 1949 and was serving in Malaysia when his patrol was ambushed by terrorists on 10 June 1950 and he was killed age 18.<sup>1</sup>

He is remembered on the Roll of Honour in Batu Gajah, known as 'God's Little Acre', and his grave is also there.

He was the son of Richard Stanley and Edna L Hall, the landlords of the King's Arms, (now the Deddington Arms) Horsefair.

The following additional information has been provided by Robin's sister, Pat Colegrave, and from John Scurr's *Malayan Tales of The Yorkshire Light Infantry* published by Pentland Press (ISBN 10 1858214750). John was a fellow infantryman of Robin Hall.

Robin was a member of a platoon under the command of Sergeant Phil Hogan. They were scouting at the head of D Company near Ampang (vicinity of Ipoh) when they came to a fork in the track. Sergeant Hogan decided to split the Platoon into two sections. He took one section of 10 men down one fork and his second in command, Sergeant Cookson, took the second section down the other fork.

Almost immediately Sergeant Hogan's Section was ambushed by a large group of communist bandits hidden in scrub and grass both on high ground and at ground level. The leading scouts - Privates Harrison and Gough - were killed at point blank range by a Bren gun; four others were killed almost immediately - Privates Boden, Hall, Hudson and Jones. The remaining four were all wounded. Despite his wounds, Lance Corporal Vernon Brown had the presence of mind to keep one hand on his rifle and, as one bandit came close, Brown shot him dead. The remaining bandits quickly disappeared back into the jungle.

Sergeant Hogan was shot through the legs and was found by the second section crawling back up the track for help. Private Storey had his kneecap blown off and Private Daniels later had to have his right hand and wrist amputated. Lance Corporal Brown died of his wounds one week later.

Private Horace French served in the same regiment and company as Robin and had just returned with the patrol prior to this one. Photographs of them both can be seen on page 107.

<sup>1</sup> Robin's sister was presented with the Elizabeth Cross (p.109) on 10 June 2010. The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll are granted to the Next of Kin of UK Armed Forces personnel who have died on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism in national recognition of their loss and sacrifice.