22 Private Leonard Mason, RASC (T/192022) repatriated prisoner of war, d 12th January 1944



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LEONARD MASON,
REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR.
DIED 12TH JANUARY 1944, AGED 23 YEARS.
AND JOHN EDWARD, HIS FATHER,
DIED 4TH MARCH 1948, AGED 64 YEARS.
AND EDITH HIS MOTHER,
DIED 24TH AUGUST 1987, AGED 91 YEARS.
AND JOHN HIS BROTHER,
DIED 7TH JULY 2000, AGED 68 YEARS.

BARROW SOLDIER PRISONER

DRIVER L. MASON, OF WALNEY

Mr. and Mrs. E. Mason, of 5, Hogue-street, Walney, have received word that their eldest son, Driver Leonard Mason, R.A.S.C., who was reported missing from 28 April, is a prisoner of war in Carinthia, Greece.

Twenty-one years of age, Driver Mason worked at Messrs. Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., as a motor driver before being called up in June 1940. He celebrated his 21st birthday a few weeks before he was reported missing, and his parents last heard from him in March of this year.

NWEM 16 August 1941

Not Expected

The report that Driver Mason was among the repatriated men was a surprise for his parents, because he had never indicated to them that he had been wounded, although they knew he was in hospital for a time.

He was called up in June, 1940, and served in Egypt and Greece. He was taken prisoner during the evacuation of the latter country in 1941.



Driver Mason.

Barrow News 30 October 1943

MASON.—(Repatriated P.O.W.), on the 12th of January at Conishead Priory Emergency Hospital, Driver Leonard Mason, R.A.S.C., beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Mason, of 5, Hogue-street, Walney, Barrow, aged 23 years. Funeral leaves 2 o'clock for Walney Cemetery on Saturday 15th inst. No flowers (by request).

NWEM 14 January 1944

MR. L. MASON, BARROW.

The funeral took place on Saturday, at Walney Parish Church of a recently-repatriated prisoner-of-war, Mr. Leonard Mason (23), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason, 5, Hogue-street, Walney. The Rev. C. Williams officiated both in church and at the graveside.

The mourners were:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason, parents; Miss Monica Mason, sister; Master John Mason, brother; Mr. L. Mason, uncle; Mrs. A. Mercer (Preston), aunt; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Goulding, uncle, aunt and cousin; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason, uncle and aunt; Mr. and Mrs. E. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. W. Blunsden, Mr. and Mrs. J. Collins, Mr. J. Ellis, Mrs. Woodall, Mrs. M. Tovey.

The bearers were workmates of the Traffic Department of Vickers'-Armstrongs where deceased worked before going into the Forces.

Barrow News 22 Jan 1944

Prisoners of war had often been poorly fed by their captors. However, in WW2 only seriously ill and disabled prisoners were exchanged.[1] Forces War Records indicate that Leonard Mason was reported missing on 18 July 1941, following action on 28 April 1941. During World War II Conishead became the largest military hospital in the North West with a capacity of 400 patients. During the period of October 1940 - August 1945 8,000 in-patients received treatment in the Hospital.[2]

[1] http://ww2today.com/19th-october-1943-disabled-pows-repatriated-in-prisoner-exchange
[2] http://www.conisheadpriory.org/conishead-priory-history.html