Peter Beaumont





Rank: - Fusilier

Number: - 14818977

Regiment: - Royal Welch Fusiliers 4th Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds 23 April 1945 age 19

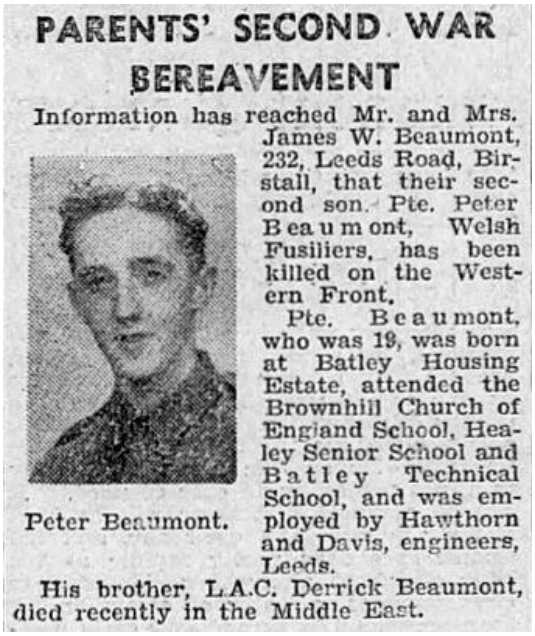
Cemetery: - Becklingem War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany 8.A.3.

Batley News, 12 May 1945 (photo)

Peter was born on the 23 Jul 1925 in the Housing Estate Batley, the son of James William and Charlotta Beaumont nee Moorhouse who had married in 1920. His brother of Leading Aircraftman Derrick Beaumont was born in 1920 and died in Egypt in October 1944.

Peter attended Brownhill Church of England School, Healey Senior School and Batley Technical School, later being employed by Hawthorn and Davis, engineers, Leeds. The family lived at 232, Leeds Road, Birstall.

Peter joined the 4th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who fought with the 53 Welsh Division across North-West Europe after 6 years of training.



PARENTS' SECOND WAR BEREAVEMENT

Information has reached Mr. and Mrs. James W. Beaumont, 232, Leeds Road, Birstall, that their second son, Pte. Peter Beaumont, Welsh Fusiliers, has been killed on the Western Front.

Pte. Beaumont, who was 19, was born at Batley Housing Estate, attended the Brownhill Church of England School, Healey Senior School and Batley Technical School, and was employed by Hawthorn and Davis, engineers, Leeds.

Peter Beaumont.

His brother, L.A.C. Derrick Beaumont, died recently in the Middle East.

53rd Welsh Division landed in Normandy on 28 June 1944 and was placed under command of XII Corps, now defending the Odon Valley position. The division was involved in heavy fighting in this area days leading up to Operation Goodwood. In August it began to push out of the Odon region and crossed the river Orne, helping to close the Falaise Pocket.

The 53rd Division finally cleared s'Hertogenbosch on the 27th October. Following continued fighting, the 53rd took part in early November in Operation MALLARD, which was designed to remove the Germans completely from the western bank of the Maas River.

On the 1st January 1945, the 53rd Division relieved the American 2nd Armoured Division (the "Hell on Wheels") between Marche and Hotton, where it remained until 17 January, gradually squeezing the German forces back as the Americans to the south and west closed the Bulge.

The liberated civilians from concentration camps called them 'The Fairy Godmother Division' for their help and generosity to those who had been left to die by the broken and dying Nazi regime.

Peter died of his wounds, in Germany, on 23 April 1945.

Peter was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group