Arthur Carter





Rank: - Lieutenant

Number: - 245700

Regiment: - Royal Tank Regiment, 3rd Battalion.

Died: - Killed in Action 28 June 1944

Cemetery: - Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, Calvados, France V11.E.5

(photo)

Arthur was born in 1917 the youngest son of Herbert and Mary Alice Carter nee Summers who had married in 1908. In 1911 the family was living at Dale House, Batley Carr. Maurice was born in 1909 followed by Bernard 1913, The family lived at "Lynden Lea", Grange Road, Staincliffe, Batley.

Arthur was educated at Warwick Road Council School. He joined the Tank Corps when he was 18 years old and was granted a commission in 1942. He served in Cairo, where he had helped to smash Graziani's push in Egypt and fought in Lybia. The 3rd Royal Armoured Corps later joined the 29th Armoured Brigade and fought in Normandy.

The Normandy landings were the landing operations and associated airborne operations on Tuesday, 6 June 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II. Codenamed Operation Neptune and often referred to as D-Day, it was the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of France (and later western Europe) and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front.

The amphibious landings were preceded by extensive aerial and naval bombardment and an airborne assault—the landing of 24,000 American, British, and Canadian airborne troops shortly after midnight.



STAINCLIFFE LIEUTENANT KILLED IN FRANCE

Was Transport Officer

Mrs. M. A. Carter, "Lyden Lea," Grange Road, Staincliffe, has received news that her youngest son, Lieut. Arthur Carter, was killed in Normandy on June 28th. He was acting as transport officer in charge of a column of replenishment lorries.

Arthur Carter.

Lieut. Carter, who was educated at Warwick Road Council School, Batley, was 27. He joined the Tank Corps when he was 18 and was granted a commission two years ago. He served in Cairo, had helped to smash Graziani's push in Egypt and fought in Libya.

A brother, Mr. Bernard Carter, is in Australia, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Bullen, is in London. His eldest brother, Sergt.

Batley News, 5 Aug 1944

Allied infantry and armoured divisions began landing on the coast of France at 06:30. The target 50-mile (80 km) stretch of the Normandy coast was divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha. The men landed under heavy fire from gun emplacements overlooking the beaches, and the shore was mined and covered with obstacles such as wooden stakes, metal tripods, and barbed wire, making the work of the beach-clearing teams difficult and dangerous. Casualties were heaviest at Omaha, with its high cliffs. At Gold, Juno, and Sword, several fortified towns were cleared in house-to house fighting, and two major gun emplacements at Gold were disabled using specialised tanks. The five beachheads were not connected unto 12 June. The fighting moved inland and on 28 June when it was reported that Arthur was acting as transport officer in charge of a column of replenishment of lorries when he was killed.

The Ryes War Cemetery is not far inland from the beaches at Arromanches where they landed on 6 June. The cemetery contains 652 Commonwealth burials, one Polish and 335 German graves.



Tank used by 3rd RAC

IN REMEMBRANCE OF A BELOVED SON AND FAITHFUL FRIEND

Arthur is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 107; Mackenzie Methodist Church, Batley Carr and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group