Arthur Farrar





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4617550

Regiment: - 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment (A Coy)

Died: - Killed in Action on D-Day 6 June 1944. Age 25 years

Cemetery: - Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France X. E. 3.

Batley News, 8 Jul 1944 (Acknowledgements)

Arthur was born in Batley on 30 Apr 1919 the son of Jonah Drake and Ann Elizabeth Farrar (nee Flathers) who had married on 11 Sep 1897 at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Walter their eldest child was born in 1899 followed by Abraham in 1902, William Henry in 1907, Ann Elizabeth in 1909 (died in 1911) Elsie in 1910, Jonah Drake in 1915 and finally Arthur. His mother died in May 1927 and

in 1939 Arthur and Jonah Drake (Jnr) were living with their father at 20, Back Crescent Street, Batley. His father died in January 1941.

Arthur enlisted on 19 October 1939 and was posted to the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment's 2/7th Battalion on 20 October 1939. His Regiment was attached to the 46th Division for all purposes on 5 March 1940 and were sent to France as part of the BEF on 18 April 1940. They were part of the rear guard action during the evacuation of Dunkirk and they left on 13 June 1940.

After the death of their Father on 28 January 1941, Arthur joined his brother Jonah Drake when he was transferred on compassionate grounds to the 11th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment on 1 April 1941. On 22 February 1943 they were both shipped to the Middle East and disembarked in Egypt on 16 April 1943 and later they were both compulsory transferred on 6 May 1943 to the Hampshire Regiment, which was part of the 231 Malta Brigade.

On 21 June 1943 they were posted to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

On 29 June 1943 they embarked, as part of H Force, to invade Sicily as part of A Company, 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment landing on 10 July 1943 at Marzamemi in Sicily as part of the assault troops. On 8 September 1943 they landed at Porto San Venere in Calabria, Italy again as assault troops.

On 18 October 1943 they embarked for home in preparation for the D-Day landings, disembarking in the UK on 6 November 1943.

Both Arthur and his brother, Jonah Drake Farrar, were in the same platoon of A Company, 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment on D-Day which was commanded by Lt. Jack Lauder. This platoon was the first of the 1st Battalion's Hampshire Regiment's soldiers to land on French soil on D-Day at 7:32 am. Jonah Drake Farrar was first out of the landing craft, whilst Arthur was one of the last to leave it.

Sadly, Arthur was killed by mortar fire shortly after he had stepped onto the beach. On D-Day, the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment had suffered 182 casualties, 64 of them being killed in action. Arthur was one of these men. By the end of October 1944 only two members of their D-Day Platoon were still on active service. The other 32 members of the Platoon were either dead, wounded, taken prisoner or missing in action.



Arthur and Jonah Drake Farrar in their Platoon (May 1944).

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, 1939-1945 War Medal and he should have been awarded posthumously the Dunkirk Medal (France), the Normandy Medal (UK), Operation Overlord Medal (France) and the Chevalier de Legion D'Honneur (France).

He is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 6; Carlinghow Working Men's Club (now hanging in St John's Church, Carlinghow) and Batley War Memorial Addenda 1999.



Thanks to John Farrar, son of Jonah Drake Farrar for details and photographs.