Leonard Fitzpatrick





Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - T/10671017

Regiment: - Royal Army Service Corps 716 (Airborne) Light Composite Coy.

Died: - Killed in Action, Normandy 23/06/1944 Age: 21 years.

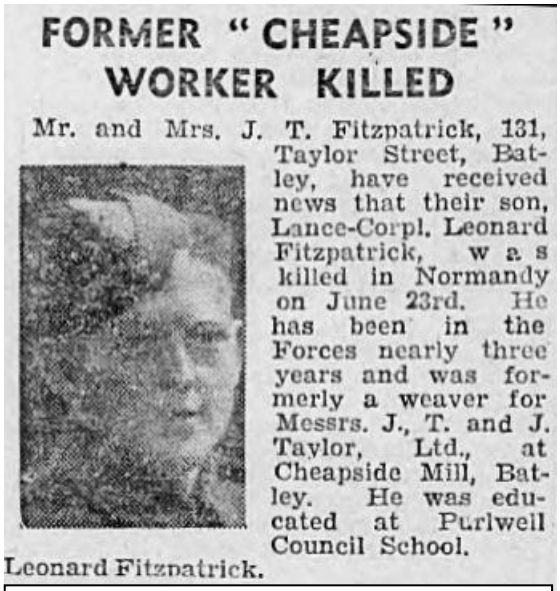
Cemetery: - Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France IIA. C. 1.

Leonard was born in 1923 the son of John Thomas and Eliza Ann Fitzpatrick nee Firth who had married at Batley Parish Church on 18 March 1905. Joseph was born later that year and died aged 7 weeks, John Thomas 1912, Peter 1916-1917 aged 5 months

Leonard attended Purlwell Council School and worked as a weaver at Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor, Cheapside Mills, Batley before he joined the Forces in late 1941.

John Thomas was a coal miner and in 1939 the family was living at 131, Taylor Street, Batley.

716 (Airborne) Light Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps operated as a support unit for the 6th Airborne Division. Its personnel were inserted by parachute and glider to gather and distribute supplies to the Division's fighting troops. The unit was formed in May 1943, with an establishment of 420 men, under the command of Major E Clive Jones and first went into action for the Normandy landings in June 1944.



FORMER "CHEAPSIDE" WORKER KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Fitzpatrick, 131, Taylor Street, Batley, have received news that their son, Lance-Corpl. Leonard Fitzpatrick, was killed in Normandy on June 23rd. He has been in the Forces nearly three years and was formerly a weaver for Messrs. J., T. and J. Taylor, Ltd., at Cheapside Mill, Batley. He was educated at Purlwell Council School.

Leonard Fitzpatrick.

Batley News, 15 Jul 1944 (photo)

No 1 and 2 Parachute Platoons went in with the 5th Parachute Brigade and half of No 3 Parachute Platoon went in with the 3rd Parachute Brigade. Although some transport elements were inserted by glider the limited air transport capacity meant that a significant part of 716 Coy went in by sea. However, by the end of the first week 716 Coy had re-established itself as a single entity in the battlefield. Eighteen members of 716 Coy lost their lives supporting the Division's activities right through to the Seine breakout in August.

DEEP IN OUR HEARTS A MEMORY IS KEPT OF ONE WE LOVED AND WILL NEVER FORGET

Leonard is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and The British Normandy Memorial, column 84. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group