Kenneth Naylor





Rank: - Sergeant (Observer)

Number: - 776006

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 37 Squadron

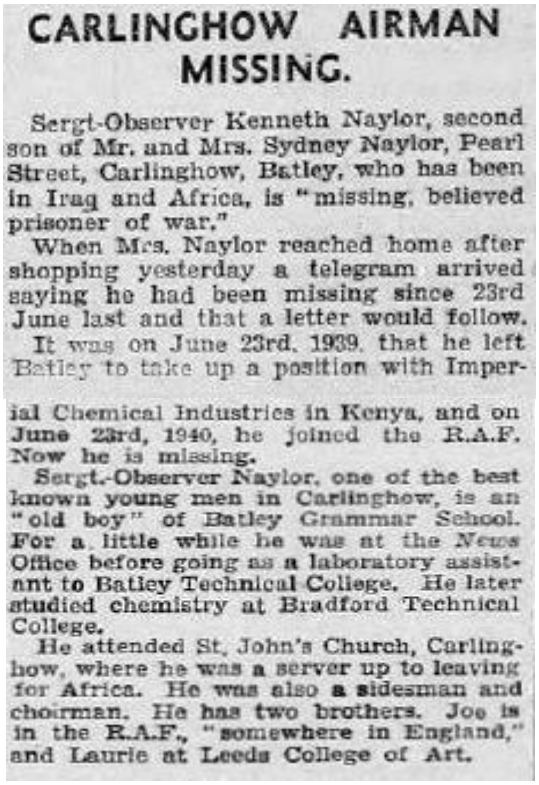
Died: - Died in North Africa area 23 June 1941

Cemetery: - Alamein Memorial, Egypt (R.A.F. Section) Column 243.

Batley News, 28 Jun 1941 (photo)

Kenneth was born in 1917, the second son of Sydney and Ethel Naylor nee Dickinson, who had married on 9 Apr 1910 at Fletcher Memorial Wesleyan Methodist Church, Cross Hall, Morley). Joseph Alfred (Joe) was born in 1911 followed by Marian 1915-Sept 1915 aged 11 weeks, Kenneth and Laurie 1917.

It was reported that Kenneth was one of the best-known young men in Carlinghow, and was an “old boy” of Batley Grammar School. For a short while after leaving school he was at the Batley News office before going to Batley Technical College as a laboratory assistant. He later studied chemistry at Bradford Technical College. He attended St. John’s Church, Carlinghow, where he was a server up to leaving for Africa. He was also a sidesman and choir man. It was on June 23 1939 that he left Batley to take up a position with Imperial Chemical Industries in Kenya. The family lived at 44, Pearl Street, Batley.



CARLINGHOW AIRMAN MISSING.

Sergt-Observer Kenneth Naylor, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Naylor, Pearl Street, Carlinghow, Batley, who has been in Iraq and Africa, is "missing, believed prisoner of war."

When Mrs. Naylor reached home after shopping yesterday a telegram arrived saying he had been missing since 23rd June last and that a letter would follow.

It was on June 23rd, 1939, that he left Batley to take up a position with Imperial Chemical Industries in Kenya, and on June 23rd, 1940, he joined the R.A.F. Now he is missing.

Sergt.-Observer Naylor, one of the best known young men in Carlinghow, is an "old boy" of Batley Grammar School. For a little while he was at the News Office before going as a laboratory assistant to Batley Technical College. He later studied chemistry at Bradford Technical College.

He attended St. John's Church, Carlinghow, where he was a server up to leaving for Africa. He was also a sidesman and choirman. He has two brothers. Joe is in the R.A.F., "somewhere in England," and Laurie at Leeds College of Art.

On 27 June 1941 his mother received a telegram saying he was missing since 23 June, believed to be a prisoner of war, and a letter would follow. It was not until February 1942 that it was presumed, he had been killed. He had taken part in a flight over Libya and a wireless message from his ‘plane said they had crashed but they were O. K. At the time of his death No37 Squadron was flying Wellington 1C bombers from Shallufa, Egypt and his aircraft was believed to have been brought down over Libya, possibly while attacking supply routes of the German Afrika Korps (thanks to Bill Berry).

Kenneth was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group