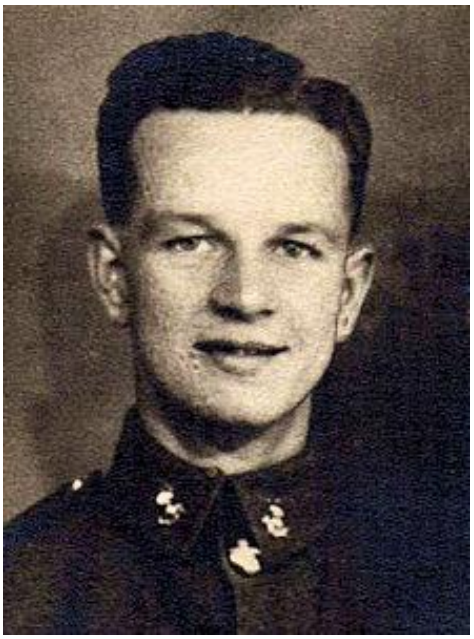
Ernest Pendlebury





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 2000197

Regiment: - Royal Engineers, 261 (Airborne) Field Park Coy.

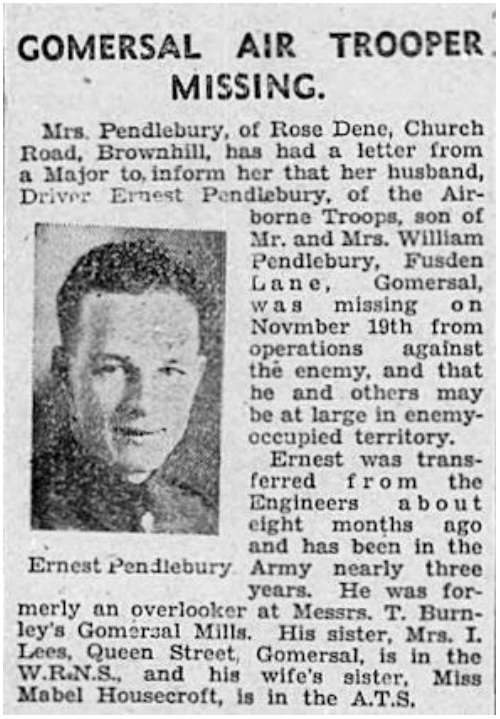
Died: - Killed in Action 20/11/1942 Age: 25 years

Cemetery: - Stavangar (Eiganes) Churchyard, Norway Z. 7.

Batley News, 5 Dec 1942 (photo)

Ernest was born on the 7 May 1917 the son of William and Polly Pendlebury nee Shaw who had married in 1907, registered Dewsbury. In 1911 the couple lived at White Lee, Batley. Ida was born in 1912, Ernest and Jeffrey in 1925. In 1939 the family lived at 3,

Fusden Lane, Gomersal and Ernest gave his occupation as a mule spinner overlooker at Messrs. T. Burnleys, Gomersal Mills. In 1940 he married Marjorie Housecroft of Rosedene, Church Road, Brownhill.



GOMERSAL AIR TROOPER MISSING.

Mrs. Pendlebury, of Rose Dene, Church Road, Brownhill, has had a letter from a Major to inform her that her husband, Driver Ernest Pendlebury, of the Airborne Troops, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pendlebury, Fusden Lane, Gomersal, was missing on Novmber 19th from operations against the enemy, and that he and others may be at large in enemy-occupied territory.

Ernest Pendlebury

Ernest was transferred from the Engineers about eight months ago and has been in the Army nearly three years. He was formerly an overlooker at Messrs. T. Burnley's Gomersal Mills. His sister, Mrs. I. Lees, Queen Street, Gomersal, is in the W.R.N.S., and his wife's sister, Miss Mabel Housecroft, is in the A.T.S.

Ernest joined the Army in early 1940 and transferred to the Airborne Company in around March 1942.

In November 1942, an attempt was made to destroy the hydroelectric power station at Vermork, in Telemark, where heavy water was produced for German atomic research. Two gliders and an aircraft engaged in the raid crashed in southern Norway. All those aboard, Royal Engineers of the 1st Airborne Division and members of the Commonwealth air-forces were either killed in the crash or died later, at the hands of their German captors. The heavy water plant was eventually destroyed by a party of six Norwegians dropped by parachute in 1943. Stavanger (Eiganes) Churchyard contains the graves of 25 service men who died in the raid, A further 7 were buried at Helleland Churchyard and 5 who were executed in January 1943 are buried in Oslo Western Cemetery.

Marjorie received news from a Major that her husband was missing on 19 November and it was hoped he was at large in enemy territory. Sadly, Ernest had been killed.

TREASURED MEMORIES OF A DEAR HUSBAND, SON AND BROTHER. TILL WE MEET AGAIN

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

Ernest is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group