Farrar Priestley







Photos and courtesy Bill Berry & CWGC

Rank: - Sergeant (Wireless Op.AG)

Number: - 1681685

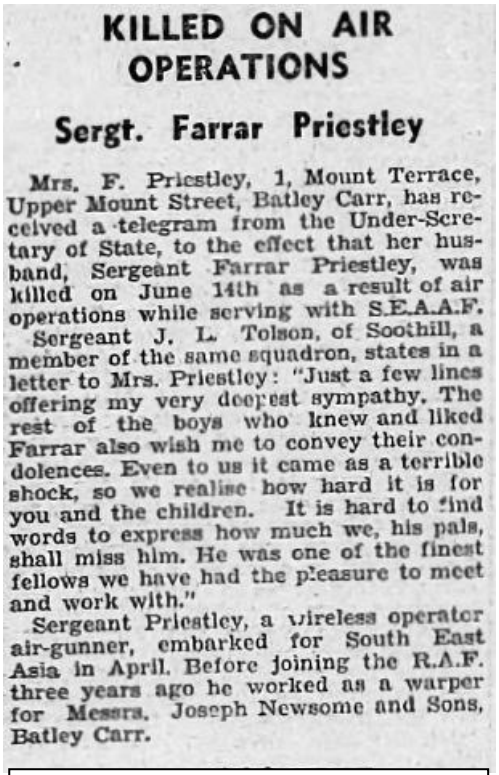
Service: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 358 Squadron, Code N.

Died: - Died 12 June 1945

Cemetery: - Chittagong War Cemetery, Bangladesh, Plot 3 Row C, Grave 6.

Farrar was born in Batley Carr, on 21 October 1909, the son of William Henry and Emma Jane Priestley nee Dyson who had married on 2 Mar 1907 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. William Henry came from Elland and Emma was born at Salendine Nook. In 1911 they lived at 83, Victoria Street, Batley Carr.

In 1935 he married Dorothy Ainsworth and Colin was born later that year followed by Alan in 1939. They lived at 1, Mount Terrace, Upper Mount St. Batley and before he enlisted in 1942, he worked at Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr as a warper. He embarked for Asia in April 1945.



KILLED ON AIR OPERATIONS

Sergt. Farrar Priestley

Mrs. F. Priestley, 1, Mount Terrace, Upper Mount Street, Batley Carr, has received a telegram from the Under-Secretary of State, to the effect that her husband, Sergeant Farrar Priestley, was killed on June 14th as a result of air operations while serving with S.E.A.A.F.

Sergeant J. L. Tolson, of Soothill, a member of the same squadron, states in a letter to Mrs. Priestley: "Just a few lines offering my very deepest sympathy. The rest of the boys who knew and liked Farrar also wish me to convey their condolences. Even to us it came as a terrible shock, so we realise how hard it is for you and the children. It is hard to find words to express how much we, his pals, shall miss him. He was one of the finest fellows we have had the pleasure to meet and work with."

Sergeant Priestley, a wireless operator air-gunner, embarked for South East Asia in April. Before joining the R.A.F. three years ago he worked as a warper for Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr.

Batley News, 23 Jun 1945

Farrar was the last Batley man to die in active service in the 1939-45 war. No. 358 Squadron was formed in India in November 1944 with 16 Liberators and bombed Mandalay on January 13 1945. It was then allocated to special duties, dropping agents and supplies into enemy territory. Sergeant J. L. Tolson, a member of the same squadron stated in a letter to his wife: -

"Just a few lines offering my very deepest sympathy. The rest of the boys who knew and liked Farrar also wish me to convey their condolences. Even to us it came as a terrible shock, so we realise how hard it is for you and the children. It is hard to find words to express how much we, his pals, shall miss him. He was one of the finest fellows we have had the pleasure to meet and work with."

Farrar was the last airman from Batley to die on active service in the 1939-45 War.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and 1939-45 War Medal

Farrar is remembered with Honour on the Lychgate, Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr; Batley Carr Working Men's Club; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Thanks to Bill Berry