

## Peter Brian Roche



**Rank:** - Private

**Number:** - 19125910

**Regiment:** - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

**Died:** - 1<sup>st</sup> December 1947, Singapore Military Hospital, age 18 years.

**Cemetery:** - Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore 34. A. 4.

Peter was born on December 1928 the son of Arthur Francis and Fanny Roche (nee Day, m. 1928, registered Dewsbury) of Batley. His sister, Margaret M was born in 1940 and the family lived at 16 Maxwell Avenue, Salter Square, Batley Carr.

Peter was educated at St. Josephs Roman Catholic School at Batley Carr and the Batley School of Arts before becoming a motor mechanic, in Leeds. It was reported that he was an enthusiastic swimmer, a member of the St. Gabriels Guild and had been Chief Squire in the boy's section of the \*Knights of St.

Columba. One of the recollections his sister has was that he fitted a seat for her to the back of his push bike so she could join him cycling around the locality. He was a very popular boy and joined the Army in January 1947 and left England in July with the Duke of Wellingtons Regiment aboard the troopship "Georgic". Because he was a motor mechanic, he was exempt from military service until he reached the age of 21, but he wanted to get his service finished and concentrate on his career, so he volunteered.

According to newspaper reports, Peter died from multiple injuries in a British Military Hospital, in Singapore a few days before his 19th birthday. His sister recalls that there had been a monsoon and even espionage may have occurred but at this stage we cannot confirm.

BELOVED SON OF MR. AND MRS ARTHUR  
ROCHE MAY HE REST IN PEACE

\*The Knights of St Columba is a Catholic fraternal service order. Founded in Glasgow in 1919, it is named in honour of Saint Columba, a Christian missionary from Ireland who helped to introduce Christianity to some of the people in the north of Britain. The organisation describes itself as being dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The St. Gabriel Guild was an ecclesiastical group of stamp collectors.

Peter Brian is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate and Batley War Memorial, Addenda, 2019.

**BATLEY CARR SOLDIER  
DIES IN SINGAPORE**

**Parents' Sad News on Eve of  
19th Birthday**

The sad news of the death in a military hospital at Singapore of their only son, Pte. Peter Brian Roche, has been received this week by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roche, of 16, Maxwell Avenue, Salter Square, Batley Carr. Further details are awaited by the anxious parents, with whom the deepest sympathy will be felt, but it is known that Pte. Roche died from multiple injuries in a British Military Hospital. He would have celebrated his 19th birthday to-day (Friday).

A very popular youth, Pte. Roche joined the Army in January of this year, and left England with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in July aboard the troopship "Georgic." He was a motor driver-mechanic. Educated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School and the Batley School of Art, Pte. Roche was an apprentice motor mechanic at Leeds and was exempt from military service until he reached the age of 21. In order that he could get his service finished, and so be able to concentrate on his career, he volunteered.

An enthusiastic swimmer, he was a member of the St. Gabriel's Guild, and had been Chief Squire in the boys' section of the Knights of St. Columba. He had a likeable personality and made a wide circle of friends. His father, Mr. Arthur Roche, is employed by the Petroleum Board at Ossett and he has a seven-years-old sister, Margaret.



Pte. P. B. Roche



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group