

Joseph Sheridan



Rank: - Ordinary Seaman

Number: - D/JX 420266

Regiment: - Royal Navy H.M.L.C.S. (L) 256

Died: - Landing Craft lost 1 November 1944, aged 19 years.

Memorial: - Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 88, Column 2.

Batley News, 2 Dec 1944 (photo)

Joseph was born in 1925 the son of William and Annie Sheridan nee Brannen who had married in 1922. Mary was born in 1923 and died aged 7 months in February 1924, Joseph, Kathleen 1927, Peter 1929. Joseph attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and was a member of the Young Men's Club. He worked at Messrs. Thomas Burnley & Sons, Gomersal before joining the Royal Navy. The family lived at 18, Providence Street, Batley.

Joseph took part in the D-Day Landings in June 1944.

The city of Antwerp and its port was captured by British 2nd Army in early September 1944. While 21st Army Group's priority at the time was Operation Market Garden, no sense of urgency was placed in securing the approaches to the port facilities there. Walcheren Island, at the western end of the Beveland Peninsula overlooked the Scheldt Estuary and was

Reported Missing

Mr. and Mrs. William Sheridan, 18, Providence Street, Batley, received news recently that their son, Signaller Joseph Sheridan, R.N., is missing after operations at Walcheren Island.



Aged 19, he joined the Royal Navy two years ago, and took part in the D-Day landings.

He formerly attended St. Marys Roman Catholic Church, and was a member of the Young Men's Club. He worked for Messrs. Thos. Burnley and Sons, Gomersal.

strongly garrisoned by the German 15th Army who had emplaced strong concrete fortifications and large calibre guns which made it impossible to transit the waterway into Antwerp. Because of this delay the remnants of the 15th Army "had been given the time to escape and reinforce the island of Walcheren and the South Beveland Peninsula".

Operation Infatuate was the code name given to an Anglo-Canadian operation in November 1944 during the Second World War to open the port of Antwerp to shipping and relieve logistical constraints. The operation was part of the wider Battle of the Scheldt and involved two assault landings from the sea by the 4th Special Service Brigade and the 52nd (Lowland) Division.

The force sailed from Ostend at 3.05 hours on 1 November and by 09.30 hours they reached Walcheren. The heavy ships bombarded the German defences with the 15-inch guns of HMS *Warspite*, the guns of LCG's, the rockets of LCT(R)s and a squadron of rocket-firing Typhoons. However, the German defences held fire until the assault landing craft and support craft made for the shore. Several were hit, including the LCT(R), which received a direct hit. Thirty landing craft from the Close Support Squadron were lost and over 300 men were killed in action. Joseph was one of them.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

Joseph is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial



Researched by members of
Batley History Group