

Michael Robert Beswick 1924 - 1944

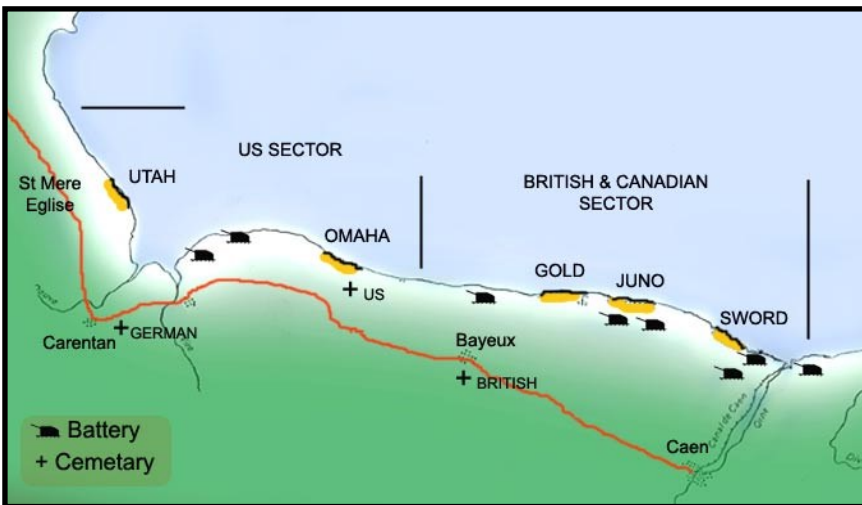
Michael Robert Beswick was born in 1924 the son of Wilfrid and Ethel Beswick.

By the 1930s the family were living at Lightwood, Greenway on The Dairyfields in Trentham.

Michael attended school at Eversleigh House, Basford and then Newcastle High School, after which he became an apprentice civil engineer at local firm Messrs. John Mowlem Ltd.

Outside school and work he was a keen golfer and enjoyed many rounds on Trentham Park golf club.

Michael enlisted on 7th January 1943, aged 19, at Clitheroe and joined the Royal Engineers with Army number 14504292.



D Day Action

Lance Corporal Beswick was part of the 26 Assault Squadron, as they embarked in the Solent for Operation Overlord. On D-Day, 6th June 1944, they landed on Juno beach in Normandy at 8 a.m. Their role as breaching teams was to clear the way through the dunes, by checking for mines and making a track across the soft ground, using the fascines they carried on the AVREs (Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers). This was to enable the armoured tanks to make progress after they landed on the beaches.



AVREs - Armoured vehicles designed to keep engineers safe as they undertook frontline battlefield operations

Fatal Wounds

Although Michael survived D Day operations, the army's progress was slow and met fierce German resistance and Michael was wounded on the battlefield in Normandy on 16th June. His casualty card states that he was unconscious and had a compound fracture of his elbow.

He was transferred to the Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton, where he was placed on the dangerously ill list on 22nd June.

He died a week later on 29th June, nine days after his 20th birthday.

3010 CASUALTY CARD. RH

ARMY No. ⁵ 14504292 RANK ¹ Lt Surname **BESWICK**
 CHRISTIAN NAMES (in full) **MICHAEL ROBERT** (in block letters)

UNIT **XII LIST 26** REGT. OR CORPS. **R.E. 14504292**

To be completed in pencil—when required.
 Name **MB W BESWICK** Relationship **FATHER**
 Address **LIGHTWOOD DAIRYFIELDS**
 of Next of Kin **TRENTHAM, STAFFS.**

| DATE OF CASUALTY | SOURCE OF INFORMATION | PRESENT LOCATION AND NATURE OF CASUALTY (to include diagnosis) | REF. No. & DATE OF A.F.W. 3016 | DATE N. OF K. INFORMED |
|------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| 17-6-44 | Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton | Wounded N.W. Europe, 26 June 44. Unconscious. | PII 4/194 1/27/44 2/1/5105 | 22-6-44 |
| 22-6-44 | Copy of report from hospital | Placed on D.L. list, R.S.H. & S. Hosp. | 1/3016 22/7 June/44 13/3016 25/10 June/44 | 22/7 June/44 R.S.H. Hosp. |
| 29-6-44 | EMS 105 FROM ROYAL SOUTHANTS SOUTHAMPTON, HOSP. 29-6-44 | DIED OF WOUNDS AND SHOCK IN BATTLE CASUALTY N.W. EUROPE | 1/3016 11/4 JULY 44 | 12-7-44 |
| | | BORN 20-6-24 STOKES ON TRENT | | |
| | | ENLISTED 7-1-43 Clitheroe. | | |
| | | A.F.B 104. 89491 to R.P. 13-7-44 | | |
| | | DE 3280 A.F.B 104. 98 to WO 12-7-44 | M 35. 13-7-44 | |

WT 26127(173). 600s. 9/52 R.P. 21-575

Funeral

This was held at Carmountside Crematorium in Stoke on Trent and the service was taken by the Rev. A.E. Grimes Vicar of Trentham Parish church.

He is remembered there and also on the war memorial at Trentham.



There were many expressions of esteem and sympathy at the funeral, at Carmountside Crematorium, of Lance-Corporal **Michael Beswick**, Royal Engineers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred **Beswick** of Lightwood, Dairyfields, Trentham, whose death, as previously reported in the *Sentinel*, occurred in a Hampshire hospital following injuries received on the Western front.

The large congregation attending the service, conducted by the Vicar of Trentham (the Rev. A. E. Grimes), in addition to the family mourners, included members of the Trentham Park Golf Club, of which Lance-Corporal Beswick was a popular playing member, and many other friends. Many messages of sympathy have been received by the family.

