Michael Robert Beswick 1924 - 1944

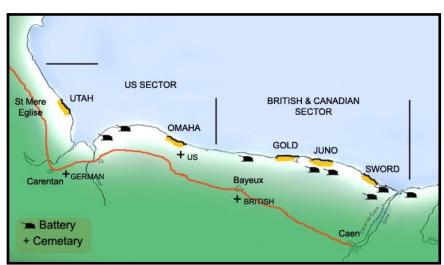
Michael Robert Beswick was born in 1924 the son of Wilfrid and Ethel Beswick.

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.





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



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.

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.

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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 Carmountside Crema torium. of Lance-Corporal Michae **Beswick** Royal Engineers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Beswick of Lightwood, Dairyfields, Trentham, whose death, as previously reported in Sentinel, occurred in a Hamphospital following injuries received Western front. congregation large attending the service, conducted by the Vicar nf Trentham (the Rev. A. E. Grimes), in addition to the 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.

British Legion Standard

On Sunday 20th June 1948, Michael's parents, Wilfrid and Ethel Beswick presented a standard to the local branch of the British Legion in memory of the local men who had lost their lives in the war.

In a letter to The Sentinel Mr Beswick wrote that the ceremony of dedication at the Parish Church would "live in the memory of those who were present, for all time."

Michael's two brothers: Pilot Officer W T Beswick, who served with the RAF in Canada and Staff-Sergeant Derrick Beswick of R.E.M.E. both survived the war.

> In Memory Of Lance Corporal

MICHAEL ROBERT BESWICK

Service Number: 14504292

Royal Engineers who died on 29 June 1944 Age 20

Son of Wilfrid and Ethel Beswick, of Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.

Remembered with Honour

STOKE-ON-TRENT CREMATORIUM



IIIIII COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES IIIIIII

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUTY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION





The parade marched to the Trentham War Memorial where Mr. W. Beswick laid a wreath. A Legion bugler sounded the Last Post and buglers of the Sea Cadet Corp. the Reveille.

Among those present were Major J. E. Watson (Branch Chairman). Lieutenant-Commander G. L. F. Fleet. R.N.V.R., Major J. Deakin, M.C., Flight-Lieutenant L. H. Derby, Sub-Lieutenant H. C. Williams, Mr. C. Harrison, Mr. B. Ferriday, Mr. T. Bingley-Frearson, Mr. E. Wagstaff, Mr. A. Birks, Mr. Bell, Mr. A. Fradley, Mr. A. Eccles (Branch Secretary), and Mrs. F. G. Parr (County Secretary, Women's Section).

Mr. and Mrs. W. Beswick, of Lightwood, Dairyfields, Trentham who lost a son during the war presented the standard to the local branch of the Legion in memory of local men who lost their lives.

In a letter to the Sentinel, Mr. Beswick said the ceremony at the Parish Church would "live in the memory of those who were present, for all time."

May I be allowed the continued to place on record my personal appreciation of the wonderful way everything was carried out.

To the officers of the British Legion and other Services, the standard bearers and men and women who took part, the Vicar and Choir, my heartfelt thanks

and Choir, my heartfelt thanks.

To my own people and friends who supported me so splendidly at the church service and the ceremony of the placing of the wreath in memory of the loved ones who gave their lives that we might live, my heartfelt thanks.

One does not realise the wonderful work of the British Legion until such times as these."

Memorial at Carmountside Crematorium Stoke on Trent