

In Memory Of

Gunner

LESLIE ROBERT GARDENER

Service Number: 1130507

75 Anti-Tank Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 05 August 1944 Age 23

Son of Reginald and Rose Gardener; husband of Irene Lesley Gardener, of Culmington, Shropshire.

Remembered with Honour

BAYEUX MEMORIAL

Panel 11, Column 2.



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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
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COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

LESLIE ROBERT GARDENER, Little Stretton.

Gunner, Royal Artillery

Died 5th August 1944. Aged 23

Commemorated on the Bayeux Memorial, France

Leslie Robert Gardener was born in Church Stretton on 15th April 1921 to mother Rosella J Gardener (nee Bland) and father Reginald J Gardener.

At the time of the 1921 Census, when Leslie was 2 months old, the family were living in Small Batch, Little Stretton. Leslie's older brother William J was just one year and 2 months old. Their father, Reginald stated that he was a general labourer, and his employer was EH Nicholls, a builder but Reginald was "out of work".

By time of the 1939 Register the family were living at 5, Crossbanks, Church Stretton. Reginald, then seeming to be John Reginald, was once again a general labourer. Leslie then had 4 younger siblings. His older brother William was no longer at home with them. Leslie, aged 15 was a Greenhouse Gardener. Maybe to avoid confusion their surname is then spelled Gardner. Maybe an enumerator's error?

In early 1943 (April/June) Leslie married Irene Lesley Hughes in Ludlow.

The next mention of Leslie is in an Army Casualty list under a heading "*Previously reported Missing believed Prisoner of War now reported killed in action.*"

Leslie's enlistment papers have not been found but he served in the Royal Artillery 75 Anti-Tank Regiment, Service number 1130507. The commemoration on the Bayeux Memorial states that he died on 5th August 1944 aged 23. He had been married for just under a year.

One month after Leslie was killed his son Anthony Leslie Allan Gardener was born. Leslie didn't know that and Anthony never met his father. One of the many sad stories found.