

PRIVATE RICHARD JOSEPH KEARNS

Service Number: 14556334

Enlisted: 2/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

Born: 1924

Died: 26th February 1944, Aged 20

Memorials: Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio

Plot XX, Row G, Grave 9

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Burbage War Memorial



Richard Joseph Kearns was born in 1924, the son of Richard and Mary Kearns of 69 Lychgate Lane, Burbage. His father was a hosiery knitter and his eldest brother James a textile engineer.

Richard was a Private assigned to the 2/5th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and died of his wounds on 26th February 1944 whilst fighting in Italy. He is buried at Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy.

The site of the cemetery originally lay close to a casualty clearing station. Burials were made direct from the battlefield after the landings at Anzio and later, after the Army had moved forward, many graves were brought in from the surrounding country. Beach Head War Cemetery contains 2,316 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 295 of them unidentified. There is also one First World War burial which was brought into the cemetery from Chieti Communal Cemetery near Rome. The cemetery was designed by Louis de Soissons.

Army No.	NAMES (in full) (Surname first, in block letters)	Transfers to other Corps or cause of becoming non-effective and record of re-enlistment (if any) (Including date)
<i>Siron</i>		
<i>Rame</i>		<i>2nd Para Bde (Lt) KR 60</i>
<i>7397247</i>	<i>COUSINS</i>	<i>2.9.44</i>
<i>14.8.41</i>		
<i>Leicester</i>		<i>Richard 7/5</i>
<i>14556334</i>	<i>KEARNS</i>	<i>26.2.44</i>
<i>4.3.43</i>		<i>Joseph Died of Wounds</i>
		<i>26.2.44</i>

Regimental Roll

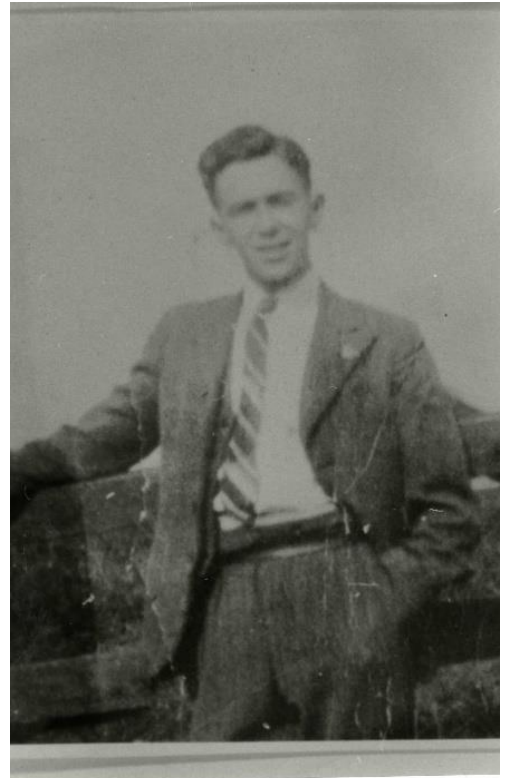
History Information

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side. Progress through southern Italy was rapid despite stiff resistance, but by the end of October, the Allies were facing the German winter defensive position known as the Gustav Line, which stretched from the river Garigliano in the west to the Sangro in the east. Initial attempts to breach the western end of the line were unsuccessful. Operations in January 1944 landed troops behind the German lines at Anzio, but defences were well organised, and a breakthrough was not actually achieved until May.





Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio



Private Richard Joseph Kearns

(398) D42855/WrP1471 20,000 (2) 11/53 JC&S Gp669

MKM

Graves Registration Report Form.

COUNTRY: ITALY
 COMMUNE: XXXXXXXXXX

REPORT No.: _____ SCHEDULE No.: 199.

PLACE OF BURIAL: BEACH HEAD WAR CEMETERY, ANZIO.

Land belongs to _____

Certified complete and correct.

The following are buried here:—

Signature: RRS Date: _____

Gr.No.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name & Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
<u>PLOT XX, ROW G (contd.)</u>					
8	14579706 Pte.	R.W. DALLISON ✓	7th Bn. Oxford & Bucks Lt. Inf.	16.2.44	C.H.
9	14556334 Pte.	R.J. KEARNS ✓	2/5th Bn. Queen's Royal Regt.	26.2.44	C.H.

Grave Registration Form