

## Sapper Arthur Thomas Jackson (1912-1944)



Arthur was the son of Albert Lewis and Christina Mae (Buchanan) Jackson of Shelburne Nova Scotia.. He was one of nine children. He had seven brothers all who served in the Canadian Army and a sister Ada.

In 1936 Arthur married Mary "Ellen" Crowell and they had a daughter Sandra Diane and a son, Albert Eugene.

Before the war he worked as a carpenter at the W C McKay Shipyard in Shelburne, and trained with the militia before he enlisted in the R.C.E. in Bridgewater on 6 July 1941. After his initial training he was posted to the 7th Construction Company and on 12 March 1942 he was a sapper stationed at Petawawa, Ontario.

On his arrival in the U.K. in late 1942 he was first posted to 6 Field Park and on 17 December 1943 was transferred to 6 Field Coy and joined them on the Isle of Wight.

Arthur was posted to 2 Platoon, which was the assault platoon in the first wave on D-Day. The 6-man engineer team that he was in was supported 10 platoon B Company of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. He was mortally wounded by German machine gun fire during the beach landing. He died a short time later and is buried at Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France.

A letter to his wife written by Acting Major T.R. Miller, the Officer Commanding the 6th Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers describes the bravery of Arthur:

*Dear Mrs. Jackson:*

*It is with great difficulty I write to you of your husband's death. The time must have been very long indeed waiting for news, but we had to be sure you had heard through official channels first.*

*I realize how much you must have loved Spr. Jackson because he had been in my platoon for over a year, during which time his cheerful temperament had been a morale booster for us all. Although it is small consolation, I feel you should know the facts surrounding his death. Spr. Jackson was with one of the engineering teams which assisted the infantry in taking the beaches of Normandy. Carrying explosive charges to be used on enemy concrete emplacements, his section was met by heavy machine gun fire and Spr Jackson was mortally wounded. He accepted this dangerous task as cheerfully as any other task and you should be very proud of him because were it not for men like him the Invasion would never have been successful.*

*I join with you and your family in your great sorrow, and I extend my most heart felt sympathy.*