



## Private Richard Joseph Kearns - 14556334

2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment  
(West Surrey)

Died of Wounds 26<sup>th</sup> February 1944, aged 20  
Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio  
Plot XX, Row G, Grave 9

Son of Mr Richard and Mrs Mary Kearns

Burbage War Memorial  
St Catherine's Church 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 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and died of his wounds on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1944 whilst fighting in Italy. He is buried at Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy.

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>Given</i>		
<i>Name</i>		
7397247 14.5.41	COUSINS	<i>transferred</i> 2.9.44
<i>Leavers</i>		
14556334 4.3.43	KEARNS	<i>Richard</i> <i>Joseph</i> 26.2.44 Died of Wounds.

Regimental Roll

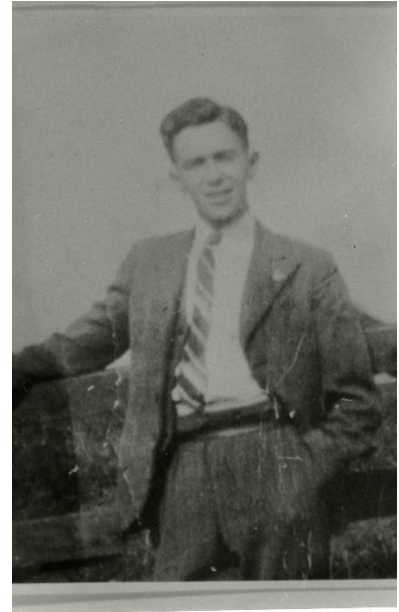


Beachy Head War Cemetery, Anzio

## 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.



*Private Richard Joseph Kearns*

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.

(398) D42855/WtP1471 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 \_\_\_\_\_

The following are buried here:—

Certified complete and correct.

Signature ARS 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 Report