

Marine Arthur Fleet, 47RM Commando,
Killed in action Normandy 6 June 1944.

WINSFORD MARINE KILLED

OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

Marine Arthur Fleet (24), youngest son of Mr and Mrs Jas Fleet, 7, Massey Avenue, Wharton, Winsford, who was awarded the certificate of the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society for gallantry in life-saving when he was 15 has been reported killed in action.

The Commanding Officer of the Royal Marine Depot has conveyed the sympathy of the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines to the parents in their loss.

Marine Arthur Fleet has been buried in France. He was serving with the Marine Commandos.

Lieutenant G C Wilson with the Marine Commandos, has written to the father and mother as follows:—"Firstly, I must apologise for not having written before, but as you probably know we have been in action ever since we landed, and consequently quite busy. I cannot tell you how sorry I was about your son's death. I was one of his troop officers for some months before the operation, and he was always a cheery, willing lad. It was a great loss to us all.



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SHELL FROM FLAK SHIP

He landed all right on D-Day, and came with us to our present post. It was our troop's task to attack an enemy strongpoint just west of the port. We got through the wire and were just getting ready to attack when some German flak ships opened up on us from point-blank range. It was a shell from one of these ships that killed your son. He died instantly. I have since been to his grave, and found it in a corner of a little French garden. The people, in an effort to show their gratitude, keep the grave covered with flowers. He is buried with all his chums, including his troop commander, Capt ——. I think that is how he would have liked it. I was proud and honoured to have fought side by side with your son. He was a brave soldier, and a grand lad, a credit not only to Commandos, but, above all, to his parents. I know how it must hurt you to read this, so I will finish by saying that if ever you would like to see me and talk about things I will be only too glad to come."

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CHAPLAIN'S SYMPATHY

The Rev. Reginald Hall, Chaplain, R.N.V.R., writes from Normandy: "I recovered his body from the battlefield at about 4 o'clock the next day, and buried him with his friends in a little garden behind the Civil Cemetery here. A cross with permanent inscription marks his resting place, and ever since, the French people, whom he so bravely helped to liberate, have not ceased to cover his grave with flowers. I sincerely hope that after the first cruel shock of your sad bereavement has been overcome, you will find comfort in the proud memory that your son, a brave man, was one of the first to pay the supreme sacrifice in this great offensive against the enemy. If there is anything further you wish me to tell you, or any way in which I can be of assistance, I hope you will let me know"

Marine Fleet an old Wharton schoolboy, was a Rover with the 1st Winsford Scouts when he won his certificate for helping to rescue two men at Winsford, and he also received a Scouts' certificate for his gallant act. He was employed by I.C.I. Salt Division, and letters expressing sympathy from the I.C.I. directorate have been received from Lord McGowan and Mr. Deuchar.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleet desire through "The Chronicle" to express their thanks for the many messages of sympathy and kindness received during their bereavement