

WILLIAM LACEY GOLDFINCH



Rank/ Number: Serjeant 954859
Regiment: Royal Artillery, 76th (Highland) Field Regiment

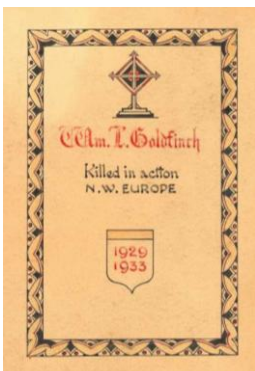
William Lacey Goldsmith was born in 1918 to William Lacey Goldfinch and his wife, Ellen Charlotte (nee Wright) of Whitfield. He was educated at Dover Grammar School before joining the family butchery business.

William met his wife, Gladys Eileen Hartley of Longfield Road, Dover, when she started working at the Tower Hamlets shop. They married on 27 July 1940 at St James the Apostle church in Maison Dieu Road. By this time William had joined the Army. Gladys was evacuated to her sister's house in Dartford, which is where their son, Trevor, was born in 1943.

The 76th Field Regiment landed on Sword Beach on 6 June 1944 (D-Day) and provided covering fire for the infantry attacking the bridges over the Caen Canal and the River Orne. By the end of June the Regiment was based near the Chateau de la Londe, providing artillery support for infantry in a number of engagements against fiercely defended German positions. The armoured divisions captured Borguebus Ridge on 23 July.

William Goldfinch was killed on 26 July 1944. He was 26 years old. He is buried at La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres. The family chose for the following verse to be added to his headstone:

*The call was sudden
The blow severe
To part with one
We loved so dear*



His name is on the Dover War Memorial and also in the Roll of Honour at Dover Grammar School for Boys.

Gladys remarried in 1947 and emigrated to Australia in the early 1950s with her new family.