

**National Archives & Records Administration
War Department Files**

**CAPT Harold A. Mayhew
Class 30-42**

ID: 01170075

**Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Hometown: Hanson County, SD
Status: KIA January 18, 1944**



Killed in action serving with Battery A, 937th Field Artillery Battalion



**In Memory of Army Captain
Harold Arthur Mayhew
Bridgewater, South Dakota
McCook County
February 13, 1919 – January 18, 1944
Killed in Action in Monte Cassino, Italy**

Harold Arthur Mayhew was born in Emery, South Dakota, on February 13, 1919. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Al Mayhew. Harold had three brothers, John, Walter, and Clifford, and one sister, Mary. Harold attended St. Stephan's Grade School and graduated from Bridgewater High School in 1937. After graduation, he worked as a movie projector operator. On October 10, 1941, Harold married Grace Baragar in Seattle, Washington. They had one son, Harold Arthur Mayhew II.

In October of 1939, Harold enlisted into the Army in Emery, South Dakota. He received his military training in Fort Lewis, Washington. He was also trained in Officer Candidate School. Harold was sent overseas in September of 1943. He was stationed in North Africa, and Sicily, Italy. He rose to the rank of Field Artillery Captain in five years. Captain Mayhew participated in battles in North Africa, Sicily, and Monte Cassino.

On January 18, 1944, Captain Mayhew was killed in action by a land mine. Mrs. Grace Mayhew, his wife, received the news of her husband's death from a letter sent by Major General J. A. Ulio. It stated:

"It is with regret that I am writing to confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your husband, Captain Harold A. Mayhew, Field Artillery, who was killed in action on 18 January 1944 in Italy.

I fully understand your desire to learn as much as possible regarding the circumstances leading to his death and I wish that there were more information available to give you. Unfortunately, reports of this nature contain only the briefest details as they are prepared under battle conditions and the means of transmission are limited.

I know the sorrow this message has brought you and it is my hope that in time the knowledge of his heroic service in defense of his country, even unto death, may be of sustaining comfort to you."

Harold was buried at St. Martin's Cemetery in Emery, South Dakota. He received a purple heart and was an expert rifleman. Survivors at this time are his wife, Mrs. Grace M. Mayhew, and their son, Harold Mayhew II. The Mayhew family has a strong tradition of military service dating back to the Civil War. Harold Mayhew II was only 8 months old when his father lost his life in service to this country. Today, Harold Mayhew II has this to say of his father:

"He was the ultimate patriot. He was extremely gifted in mathematics and had beautiful penmanship. He was full of life, love for his family and country."