George Arthur Emmingham



Rank: - Lieutenant

Number: - 293228

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment

Died: - Killed in Action, 3rd September 1944, aged 31 years.

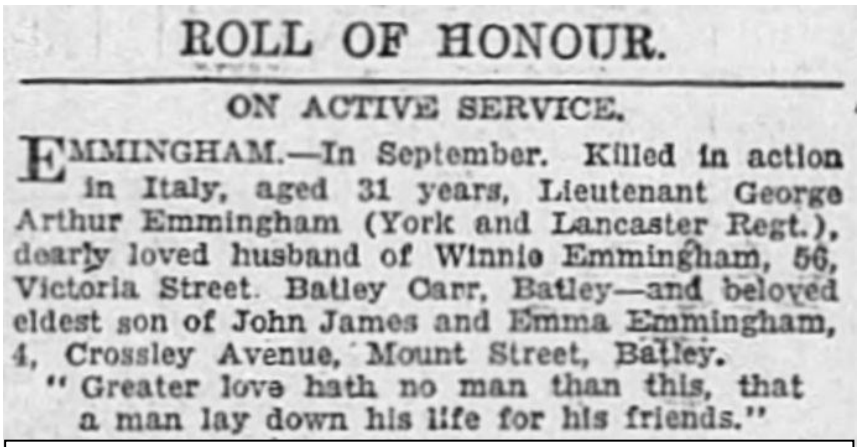
Cemetery: - Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy V, G, 10.

George Arthur was born in 1913 the son of John James and Emma Emmingham nee Scholefield who had married on 26 September 1910 at United Methodist Church, Talbot Street, Batley. Nellie was born in 1911, George Arthur, Alfred 1914, Winifred 1917, Kathleen Jane and Annie 1918 and Ronald Henry 1920. In 194 the family lived at 4, Crossley Avenue, Mount Street, Batley.

George Arthur attended Batley Grammar School.

In 1940 he married Winnie Williamson and they went to live at 56, Victoria Street, Batley.

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 Allies side. Following the fall of Rome to the Allies in June 1944, the German retreat became ordered and successive stands were made in a series of defensive lines. In the northern Apennine mountains rise the last of these, the Gothic Line, was breached by the Allies during the Autumn campaign and the front inched forward as far as the Ravenna in the Adriatic sector, but with divisions transferred to support the new offensive in France, and the Germans dug in to a number of key defensive positions, the advance stalled as winter set in.



ROLL OF HONOUR.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

EMMINGHAM.—In September. Killed in action in Italy, aged 31 years, Lieutenant George Arthur Emmingham (York and Lancaster Regt.), dearly loved husband of Winnie Emmingham, 56, Victoria Street. Batley Carr, Batley—and beloved eldest son of John James and Emma Emmingham, 4, Crossley Avenue, Mount Street, Batley.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Batley News 16 Sept 1944

Coriano Ridge was the last important ridge in the way of the Allied advance in the Adriatic sector in the autumn of 1944. Its capture was key to Rimini and eventually to the River Po. German parachute and panzer troops, aided by bad weather, resisted all attacks on their positions between 4to 12 September.

George Arthur lost his life on 3 September and the Cariano Ridge War Cemetery contains 1,939 Commonwealth burials but some of these graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields.

HE GAVE HIS TODAY FOR OUR TOMORROW

George Arthur is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial; Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group