Aubrey Bowan Evans





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 1609633

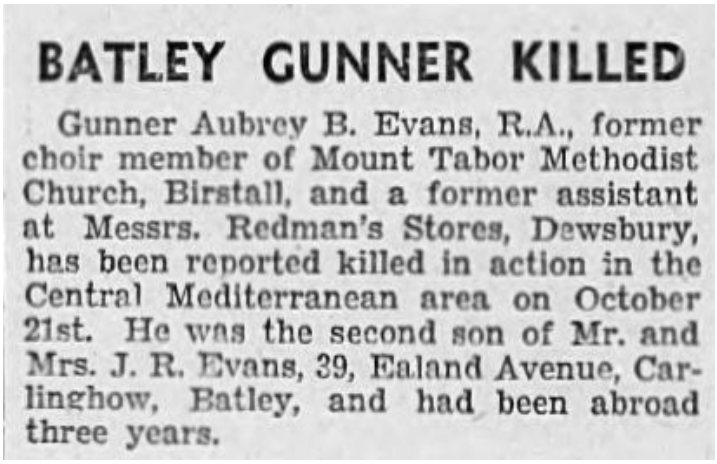
Regiment: - Royal Artillery 25 Bty., 9 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regt.

Died: - Killed in Action, Italy 21/10/1943 Age: 23 years.

Cemetery: - Naples War Cemetery, Italy III. B. 17.

Aubrey Bowan was born in Batley in 1920 the son of John Richard and Clarissa Evans (nee Grimmett formerly Marsden who had married in 1919). Hugh Richard was born in 1919 followed by Aubrey Bowan, Joan Lavinia 1922 and John Glyme 1926. The family lived at 39, Ealand Avenue, Carlinghow Batley in 1943. Aubrey was a former choir member at Mount Taber Methodist Church, Birstall and was an assistant at Messrs. Redman's Stores, Dewsbury before he joined the Forces in 1940.

Aubrey went abroad in 1940. The invasion of mainland Italy started with the British 8th Army landing at Taranto on 3rd September 1943 and an operation named "Baytown". The 8th Army were able to make relatively easy progress for a while up the eastern coast, capturing the Port of Brindisi, Bari, as well as airfields around Foggia, which provided a base from which US bombers were able to exploit the opportunity to bomb oil fields in Romania and various places in northern Germany.



BATLEY GUNNER KILLED

Gunner Aubrey B. Evans, R.A., former choir member of Mount Tabor Methodist Church, Birstall, and a former assistant at Messrs. Redman's Stores, Dewsbury, has been reported killed in action in the Central Mediterranean area on October 21st. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Evans, 39, Ealand Avenue, Carlinghow, Batley, and had been abroad three years.

Batley News, 13 Nov 1943

The 65th and 92nd General Hospitals were in Naples from late in 1943, the site for the cemetery being chosen in November 1943 and later graves were brought in from a number of small cemeteries in the immediate vicinity. It is probable that this was the case with Aubrey because he was reported to have been killed in action on 21 October 1943.

REST IN PEACE

Aubrey is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Addenda 1999. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group