Ronald England





Batley News, 24 Mar 1945 (photo)

Ronald was born in 1918 the son of Ernest and Emily England (nee Hollingworth, m. 1905, registered Bradford). Arthur was born in 1906 followed by Joseph 1910, Albert 1914, Annie 1916, and twins Robert and Herman 1920. In 1939 the family lived at Laburnum Grove, Cleckheaton.

In 1939 he married Constance M Hirst, (registered Spen Valley). Geoffrey was born in 1939 followed by Ronald 1941 and Alan 1943. The family lived at 20, Brookroyd Lane, Batley. Ronald worked at Thomas Burnley and Sons, Ltd., Gomersal as a piecener and was a keen footballer.

Ronald joined the Forces in 1940 but did not serve abroad until October 1944.

In October and early November of 1944, the 4th and 5th Battalion KOSB made assault landings on Walcheren Island at the mouth of the River Scheldt and fought through to Germany. The flooded, muddy terrain and the tenacity of the well-fortified German defences made the Battle of the Scheldt especially gruelling and bloody. Indeed, the battle is considered by some historians to have been waged on the most difficult battlefield of the Second World War

Ronald's death occurred when his Bren gun exploded a mine on 3rd March 1945 near Limburg in the Netherlands.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.



KILLED IN WESTERN EUROPE

Three Brothers Serve

Mrs. Constance England, 20, Brookroyd Lane, Batley, has been informed that her husband, John Ronald England (28) was killed in Western Europe on March 3rd. He was son of Mr. and Mrs. E. England, Cleckheaton.

His death occurred when his Bren-gun carrier exploded a mine.

He joined the Army five years ago, and had been abroad five months. He used to be employed by Thomas Burnley and Sons, Ltd., General, as a piecener, and was a keen footballer.

Ronald England.

He leaves a wife and three sons (Geoffrey, Ronald and Alan).

His three brothers, Robert, Arthur and Herman, are serving in H.M.F.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group