James Gallagher





Rank: - L/ Cpl

Number: - 4748860

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regt. Hallamshire Bn.

Died: - Killed in Action, 28 June 1944 aged 25 yrs.

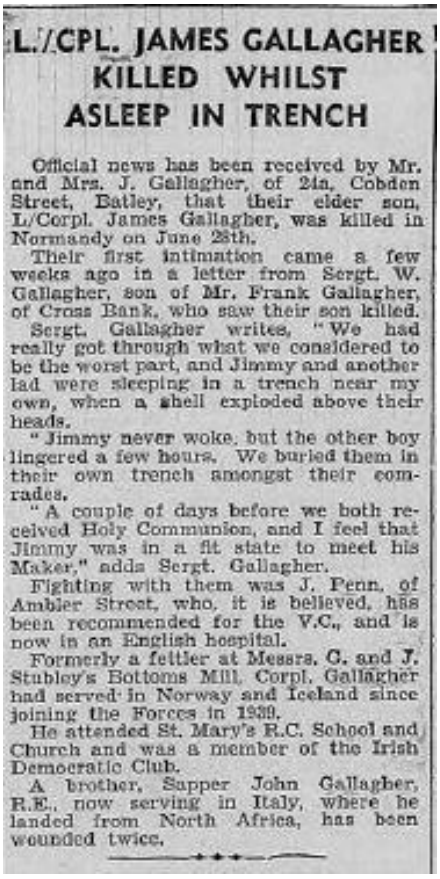
Cemetery: - St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France V.A.15

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944; 5 Aug 1944 (photo)

James was born in Batley on 2 February 1919 the **s**on of Patrick Joseph and Annie Gallagher nee Rush who had married in 1918. John was born on 29 September 1921. In 1939 the family was living at 24A Cobden Street, Batley and James was working as a carding machine, fettler at Messrs. G & J Stubley's, Bottoms Mill, Batley.

James (Jimmy) attended St. Mary's School and Church and was a member of the Irish Democratic Club.

He enlisted in 1939 and saw service in Norway and Iceland before going to France in June 1944. Official news only reached his parents in late July 1944 but Sgt. W. Gallagher, son of Frank Gallagher of Cross Bank wrote to them because he saw their son killed:



L./CPL. JAMES GALLAGHER KILLED WHILST ASLEEP IN TRENCH

Official news has been received by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gallagher, of 24a, Cobden Street, Batley, that their elder son, L/Corpl. James Gallagher, was killed in Normandy on June 28th.

Their first intimation came a few weeks ago in a letter from Sergt. W. Gallagher, son of Mr. Frank Gallagher, of Cross Bank, who saw their son killed.

Sergt. Gallagher writes, "We had really got through what we considered to be the worst part, and Jimmy and another lad were sleeping in a trench near my own, when a shell exploded above their heads.

"Jimmy never woke, but the other boy lingered a few hours. We buried them in their own trench amongst their comrades.

"A couple of days before we both received Holy Communion, and I feel that Jimmy was in a fit state to meet his Maker," adds Sergt. Gallagher.

Fighting with them was J. Penn, of Ambler Street, who, it is believed, has been recommended for the V.C., and is now in an English hospital.

Formerly a fettler at Messrs. C. and J. Stubley's Bottoms Mill, Corpl. Gallagher had served in Norway and Iceland since joining the Forces in 1939.

He attended St. Mary's R.C. School and Church and was a member of the Irish Democratic Club.

A brother, Sapper John Gallagher, R.E., now serving in Italy, where he landed from North Africa, has been wounded twice.

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Fighting with them was J. Penn of Ambler Street, who it was believed, had been recommended for a V.C. and was in an English hospital.

James had also served in Norway and Iceland. His brother, John, was serving in Italy where he had landed from North Africa and had been wounded twice.

James was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal. He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.

YOU ARE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN, STILL IN OUR HEARTS YOU WILL BE FOR EVER. R.I.P.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group