

Wounded Killed or Missing In Action

May 10th 1941 - Bacup RAF Sergeant killed Flying Accident.

The news was received on Monday morning by Mr and Mrs M Mochan, of 17, Blackthorn Lane, Bacup, that their eldest son, Sergeant Wireless Operator Air Gunner John Alfred Mochan, R.A.F. had been killed in a flying accident " somewhere in England ". The intimation came in an official telegram. Sergeant Mochan was 20, in January, and had been in the R.A.F about a year. Prior to enlisting he worked at Blackburn, He was connected with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Bacup, and was an old boy of Bacup and Rawtenstall grammar school. He was last home on leave some six weeks ago. The funeral will be of a semi-military character and will take place today at Bacup Cemetery.

August 7th 1943 Wounded In Naval Action

Mr and Mrs P. Flannagan, 61 Plantation Street, Bacup, last week received official notification that their youngest son, Ord. Seaman, Peter Flannagan 20 R.N. was seriously ill in a Royal Naval Hospital in the South of England. Suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. He was serving aboard one of H.M naval light vessels which took part in a spirited engagement, with 12 enemy armed trawlers and R-Boats in the English Channel, last Tuesday week. While on patrol off the coast of France near the enemy naval base of Cherbourg. Early on Tuesday light coastal forces of the Royal Navy under the command of Lieutenant Commander Peter M Scott, M.B.E. D.S.C.R.N.V.R Encountered an enemy force of almost twelve armed trawlers of the enemy force. During the ensuing engagement, which was fought at close range, and at very high speed, several enemy vessels were brought under heavy fire and two were seen burning.

One of His Majesty's ships was hit and was forced to stop. In spite of heavy fire from the enemy she was successfully taken in tow within four minutes. Mr and Mrs Flannagan received a cheerful letter from their son on Monday, in which he stated " don't feel very bad, and I haven't a great deal of pain, so if I keep this up it won't be long before I'm home". He stated that his injuries were to his left arm below the elbow, and also the back of his right hand, but they were both steadily improving. He added that he had plenty of company with him "I saw Norman Clegg of Bacup and he wrote a letter for me". AB Clegg who was awarded the DSM for his gallantry in an earlier action in the channel, is now attending the same hospital as Flannagan, Incidentally another Bacupian, who is a peace time workmate at Kilnholme Mill of Flannagan is sick birth attendant Thomas Ashworth, of Lanehead Bacup a member of the St John Ambulance Corps, is serving at the same hospital and had seen and attended O/S Flannagan.