



POST CODE: B63 2AH ADDRESS: Colman Hill, Cradley GPS: N. 52.45710341 W. -2.07781619 BRITISH GRID: SO 939 897

BERNARD OAKLEY MEMORIAL GARDENS and PLEASURE GROUNDS

Bernard James OAKLEY

Private 4034754, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Died: 16/10/1944. Aged 25yrs. (IV. E. 4. OVERLOON WAR CEMETERY)

The Netherlands fell to the Germans in May 1940 and was not re-entered by Allied forces until September 1944. Soon afterwards Bernard Oakley, aged 25 years and the son of James and Laura Oakley, found himself in the thick of the battle around Overloon in Holland. Sadly on October 16th, 1944 he was killed in action whilst trying to take a German machine gun nest.

The town of Overloon lies in the south of the Netherlands approx 40kms to the south of Nijmegen. There was severe fighting in the vicinity of Overloon throughout October and November 1944, when the Germans were being cleared out of the region south and west of the Maas in preparation for the final attack on the Rhineland. Most of the burials in Overloon War Cemetery are of men who died during these months, including Bernard Oakley.

The 3 acre Dutch ornamental style Bernard Oakley Memorial Gardens & Pleasure Grounds were presented to the Borough of Halesowen by Mr & Mrs James Oakley on Saturday, 27th June 1953 at a ceremony attended by Mr Anthony Schrader, Secretary of the Netherlands War Graves Committee. The main gates consist of ornamental iron mounted on York stone pillars with 2 inscribed memorial plates.



BERNARD J. OAKLEY

PRESENTED TO THE BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN BY MR & MRS JAMES OAKLEY
IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR SON BERNARD J. OAKLEY
WHO DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN HOLLAND, OCTOBER 16TH, 1944