

Appledore

Second World War

1939 – 1945

Eight of the nine following casualties are commemorated on a memorial plaque located in Appledore (St. Peter and St. Paul) parish church

BALDOCK, Victor Alfred. Gunner 1074819.

118 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died Far East 2 September 1943. Aged 35.

Born Sussex. Resided Kent.

Son of William James Baldock and Elizabeth Baldock.

Husband of Elizabeth Frances Ivy Baldock of Appledore, Kent.

Buried Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave Ref:5. F. 1.

Known as and still remembered by several people in Appledore as Alf, he probably died in the hospital of the Chungkai Burma-Siam railway base camp, as the cemetery is the original burial ground for those who died there and was started by the Allied prisoners of war themselves.

CHACKSFIELD, Douglas Geater. Flight Sergeant 1152688.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 148 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 5 October 1942. Aged 26.

Son of William and Louise Chacksfield.

Husband of Marjorie Chacksfield of Birmingham.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 249.

At the time of Douglas's demise his squadron was mainly based at Kabrit, Egypt but with several other desert landing grounds in use whilst flying bombing missions in support of the 8th Army.

GODDEN, James George. Leading Aircraftman 1176451.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died 6 April 1942. Aged 29.

Son of George and Emma Godden.

Husband of Eleanor Godden of Surbiton, Surrey.

Buried Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 4. G. 5.

HUDSON, Francis William Sergeant (Navigator) 1801746.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 692 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 26 August 1944. Aged 21.

Son of James Arthur and Annie Florence Hudson of Appledore, Kent.

Buried Cambridge City Cemetery. Grave Ref: 13567.

Francis was the Navigator of Mosquito Bomber MM135 P3-? with its two man crew which took off at 2155 hours on 25 August 1944 from Gransden Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire for a raid on Berlin, at 0245 the next morning on the aircrafts return flight and when the aircraft was nearly home it crashed at Park Farm, Old Warden near Bedford, Bedfordshire, killing Francis and his pilot 28 year old Squadron Leader Walter D. W. Bird who was taken to his home town

of Worthing, Sussex for burial. The official reason for the crash was entered as 'Pilot Error' believed to be as the result of a misreading of his altimeter.

LAW, Albert. Driver T/177730.

250 (Airborne) Light Composite Company, 1st Airborne Division.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died 25 September 1944. Aged 25.

Born and resided Kent.

Husband of E F Law of Harlington, Hayes, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Groesbeek memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands. Panel 9.

Five days prior to Albert's demise during "Operation Market Garden" one of his units officers, Captain John Cranmer-Byng fought with great gallantry alongside his men for which he was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

MILTON, Charles William. Private 11404620.

Army Catering Corps.

Attached to 252 Battery, 80 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died at sea Thursday 7 January 1943. Aged 27.

Born Canada. Resided Kent.

Son of Herbert Frederick and Ethel Milton.

Husband of Gladys Irene Milton of Appledore, Kent.

Also commemorated in Tenterden, Kent (St. Mildred's) parish church and on the Brookwood Memorial, Surrey. Panel 21. Column 2.

Originally enlisted in the General Service Corps.

POLDEN, Albert Frank West. Flight Lieutenant (Navigator) 138135.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 189 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 7 March 1945. Aged 32.

Son of Samuel Jacob and Frieda Polden.

Husband of Phyllis Ellen Polden of Lower Shiplake, Oxfordshire.

Buried Becklingen War Cemetery, Soltau, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 18. F. 3.

Albert was a crew member of Lancaster bomber NG308 CA-G which took off from Fulbeck, Lincolnshire at 1804 hours on 7 March 1945 on a mission to bomb oil production facilities at Hamburg, Germany. Flown by Flight Lieutenant J.T. Ormiston, the aircraft was one of 234 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitos of No 5 Group which carried out the accurate attack on the oil refinery at Harburg. 14 of the Lancasters were lost on the raid. No 189 Squadron, all from Fulbeck, lost 4 of its 16 Lancasters on the raid. One local report states that a rubber factory was seriously damaged as well as the oil targets. As Albert's aircraft was crashing, all seven crew baled out safely, and six of the crew were quickly captured, but Albert is reported as having tried to evade capture and was shot. In the 'priceless' series of books "Royal Air Force, Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War," W.R. (Bill) Chorley draws attention to the fact that the Becklingen War Cemetery register shows Albert's date of death as having occurred on 7 March 1945, very soon after he parachuted.

STILLWELL, John Digby. Lieutenant 113723.
44th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.
Died at sea 5 December 1941. Aged 27.
Born London. Resided Kent.
Son of Clarence Digby Stillwell and Fanny Sarah Stillwell.
Husband of Janet Cecil Stillwell of Kenardington, Ashford, Kent.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 21.
Pre war member of the Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

WHEATLEY, Arthur Thomas. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) 42290.
76 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 2 March 1943. Aged 22.
Son of Harry Wheatley and Anne Wheatley of Chislehurst, Kent.
Husband of Yvonne Wheatley, who at the time of Arthur's demise was serving as a 3rd Officer in the Air Transport Auxiliary.
Buried Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium. Grave Ref: II. G. 24.
Arthur is commemorated by a private memorial plaque inside Appledore (St. Peter and St. Paul) parish church but is not commemorated on the village memorial plaque. Arthur was a crew member of Halifax bomber DT556 MP-U which took off from Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire at 1827 hours on 1 March 1943 on a bombing mission to Berlin, Germany. Flown by 29 year old Squadron Leader (Pilot), John L. Fletcher D.F.M. of Upper Beeding, Sussex. With Arthur as the second pilot, the Halifax was in a mixed bomber force of 302 aircraft which was comprised of 156 Lancasters, 86 Halifaxes, and 60 Stirlings. During the raid the Pathfinders experienced difficulty in producing concentrated marking because individual parts of the extensive built-up city area of Berlin could not be distinguished on the H₂S screens. Bombing photographs showed that the attack was spread over more than 100 square miles with the main emphasis in the south-west of the city. However, because larger numbers of aircraft were now being used and because those aircraft were now carrying a greater average bomb load, the proportion of the force which did hit Berlin caused more damage than any previous raid to this target. This type of result, with significant damage still being caused by only partially successful attacks was becoming a regular feature of Bomber Command raids. Some bombs hit the Telefunken works at which the H₂S set taken from the Stirling shot down near Rotterdam was being reassembled. The set was completely destroyed in the bombing but a Halifax of 35 Squadron with an almost intact set crashed in Holland on this night and the Germans were able to resume their research into H₂S immediately. 17 aircraft, they being 7 Lancasters, 6 Halifaxes, and 4 Stirlings were lost on the raid. Returning from the raid shortly after midnight the aircraft was intercepted by a German night-fighter and shot down at 0013 hours, crashing between Kasterlee and Turnhout (Antwerpen), Belgium. Five of the crew were killed and are interred in the same cemetery, two were captured, but Flying Officer E. L. Souter-Smith avoided capture and reached Switzerland where he was interned. After the Second World War he moved to Australia, but was sadly killed in a motoring accident in 1973.

BURIED APPLEDORE
ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CHURCHYARD

MACE, Reginald. Gunner 1524919.
58 (Duke of Wellington's) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died United Kingdom 14 September 1942. Aged 23.
Born East London. Resided North London.
Grave Ref: Row 19. Grave 23.

CIVILIAN CASUALTY
NOT COMMEMORATED

DEEPROSE, Minnie Louisa. First Aid Post Member.
Died 16 August 1944. Aged 56.
Wife of Arthur Robert Deeprise of Woodbridge, Leesons, Chislehurst, Kent.
Died Kenardington Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent

