

Crundale

Second World War 1939 – 1945

HARVEY, DANIEL. Gunner, 1758431.
9 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 20 April 1943. Aged 35.
Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Daniel and Ellen Victoria Harvey.
Husband of Lilian Kate Harvey of Crundale, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 6. F. 2.

OFFEN, EDWARD MARLEY. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1252002.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 90 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 21 April 1943.
Buried Svino churchyard, Southern Zealand, Denmark. Grave Ref: 33.
Edward was a crew member of Stirling bomber BF463 WP-Q, which was flown by 24 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot), Sydney N. Cross, R.N.Z.A.F. of Tuapeka Mouth, Otago, New Zealand. To take on a bombing raid by 86 Stirlings on the Heinkel factory near Rostock, the aircraft took off from R.A.F. Ridgewell, Essex at 2153 hours on 20 April 1943. Over the designated target area a smoke-screen concealed it very effectively, and bombing was scattered. Edward's bomber was amongst eight Stirlings that were lost on the raid, his aircraft was shot down by flak, and crashed into the waters of the Storebaelt near Sprogø, west of Halskov-Korsør, Denmark at 0019 hours on 21 April 1943, killing all seven crew, five of whom including Edward lie in the village churchyard at Svino, Southern Zealand, Denmark. Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), Thomas E. Hall and Sergeant (Navigator/Bomber), Lancelot Tagg are interred in the Copenhagen (Bispebjerg) Cemetery. Edward's aircraft was delivered to his squadron on 29 March 1943, and was one of three 90 Squadron, Royal Air Force Stirlings lost on the above operation.

PELLATT, THOMAS EDWARD. Sergeant, 6290559.
44th Regiment (7th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment),
Reconnaissance Corps.
Died 26 October 1942. Aged 25.
Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Albert Edward and Ada Louisa Pellatt of Herne Bay, Kent.
Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XIX. E. 5.
Originally enlisted in The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

LOST MEN

GRAVES, ALBERT GEORGE. Flight Sergeant (Pilot), 536190.
Royal Air Force. 6 (Coastal Command) Operational Training Unit.
Died 18 December 1941. Aged 23.
Son of Mr and Mrs James Graves.
Husband of Margery Graves of Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorkshire.
Buried Thornaby-on-Tees Cemetery, Yorkshire. Grave Ref: Plot O. Row O.
Grave 12.

Also commemorated on Chilham, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial war memorial.

Albert was a crew member of an R.A.F. Thornaby, Yorkshire based, 6 (C) Operational Training Unit, Lockheed Hudson V9032, which had stalled on take off and came down above Eaglescliffe. It crashed on the farmhouse of Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick, near Thornaby, killing five of the aircrafts crew. To further compound the tragedy, the farmer, thirty nine year old Charles Raymond (Ray) Garbutt, his wife, forty one year old Violet Mary Garbutt (née Hawthorne), and two of Ray and Violet's four children, eight year old Alick, and six year old Charles were also killed. Despite both the crashed aircraft, and the farmhouse being a flaming inferno, the two other boys aged nine and eleven escaped with their lives. The fiancé of twenty three year old South African, Pilot Officer (Observer), Michael B. Van Heerden R.A.F. (V.R.), of Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, who was one of the Hudson's crew who perished, later offered to adopt both the two boys who had survived the disaster. Albert and Michael are buried in adjacent graves, and Sergeant Leslie Hogg (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) R.A.F. (V.R.), from West Croydon, Surrey, is at rest just behind them in Plot O. Row N. Grave 12. The other two crewmen who died were buried at their home locations, Sergeant, (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) Harry W.G. Hewitt, of Teddington, Middlesex, is at rest at Teddington Cemetery, and Sergeant (Pilot), Richard H.D. Palmer, is at rest at Enfield (Lavender Hill) Cemetery. The Hudson had been purchased directly from Lockheed-Vega at Burbank, California, U.S.A., by the British Purchasing Commission. After delivery to the United Kingdom in August 1941, and its acceptance at M.U. it was issued directly to 6(C)O.T.U. Local information obtained by Len Butt, during his researches on the war dead of Chilham, Kent, revealed that Albert had been a Crundale resident, and had been employed by the Tritton family as a Carpenter on their Godmersham, Kent, Estate, prior to enlisting in the Royal Air Force.

EARLL, WILLIAM FRANKLYN SIDNEY.

Died Thursday 26 September 1940. Aged 30.

Resided at 24 Upper Denmark Road, Ashford, Kent.

Son of W. B. and C. S. A. Earll of Denwood Farm, Crundale, Ashford, Kent.

Husband of Vera Earll.

William was killed at the Co-operative Wholesale Society (C.W.S) yard,
Godington Road, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial.

