

High Halden

Second World War 1939 – 1945

BIGGS, REGINALD. Sapper, 1881999.

501 Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 18 July 1941. Aged 24.

Born Essex. Resided Kent.

Adopted son of Edith Maud Rootes of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent.

Grave Ref: Section V. Grave 1105.

BRIDGER, GEORGE COLEMAN. Able Seaman, C/J101229.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Whirlwind (D30),

Died at sea 5 July 1940. Aged 35.

Son of Harry and Alice Bridger.

Husband of Doris May Bridger of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 35. Column 1.

Built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd. of Wallsend-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Whirlwind was a 1188 ton Admiralty V&W class destroyer, that was commissioned on 15 March 1918. Commanded by 39 year old Yorkshire man, Lieutenant Commander John Malcolm Rodgers, R.N., H.M.S. Whirlwind was torpedoed and sunk approximately 120 nautical miles off Lands End, Cornwall, by the German submarine U-34 which was commanded by 35 year old Kapitänleutnant, Wilhelm Rollmann, who reported that one torpedo had struck just under the destroyers bridge, and that the forepart of the ship sank immediately, but the rest of the ship stayed afloat for some time. Wilhelm Rollmann died in the North Atlantic on 5 November 1943 whilst commanding the U-848 on its first patrol. John M. R. Rodgers survived the sinking of H.M.S. Whirlwind, and retired as a Commander D.S.C., on 2 July 1946.

CAMBRIDGE, WILLIAM JAMES CECIL. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), 1896872.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 460 Royal Australian Air Force Squadron.

Died 19 July 1944. Aged 30.

Son of Mr and Mrs D. J. C. Cambridge.

Grandson of Susan Jackson of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands. Grave Ref: 12. F. 7.

William was Lancaster bomber LL957 AR-E2, which was flown by 27 year old Flying Officer, Rex L. Carr, of Redhill, Victoria, Australia. The aircraft took off at 2302 hours on 18 July 1944, from R.A.F. Binbrook, Lincolnshire on a bombing mission to attack the oil plant Scholven-Buer. William's Lancaster being amongst the 157 Lancasters and 13 Mosquitos taking part on what was

a successful raid. The local report states that 550 bombs fell in the plant area, although 233 of them did not explode. Due to the bombing raid production at the plant came to a complete standstill for a long period. At 0145 hours the next morning, William's aircraft was seen to crash at Roggel, Limburg, Netherlands, killing six of the seven crew, who were taken to Venlo for burial.. Since which time their bodies have been removed to have Jonkerbos War Cemetery as their final resting place. Lancaster bomber LL957 was delivered to William's squadron on 15 May 1944, and had taken part in several important operations prior to being lost, at which the aircraft had a total of 155 hours.

Flight Sergeant L.C. Leak survived the crash and was captured, and was later interned at Camp L7, and became prisoner of was No.464.

DANCE, REGINALD JOHN. Sapper, 2181556.

Boring Section, Royal Engineers.

Died France & Belgium Campaign between 27 May 1940 and 2 June 1940.

Aged 33.

Born and resided Reading, Berkshire.

Son of William John and Annie Dance.

Husband of Doris Winifred Dance of Slough, Buckinghamshire.

Buried Les Moères Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: Row B. Grave 51.

ETTERIDGE, PETER COLOHAN. Colour Sergeant, 6342447.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Died 15 May 1944. Aged 27.

Born Yorkshire. Resided Kent.

Son of William Edward and Mary Etteridge.

Husband of Phyllis Marjorie Etteridge of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XI. H. 12.

Pre war member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Peter's death is mentioned in the book 'The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment 1920-1950' by Lieutenant Colonel H.D. Chapman.

FANNING, PETER LEONARD. Captain, 186900.

5th Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Died 4 November 1944.

Born Bournemouth. Resided Kent.

Son of Frederick Charles and Patricia Mary Fanning.

Buried Venray War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands. Grave Ref: II. E. 9.

HOGBIN, CLEMENT JOHN. Lieutenant Colonel, 88858.

145 (M) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 1 March 1945. Aged 49.

Son of Alfred Apps Hogbin and Grace Hogbin of Herne Bay, Kent.

Husband of Mrs E. J. Hogbin.

Buried Hornsea Cemetery, Yorkshire. Grave Ref: Section A. Row AA. Grave 45.

Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

Also commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

Clement's Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, (Territorial Army) was formed in January 1942 for service within the United Kingdom. In view of Clement's age at death, a check of the Great War Medal Index Rolls was made, which show the following entry that might be appertaining to him:- H.C. HOGGIN, Lance Corporal, 723405, London Regiment, and Lieutenant, Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

WALL, LESLIE EDWIN GEORGE. Captain, 141033.

Grenadier Guards.

Died Sunday 18 June 1944. Aged 43.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of the Reverend Richard Wall, A.K.C., and Ethel Mabel Wall, The Vicarage, Bobbing, Kent.

Husband of Violet Maud (Diana) Wall of 120 Mount Street, London W. 1. who was killed with her husband when a V1 flying bomb crashed through the roof of the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, during the morning service killing 119 people, another 102 were seriously injured, and a further 39 received minor injuries. It being the largest number of casualties attributable to a single flying bomb during the Second World War.

Buried Bobbing, Kent, (St. Bartholomew) churchyard. Grave Ref: Row 8. Grave 5.

WARD, DENIS ERSKINE. Major, 537833.

47th (Oldham) Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 27 October 1942. Aged 30.

Born West London 8 October 1912. Resided Kent.

Son of the late Major George Louis Stuart Ward and of Muriel Ward (née Harrison) of Guildford, Surrey.

Husband of Kathleen Beryl Kyle Susan Ward (née Cottor), who usually was referred to by the name of Susan, which she preferred.

Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XXIV. D. 23.

Pre war member of the Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Denis who was a grandson of Sir William Erskine Ward K.C.S.I., married Susan Cottor, the daughter of Major Raymond Kyle Cottor, M.C., on 20 April 1942 only six months prior to his death at El Alamein, Egypt. Some time later Susan was remarried to Reginald Barnes Elwin Esq, and later to Stanley Chapman Esq.

WRIGHT, JAMES EBENEZER ROBERT. Gunner, 1075362.

85th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 7 August 1943. Aged 26.

Born Angus. Resided Kent.

Son of James and Mary Maynard Wright of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave Ref: 6. G. 77.

LOST LADY

WALL, VIOLET MAUD (Diana). Womens Voluntary Service.

Died Sunday 18 June 1944. Aged 52.

Resided at 120 Mount Street, London W. 1.

Daughter of Mrs Jackson of High Halden, Ashford, Kent.

Wife of Captain Leslie Edwin Gordon Wall, Grenadier Guards, (please see above) who died with her in the same incident. It seems rather an odd decision to quite rightly commemorate Violet's husband on the village war memorial, but to omit her name from those connected with High Halden, Ashford, Kent, who lost their lives during the Second World War, despite having at least one family member residing in the village.

