

WYE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



The Second World War 1939 – 1945

ARROWSMITH, JOHN RAYMOND ST GEORGE. Flight Sergeant, 931603.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 103 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 5 May 1942.
Son of Henry Arrowsmith and Margaret Joan Arrowsmith of South Kensington,
London.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 73.
John was the pilot of Wellington bomber Z8833 PM-L which took off from R.A.F. Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire at 0008 hours on a minor operation by 19 aircraft to Nantes, Loire-Atlantique, France. The Wellington ditched in the sea, and almost a week later on 11 May, the aircrafts dinghy was found along with the bombers two surviving crew members, who were Flight Sergeant G.W. Gibb R.C.A.F. and Sergeant P.R. Adlam who were taken prisoner by their German rescuers. All the other four crew who perished are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. John's Wellington was the only aircraft lost during the operation.

BEAUMAN, ARTHUR RICHARD (Dick) HUGH. D.F.C. Flight Lieutenant, 39207.
22 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 5 December 1940.
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 4.
Located in the foyer of the Town Hall at Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, is the R.A.F. North Coates Lincolnshire, World War Two Roll of Honour, which is set out on two wooden panels commemorating the 511 airmen who died whilst serving at the airfield, Arthur is numbered amongst the 268 who died that are recorded on panel 1.

Arthur was the pilot of the Coastal Command Beaufort OA-B, which took off from R.A.F. North Coates, Lincolnshire at 0645 hours to carry out a 'Rover Patrol.' The Beaufort was last seen over the North Sea off the port of Wilhelmshaven, Germany, enemy radio reports later gave the information that the aircraft had been shot down. All four crew of the Beaufort are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

BENTON, GEORGE KENYON. Lieutenant, 235219.
2nd Lothians and Border Horse, Royal Armoured Corps.
Died 11 January 1943. Aged 33.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George Kenyon Benton and Elsie Dora Benton.
Husband of Edna May Benton of Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia.
Grave Ref: Special Memorial 15. H. 20.

BLEWITT, WILLIAM. Lieutenant, 164767.
3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps.
Died 6 January 1943. Aged 20.
Born and resided Essex.
Son of Lieutenant Colonel Guy Blewitt D.S.O., M.C. and of Audrey Blewitt of Boxford, Essex.
Buried Tabarka Ras Rajel War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: 1. E. 22.
William's father commanded the 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry during the Great War.

BUCHANAN, D. L. Lieutenant, 103166.
24 Squadron, South African Air Force.
Died 2 July 1941. Aged 27.
Son of Douglas M. and Elsie L. Buchanan of Kenilworth, Capt Town, South Africa.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 245.
Lieutenant Buchanan who was a B.A. (Cantab); Trinity College Cambridge, was the pilot of the A22 Maryland bomber 1615, which took off from Landing Ground 17 (Fuka Main), to take part in a night bombing raid on Derna, Libya in the region of Cyrenaica. Over the target area the Maryland was shot down by enemy flak gunners. At the time of the loss of the bomber and its four crew, who are all commemorated on the Alamein Memorial. 24 Squadron, S.A.A.F. which had been formed in Kenya on 5 March 1941, and at the time of Lieutenant Buchanan's death was serving in the Western Desert, mainly operating from various Advanced Landing Grounds.

BULMER, OSCAR THEODORE. Captain, 87117.
1st Battalion, Hertfordshire Regiment, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.
Died 9 September 1944.
Born Hereford. Resided Dorset.
Buried Geel War Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium. Grave Ref: II. C. 7.

BURFIELD, BERNARD JOHN. Major, EC/2984. (Indian Army).
7th Battalion, 2nd Punjab Regiment.
Died 13 February 1944.
Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 5. A. 4.

CLOUGH, A.H. As commemorated on the Wye College Second World War memorial plaque, is probably the following casualty. Unfortunately he appears to be numbered amongst the thousands of Commonwealth fallen of both world wars, who still have no form of CWGC commemoration or remembrance:-

CLOUGH, Arthur H. Gunner, 15898583.
Royal Artillery.
Died at sea 3 August 1942.
Born and resided Kent.

COLE, JOHN DENIS. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 118067.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 158 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 3 April 1943. Aged 27.
Son of Thomas Robert and Florence Cole of Alexandria, Egypt.
Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.
Grave Ref: 9. B. 8.

John was the pilot of Halifax bomber DT635 NP-F which took off from R.A.F. Lissett, Yorkshire at 1942 hours on 3 April 1943, it being one of 113 Halifax bombers in a mixed bomber force of 348 aircraft on a mission to Essen, Germany. Significantly the raid was the first which had in excess of 200 Lancasters which numbered 225. Due to inclement weather which prevailed over the target area the Pathfinder Force aircraft at the head of the main bomber force in addition to the usual ground-marking they also skymarked above the area of attack, despite an element of confusion amongst the following aircraft due to the additional marking they achieved a higher proportion of accurate targeting than that which had previously been managed on previous raids on Essen which resulted in significant damage in the centre and western half of the city. John's aircraft crashed near Mönchengladbach where the seven crew were interred in the Stadtfriedhof. Since the cessation of hostilities their remains have been taken to the Rheinberg War Cemetery. John had passed the halfway stage of his tour of operations, as had his aircraft, which had completed fourteen operations since being taken on charge on 31 December 1942. 158 Squadron also lost two other aircraft on the same mission to Essen. Only three of the twenty one crew members from the squadrons three Halifax bombers which were destroyed survived, but they were all injured in the crash.

COVENTRY, GEORGE WILLIAM REGINALD VICTOR. Lieutenant, 7903.
10th Earl of Coventry.
7th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.
Died 27 May 1940. Aged 39.
Born 10 September 1900 Worcestershire. Resided Worcestershire.
Son of the late George William Coventry, Viscount Deerhurst, and the Viscountess Deerhurst (née Daniel), who died 8 November 1948.
Husband of Nesta Donne (née Philips), Countess of Coventry of Llanstephan, Carmarthenshire.
Buried Givenchy-les-la-Bassee Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: Row A. Grave 2.

The Earl of Coventry who was a pre war member of the Worcestershire Regiment, married The Honourable Nesta Donne Philips, the 17 year old daughter of Sir Owen Donne Philips G.C.M.G., M.P. on 17 September 1921. He was killed in action at Givenchy-les-la-Bassee, Pas de Calais, France, during the British Expeditionary Force retirement, in the France and Belgium Campaign.

COWLAND-COOPER, MICHAEL TWISS. BSc. Major, 93179.
1/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died 20 October 1944. Aged 28.
Born Kent. Resided Oxfordshire.
Son of Charles Paul and Adelaide Cowland-Cooper.
Husband of Peggy Louise Cowland-Cooper of Bicester, Oxfordshire.
Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: 5. J. 3.

CRAGG, RONALD WEBB. Captain, EC/2330.
3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.
Died 1 July 1942.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 207.

CROWDER, MARTIN KEITH. Captain, 129506.
2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 17 December 1942. Aged 24.
Born India. Resided Surrey.
Son of Martin Henry and Margaret Barbara Crowder of East Molesey, Surrey.
Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: 3. C. 1.

CRUICKSHANK, JOHN IMAY. Sub-Lieutenant.
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, H.M.S. Indomitable.
Died 12 August 1942. Aged 23.
Son of Peter and Anne McKay Cruickshank of Aberdeen.
Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Hampshire. Bay 4. Panel 1.
As opposed to the other Naval Memorials, Lee-on-Solent has just the names of Fleet Air Arm personnel who have the sea as their graves inscribed on it, and has almost 2000 of their number commemorated. John's ship a 30,530 ton Aircraft Carrier, received two direct hits by enemy bombers whilst she was taking part in 'Operation Pedestal' (Malta Convoy), at which time a 1100 pound bomb pierced the flight-deck armour, 47 were killed during the bombing and the ship was put out of action for six months.

CULLEY, GEOFFREY MATTHEW. Sergeant (Wireless Op/Air Gunner), 1164676.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 39 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 17 May 1942. Aged 25.
Son of Captain G.M.C. Culley and Elizabeth F. Culley of Alresford, Hampshire.
Buried Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 1. B. 17.
Geoffrey's father served as a Captain in the 9th Scottish Rifles, and the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) during the Great War. Geoffrey's squadron carried out its first wartime bombing mission, with a strike against the railway marshalling yards at Diredawa in Abyssinia on the day after Italy's declaration of war. Bombing raids against Abyssinia and Eritrea continued until August 1940, by this time losses had reduced the squadron strength to only five aircraft. The squadron was then withdrawn

to Helwan in Egypt, flying in General Wavell's offensive. In January 1941, the squadrons remaining aircraft were transferred to No. 11 Squadron, R.A.F. on Crete. The personnel then enjoyed a brief respite from flying operations, being mockingly referred to as the "39th Regiment of Foot." In August 1941, 39 Squadron, R.A.F. was partially re-equipped with Bristol Beaufort torpedo bombers, which were quickly put to work conducting Maritime Reconnaissance and torpedo strike sorties. The squadron was successful in its new role, torpedoing the liner 'Victoria' on 23 January 1942, and on 9 March 1942 sunk an enemy destroyer, crippling a cruiser and a merchant ship, in addition to shooting down two enemy aircraft. During 1942 the squadron became fragmented, with detached flights operating from Malta and various airfields in Egypt, including Shallufa, where Geoffrey was probably based at the time of his demise.

CURLING, CHRISTOPHER HIGHAM. Flight Sergeant, 748682.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 160 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 2 December 1942. Aged 24.
Son of John Harris Curling and Ethel Byron Curling of Faversham, Kent.
Buried Fayed War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 1. B. 23.

DEANE, MARCUS HUGH. Captain, EC/96. (Indian Army).
3rd Battalion, 7th Punjab Regiment.
Died 22 July 1942.
Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XIII. C. 18.

DEANE, MAURICE NEVILLE. Major, EC/894.
3rd Battalion, 4th Prince of Wales Own Gurkha Rifles.
Died India 3 September 1944.
Buried Delhi War Cemetery, India. Grave Ref: 1. K. 7.

DODGSON, RAYMOND AUSTEN. Second Lieutenant.
1st Battalion, Northern Rhodesia Regiment.
Died 18 August 1940.
Buried Hargeisa War Cemetery, Somalia. Grave Ref: C. 28.
At the start of the Second World War, the 1st Battalion, Northern Rhodesia Regiment was dispatched to guard the Belgian Congo border from an imagined invasion by a mythical 1300-strong mechanized force supposedly raised in Portuguese Angola. Recalled three weeks later, Raymond's battalion then moved overland to Kenya during which time a stop was made to undertake training in Tanganyika. The battalion sailed from Mombasa on 11 May 1940, and reached Berbera in north-western Somalia four days later, and then occupied the Tug Argan position. Raymond's battalion defended there during the Italian invasion of British Somaliland, along with such legendary formations as the Somaliland Camel Corps, until being forced to withdraw and evacuate by sea to Aden on 16 August. Later the battalion sailed back to Mombasa, where it arrived on 17 September, and was then in the 21st East African Infantry Brigade, 11th African Division, then the 1st South African Division. After advancing in May from Moyale, as part of the Cunningham offensive from Kenya, the battalion served on garrison duty in Abyssinia and Kenya.

DOUGLAS-JONES, GORDON SHOLTO. Second Lieutenant, 126687.
234 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery.
Died 24 May 1941. Aged 28.
Born Kent. Resided Leicestershire.
Son of Lieutenant Colonel Edwyne Douglas Douglas-Jones, formerly of the Royal Artillery, and Sina Gertrude Pott Douglas-Jones of Worthing, Sussex.
Commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece. Face 2.
Gordon's father served during the Great War as a Major in the Royal Artillery.

DRAKE, MICHAEL INGALTON. Captain, 121530.
47 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).
Died 1 September 1944. Aged 27.
Born Surrey. Resided Sussex.
Son of Mr and Mrs Francis Ingalton Drake.
Nephew of Miss L.C. Page of Hove, Sussex.
Buried Florence War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XII. G. 4.

EAMES, RICHARD KNIGHT. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 133350.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 12 December 1944. Aged 31.
Son of Sidney James Knight Eames and Ethel Wyles Eames of Apuldram, Chichester, Sussex.
Buried Apuldram (St Mary the Virgin) Churchyard, Chichester, Sussex.
Diploma, South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent.

EGELER, THOMAS HENRY. Sergeant (Instructor), X/5482.
Rhodesian African Rifles.
Died 29 February 1944.
Buried Harare (Pioneer) Cemetery, Zimbabwe.
Grave Ref: European War Graves Plot. Grave 125.

FIELD-MARSHAM, CHARLES AUSTEN. Lieutenant, 52819.
Life Guards.
Died 15 January 1941. Aged 31.
Born London 3 November 1910. Resided Kent.
Son of Major Charles George Field-Marsham, and Mrs. Mary Dorothea Field-Marsham (née Knight).
Husband of Joan Helen Field-Marsham (née Neville).
Father of Robert Charles Edward Field-Marsham.
Buried Fordcombe (St. Peter) Churchyard, Penshurst, Kent.

FRENCH, JOHN GAY. Second Lieutenant, 50381.
308 Battery, 55 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 16 November 1939. Aged 33.
Born London. Resided West London.
Son of Dr. J. Gay French M.D. and Eleanor French.
Husband of Kathleen Heather French of Redlynch, Wiltshire.
Buried Graveney, Faversham, Kent (All Saints) Churchyard.
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

Unit details are as accessed from John's CWGC commemoration, which does not record his regiment as Heavy/Light etcetera. Probably John was serving as an officer in the 55 (Kent) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

GIBSON, RODNEY STUART. Captain, 87164.

7th Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Died 7 August 1944. Aged 26.

Born Bedford. Resided Norfolk.

Son of Clifford Stuart Gibson and Mabel Joan Gibson of King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Husband of Helen Gibson.

Buried Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave XXII. F. 22.

Pre war member of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

BSc (Lond), Diploma Agriculture (Wye).

On the day that Rodney lost his life, the events surrounding his battalion are well documented, primarily as the result of the award of the Victoria Cross to a fellow Captain, who obviously Rodney would have known well. To add brief details appertaining to the action fought by Rodney's battalion at Grimbosq on the River Orne, the London Gazette entry published on 26 October 1944, announcing the award of the Victoria Cross to Captain David Auldgo Jamieson, The Royal Norfolk Regiment will suffice. "Captain Jamieson was in command of a Company of The Royal Norfolk Regiment which established a bridgehead over the River Orne, south of Grimbosq in Normandy. On 7th August 1944 the enemy made three counter-attacks which were repulsed with heavy losses. The last of these took place at 18:30 hours when a German Battle Group with Tiger and Panther tanks attacked and the brunt of the fighting fell on Captain Jamieson's Company. Continuous heavy fighting ensured for more than four hours until the enemy were driven off, after suffering severe casualties and the loss of three tanks and an armoured car accounted for by this Company. Throughout these actions, Captain Jamieson displayed outstanding courage and leadership, which had a decisive influence on the course of the battle and resulted in the defeat of these determined enemy attacks. On the morning of 8th August, the enemy attacked with a fresh Battle Group and succeeded in penetrating the defences surrounding the Company on three sides. During this attack two of the three tanks in support of the Company were destroyed and Captain Jamieson left his trench under close range fire from enemy arms of all kinds and went over to direct the fire of the remaining tank, but as he could not get in touch with the commander of the tank by the outside telephone, he climbed upon it in full view of the enemy. During this period Captain Jamieson was wounded in the right eye and left forearm but when his wounds were dressed he refused to be evacuated. By this time all the other officers had become casualties so Captain Jamieson reorganised his Company, regardless of personal safety, walking amongst his men in full view of the enemy, as there was no cover. The enemy counter-attacked the Company three more times during that day with infantry and tanks. Captain Jamieson continued in command, arranging for artillery support over his wireless and going out into the open on each occasion to encourage his men. By the evening the Germans had withdrawn, leaving a ring of dead and burnt out tanks round his position. Throughout this thirty-six hours of bitter and close fighting, and despite the pain of his wounds, Captain Jamieson showed superb qualities of leadership and great personal bravery. There were times when the position appeared hopeless, but on each occasion it was restored by his coolness and determination. He personally was largely responsible for the holding of this important bridgehead over the River Orne and the repulse of seven German counter-attacks with

great loss to the enemy.” David Jamieson V.C. died at his home in Burnham Market, Norfolk, on 5 May 2001, aged 80 and is buried in Burnham Norton Cemetery.

GRAHAM-HOGG, HORACE GAULTERUS. Flying Officer (Pilot), 39516.

57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 14 April 1940. Aged 27.

Son of George Henry and Alice L Hogg.

Buried Arnhem (Moscowa) General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 1.

Horace was the pilot of Blenheim bomber L9465 DX-? which took off on a reconnaissance mission from an advanced base at Rosières-en-Santerre, Somme, France. At approximately 1600 hours, the aircraft was shot down by a Messerschmitt Me109, which was flown by Leutnant Lignitz of 1./JG20, over Babberich, Gelderland, Holland. At the time of Horace's demise his squadron was equipped with Blenheim IV bombers, and later suffered staggering losses in support of the British Expeditionary Force. The other casualties who are interred with Horace are the other two crew members of the same aircraft. A month after Horace was killed it was a Blenheim that carried out the first of his squadron's bombing missions of the war on 12 May 1940, bombing Chaulnes whilst engaged on an armed-reconnaissance flight.

GRIFFITH, BRIAN SAMUEL. BA (Oxon). Lieutenant, 155408.

Royal Artillery. Attached to 3 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Indian Artillery.

Died 7 March 1942. Aged 26.

Born Surrey. Resided South West London.

Husband of Deirdre Griffith of Waltham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Face 2.

HELLYER, DENIS. Pilot Officer (Observer), 104573.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 156 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 20 May 1942. Aged 25.

Son of Frank Orlando and Hilda Evelyn Hellyer of Guildford, Surrey.

Buried Hargnies Communal Cemetery, Ardennes, France.

Grave Ref: Collective grave.

Denis was a crew member of Wellington bomber X3671 GT-?, which was flown by 26 year old Squadron Leader (Pilot), Thomas F. McGillivray D.F.C. of North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland. The aircraft took off from R.A.F. Alconbury, Cambridgeshire on a bombing mission to Mannheim, Germany, the aircraft being one of 105 Wellingtons in a mixed bomber force of 197. Despite 155 crews reporting successful bombing at the debriefing after the raid it later transpired that their claims were somewhat optimistic as most of their bombs dropped had fallen in open country or in surrounding forests, the bulk of the damage to Mannheim was caused when approximately 600 incendiaries which fell in the harbour area on the Rhine burnt out four small industrial premises, which cost the lives of two of the firemen dealing with them. Denis's Wellington crashed (cause still unknown) near the village of Hargnies, Ardennes, France near the French-Belgium border, killing all six crew who are interred together, they being the only servicemen interred within the village cemetery. Ten other aircraft failed to return from the raid including another two Wellingtons.

HEWISON, ALAN DAVID PETRIE. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 89776.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 11 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 23 February 1941. Aged 26.

Son of Robert and Christina Bews Hewison of Whitchurch, Oxfordshire.
Buried Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref: 12. D. 18.

Alan was the pilot of Blenheim T2388, which was amongst ten of the squadrons Blenheim that took off from R.A.F. Larissa heading for Paramythia, Thesprotia, Greece, ferrying Royal Air Force personnel. On the way to Paramythia four of the aircraft were forced to return to R.A.F. Larissa, but Alan pressed on. Flying over the Pindus mountains, Alan's Blenheim encountered severe icing troubles, and due to the icing, he was unable to get the aircraft to respond properly, and climb out of a ravine near the city of Arta, in north-western Greece. Faced with no other choice, Alan had to make a forced landing in a riverbed, which ultimately resulted in the stricken aircraft colliding with a tree and being wrecked. Crew member 32 year old Sergeant, John S. Dukes of Newcastle-on-Tyne, was killed with Allan, as was one of the aircrafts passengers, 22 year old Leading Aircraftman, Gordon Bevan, of Aberdulais, Glamorgan, Wales. In addition to those who lost their lives, two others were injured in the crash, but at least one other passenger escaped injury Of the five remaining aircraft they were attached now to 211 Squadron, R.A.F., three were shot down on 27 February, following which the remaining two aircraft returned to R.A.F. Larissa.

HOARE, BERTIE REX O'BRYEN. D.S.O. & Bar, D.F.C. & Bar.
Wing Commander, 37853.

84 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 26 March 1947. Aged 35.

Son of Bertie and Mary Hoare.

Husband of Lucy N. Hoare of Nairobi, Kenya.

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Column 459.

Equipped with Mosquitoes 84 Squadron was posted to Singapore in May 1946. Whilst flying a Fairey Battle as a pre war member of 207 Squadron, R.A.F. part of the aircrafts engine cowling came off and hit Bertie in the face causing serious injuries, including taking out an eye socket, despite which he managed to return to his base at R.A.F. Cranfield, Bedfordshire. During his six months in hospital it was revealed that Bertie's damaged eye had unique night vision, which no doubt was an asset during the Second World War flying Mosquitos and Bostons on intruder sorties with No.23 and No. 605 Squadrons, R.A.F. at which time he was credited with shooting down 9 enemy aircraft, and awarded his four decorations for bravery, finishing the war as the Station Commander of R.A.F. Little Snoring, Norfolk. Having survived several near misses pre war, and the subsequent years engaged in aerial combat, it seems unjust that Bertie lost his life post war, whilst delivering Mosquito FB.VI TE746 to New Zealand. In tandem with another Mosquito he took off from Darwin at 0908 hours on 26 March 1947 en-route for Townsville, but encountered tropical storms on the way which it is thought damaged the aircrafts radio equipment, at about 1600 hours the other aircraft had to make an emergency landing at Macrossan about 60 miles from Townsville, at which time no contact could be established with Bertie's aircraft. Following an aerial search lasting a week nothing was found, but on 3 April a mission station on Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria radioed to say that on 1 April a native had found aircraft wreckage on the beach at Sydney Island. A boat was then sent to the island and located the wrecked aircraft lying in the shallows, but with no sign of the aircrafts two crew, it is thought that Bertie with no radio had gone down

low over the water to get a bearing but had hit the sea, his Navigator was 21 year old Flying Officer Walter Colvin from Brightling, Sussex. When Bertie married whilst a member of 207 Squadron, his best man was his friend and fellow squadron officer Neil Wheeler, who retired in January 1976, as Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., Bertie was the godfather to his daughter.

HOUGHTON, W. Not yet traced (to many good matches).

HUTCHISON, DAVID ALEXANDER. D.S.C. Lieutenant (A).

Fleet Air Arm, H.M.S. Avenger. (D14).

Died 15 November 1942. Aged 23.

Son of David Chalmers Hutchinson and Marjorie Roulston Hutchison.

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Hampshire. Bay 3. Panel 1.

As opposed to the other Naval Memorials, the Lee-on –Solent Memorial has just the names of Fleet Air Arm personnel that have the sea as their graves inscribed on it, and has almost 2000 of their number commemorated. Completed in 1942 by the Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co, Chester, Pennsylvania, H.M.S. Avenger started life as the American motor merchant Rio Hudson for Mooremack South America Line Inc, of New York, U.S.A. In July 1941 she was delivered incomplete for conversion to the escort carrier U.S.S. Avenger (CVE 2), fitted with 15 aircraft. On Boxing day 1941, she was sold to the Royal Navy and commissioned as H.M.S. Avenger (D14). After taking part in the ‘Operation Torch’ landings of North Africa in November 1942, she departed from Gibraltar with convoy MKF 1 on 14 November, H.M.S. Avenger commanded by 41 year old Commander Anthony P. Colthurst, D.S.O., R.N. was heading home to the Clyde, Scotland. At 0305 hours on 15 November, the 13,785 ton aircraft carrier was torpedoed, by the German submarine U-155 commanded by 32 year old Kapitänleutnant, Adolf Cornelius Piening. H.M.S. Avenger was hit on the port side amidships, which in turn ignited her bomb room, blowing out the centre section of the ship. Her bow and stern sections rose in the air and sunk within two minutes, leaving only 12 survivors. Adolf Piening who sank the aircraft carrier, was the same man responsible for devising the ‘Piening Route’ during the Second World War, he survived the Second World War, and in 1956 the later Kapitän zur See Adolf Piening joined the Bundesmarine, serving for 13 years. A native of Süderende, Tondem, Germany, Adolf Piening died at Kiel, Germany on 15 May 1984, aged 73.

JOLLIFFE, GEORGE HILBORNE. Second Lieutenant.

3rd Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles.

Died 9 February 1942. Aged 24.

Son of George Hilborne Jolliffe and Pearl Moncrieff Jolliffe of Northam, Devon.

Buried Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: B2. C. 1.

KETTON-CREMER, RICHARD THOMAS WYNDHAM.

Flying Officer, 75788.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 31 May 1941. Aged 31.

Born 11 August 1909.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 241.

A member of the prominent Felbrigg, Norwich, Norfolk, Ketton-Cremer family, Richard is commemorated on an impressive private memorial plaque emblazoned with his family coat-of-arms inside the church of St. Margaret on the Felbrigg Estate, Norfolk. In 1946 the new high altar of carved oak in the church of All Saints, Beeston Regis, Norfolk was given in memory of Richard who was killed on active service in Crete in 1941, and who is also commemorated by the ledger slab on the north side of the altar.

KITCHING, ALFRED HAROLD. Captain, 74026.

Glider Pilot Regiment, Army Air Corps.

Died 14 July 1943. Aged 23.

Born and resided Durham City, County Durham.

Son of Colonel Harold Kitching M.B.E. and Dora Josephine Evelyn Kitching of Great Ayton, Yorkshire.

Buried Catania War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: IV. C. 31.

Alfred is numbered amongst the seventeen Second World War casualties, who are commemorated on the Great Ayton, Yorkshire, civic war memorial.

Pre war member of the Durham Light Infantry.

LEACH, JOHN CHADWICK. M.C. Second Lieutenant, EC/794. (Indian Army).

3rd Battalion, 1st Punjab Regiment.

Died 30 November 1941. Aged 26.

Son of Dr. Robert Gerald Leach and Mary Dolores Leach of Beacon Hill, Hindhead, Surrey.

Buried Halfaya War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 8. F. 9.

LEIGH, ROWLAND LLEWELLYN. Captain, 8465.

103 Battery, 522 (Dorsetshire) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. (T.A.).

Died 4 February 1942. Aged 47.

Son of John Rowland and Margaret Lillian Leigh.

Husband of Evelyn Mary Adeline Leigh of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Yalding, Kent, (SS Peter and Paul) Old Churchyard.

Rowland is unfortunately not commemorated as a Second World War casualty on the Yalding, Kent, civic war memorial.

MACLEAN, DONALD. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 79167.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 38 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 1 October 1940.

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 26. F. 1-9.

Donald was the pilot of Wellington bomber R3291 HD-Q which took off from R.A.F. Markham, Norfolk, on a bombing mission to Leipzig, Germany. The exact cause of the aircrafts loss, and crash location is still unclear, despite the fact that the other five

members of Donald's crew survived, and were made prisoners of war. One of the crew, Pilot Officer W.T. Mathieson was confined in hospital due to his injuries.

MARCHANT, GEOFFREY. Captain, 156829.

Intelligence Corps.

Died 1 April 1945. Aged 35.

Born India. Resided South West London.

Son of Major Godfrey Marchant and Frances Elizabeth Mary Marchant.

Buried Chittagong War Cemetery, Bangladesh. Grave Ref: 3. F. 10.

The cemetery where Geoffrey is at rest was created by the army, and there were originally about 400 burials. Graves have since been transferred to this cemetery from the Lushai Hills (Assam) and numerous other isolated sites. There are now 731 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-45 in the Chittagong War Cemetery, 17 of which are unidentified. There are a further 20 Foreign National burials, 1 being a seaman of the Royal Dutch Navy, and 19 Japanese soldiers, 1 of which is unidentified. There are also 4 non war United Kingdom military burials.

MINCHIN, ROBERT MICHAEL. Sergeant (Observer), 751355.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 6 September 1941. Aged 22.

Son of Captain T. W. Minchin D.S.O. and Amy Minchin of Bracknell, Berkshire.

Buried Borculo General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: Plot U. Collective grave 1-5.

Robert was a crew member of Wellington bomber X9767 AA-S which took off from R.A.F. Feltwell, Norfolk on 5 September 1941 on a mission to Huls, Germany. The Wellington was shot down by a Luftwaffe night-fighter aircraft which was flown by 'ace' pilot Oberleutnant, Emil Woltersdorf of III./NGJ, the aircraft crashed at 0011 hours near Borculo, Gelderland near Lochem, Holland. All the crew were killed and are interred in the same cemetery. Emil Woltersdorf was credited with 10 victories, before he was killed in a flying accident on 2 June 1942.

MOORE, OLAF ERNEST FINE. Private, 7441.

1st (Perak) Battalion, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force.

Died 9 November 1943. Aged 40.

Buried Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: B6. U. 8.

Olaf and all those interred in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery (numbering 3617), were prisoners of war of the Japanese who died working on the notorious Burma-Siam railway.

MOUNSDON, RICHARD KEITH. Second Lieutenant, 198831.

48 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).

Died 1 March 1942. Aged 22.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Cecil Frederick and Florence Elizabeth Mounsdon of Brasted, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Jakarta (Ancol) Netherlands Field of Honour. Grave Ref: I. 97-98.

It is possible that Richard died when his unit was captured by the Japanese forces in March 1942.

Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

OGIER, MICHAEL OWEN. Pilot Officer, 102584.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 77 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 12 March 1942. Aged 20.

Son of Lionel Leverett Ogier and Dorothy Gwynedd Eardley Ogier of East Hanningfield, Essex.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 71.

Based at R.A.F. Leeming, Yorkshire, 77 Squadron, R.A.F. lost two Whitley bombers on the same mission to Emden, Germany when Michael died, in addition to which 58 Squadron, R.A.F. also lost a Whitley. Carried out by 20 Wellingtons and 20 Whitleys the raid was not a success, and bombing photographs indicated that the nearest bombs were 5 miles from the designated target. Cause of loss of Michaels aircraft Z9293 KN-D is still recorded as cause unknown, the squadrons other aircraft Z9312 KN-? is presumed to have crashed in the North Sea, from where one of the crew's bodies was washed ashore, it too is recorded in the same category as Michaels. Whitley bomber Z9293 KN-D was originally a No.102 Squadron, Royal Air Force aircraft, prior to going on the operational strength of No. 77 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

O'MEARA, A.B. As commemorated on the Wye College Second World memorial plaque has not been traced. Although the following casualty appears to be the best match of the fourteen O'Meara, Second World War casualties, caution is advised should anybody be carrying out more detailed in-depth research on the casualty, his surname, or the actual memorial plaque.

O'MEARA, BARRY ADEN JOSEPH. Lieutenant, 151674.

5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 7 March 1945. Aged 25.

Born India. Resided Kent.

Son of His Honour Judge A. J. O'Meara, and of Myrtle L. O'Meara, of Weald, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, Italy. Panel 1.

PENMAN, PHILIP GRAHAM. Major, 182973.

46th (The Liverpool Welsh) Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 3 November 1943. Aged 24.

Born South West London. Resided Hampshire.

Son of Andrew John and May Penman.

Buried Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XIV. D. 32.

PETERSON, DERRICK NESTANDE. Lieutenant, 235930.

Royal Artillery. Attached to 1st Parachute Company, Royal Air Force, Iraq Levies.

Died 21 December 1944. Aged 25.

Born and resided Hertfordshire.

Son of Arthur Le-Roy Peterson and Ivy Ellen Peterson of Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Also commemorated on the Letchworth, Hertfordshire war memorial.

Buried Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref: 18. E. 5.

Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

Although Derrick's death is officially recorded as occurring on 21 December 1944, he probably lost his life on the day before. At 1930 hours on the evening of 20 December Derrick led out a patrol in Athens, Greece, and almost immediately encountered stiff opposition when he and his men stumbled upon a group of E.L.A.S. men who were constructing a road block. A brief but intense fire-fight then ensued during which Derrick was seen to fall apparently wounded, at which point his party withdrew, and

were soon back at the same location they had set out from only fifteen minutes earlier. Following the report of what had happened, the party went out again, and on that occasion led by the Commanding Officer in the hope of finding Derrick. Regretably despite a concerted effort on the part of several men, notably Company Sergeant Major Hutton, who under the cover of smoke managed to get to where Derrick was last seen, but he was not located.

RODWELL, JOHN ALDERSON. Officer Cadet, 7941976.

Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 12 April 1942. Aged 27.

Born Ipswich, Suffolk. Resided Norfolk.

Son of Lionel Helm Rodwell and Ethel Beatrice Rodwell of Threxton, Norfolk.

Buried Threxton, Norfolk, (All Saints) Churchyard.

ROPER, D. F. Not yet traced.

RUSSELL, FREDERICK RICHARD. Private, QX1261.

2/33 Battalion, Australian Infantry. Australian Imperial Forces.

Died 17 June 1941. Aged 28.

Born 28 May 1913 Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Enlisted Queensland, Australia 19 November 1939.

Son of Sir Edward John Russell F.R.S., D.Sc. and Lady Russell (née Oldham) of the Directors House, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Also commemorated on the Gatton Agricultural College Roll of Honour, Queensland, Australia, and the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.

Buried Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic. Grave Ref: 4. G. 6.

In view of the close association with Wye Agricultural College, Kent, and the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, it would be remiss not to add brief details here, appertaining to the Russell family association with both establishments. In 1902 Daniel Hall moved from Wye Agricultural College, Kent, to become the Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Daniel Hall actually took a lower salary to join an establishment lacking money, staff, and direction, but he had decided that Rothamsted needed to specialise, and that it needed new sources of finance. He was eventually successful in obtaining state support for agricultural research. In 1912 Edward John Russell who had come from Wye Agricultural College, in 1907 took over as the Director and continued in the post until 1943, having being instrumental in and seeing through a major expansion of Rothamsted during the nineteen twenties.

SANDS, NORMAN HERBERT. Lieutenant, 956.

Johore Volunteer Engineers.

Died 16 December 1942. Aged 33.

Son of William Norman and Edith Sands.

Husband of Grace Sands of Greenmount, Queensland, Australia.

Buried Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave Ref: 12. C. 10.

Norman's unit which only numbered 258 personnel, consisted for the most part of Rubber Planters with engineering experience from the State of Johore, Malaya. The officers held a Governors Commission as opposed to a King's Commission, and were attached to the 8th Division Australian Imperial Force. Various data and books accessed describe the J.V.E. as being a European Unit similar to the British Territorial

Army and made up primarily of Rubber Planters. Unfortunately researching the Second World War, Malay Volunteer Forces is fairly difficult, one of the reasons being that all war diaries and the like, of the British and Commonwealth forces were destroyed just prior to the capitulation to the Japanese forces.

SAUNDERS, ROBERT GORDON LEONARD. Major EC/153. (Indian Army)
3rd Battalion, 15th Punjab Regiment.
Died 9 April 1945. Aged 28.
Son of Leslie Harry Saunders C.S.I. and Violet Dora Saunders.
Buried Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: I. G. 13.

SPENS, ROBERT RICHARD PATRICK. M.C. Lieutenant 92060.
65 (The Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. (T.A.)
Died at sea between 13 and 15 February 1942.
Born India. Resided Norfolk.
Son of Sir Patrick Spens K.B.E., Q.C., M.P. and Lady Spens of Temple, London.
Husband of Elisabeth Clare Spens of West Kensington, London.
Also commemorated on Lyminge, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, plus the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 39.
At the time of his demise Robert's father was the Member of Parliament for Ashford, Kent, and from 1931 until 1943 Sir Patrick was also a Commissioner of the (then) Imperial War Graves Commission and again from 1949 until 1965. As a Captain he had served with distinction during the Great War in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), being thrice Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the O.B.E. (Military). Sir Patrick was formerly the Chief Justice of India. It was in India that Robert Spens first started to pursue his hobby as a Falconer, and at times prior to his death had contributed to various publications in respect of same, which had including the Falconer Magazine.

STEPHENS, GEOFFREY REGINALD. Lieutenant, 148835.
3rd Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles.
Died 7 September 1944. Aged 30.
Son of Frederick William and Florence Stephens.
Stepson of Mrs. H.K. Stephens of Wimbledon, Surrey.
Buried Arezzo War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: VI. D. 3.

SYMONS, D. J. Not yet traced (Two officers commemorated).

TAYLOR, A. E. Not yet traced (Too many good matches).

THEOBALD, EDMUND HUGH CRAFT. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 67716.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 28 December 1942. Aged 26.
Son of Hugh Whittard Theobald and Edith Maud Theobald of Hadlow Down, Sussex.
Buried Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 19. B. 10.

TURTLE, REGINALD WILLIAM ARTHUR. D.F.C. R.A.F.

Flight Lieutenant, (Pilot) 40866.

214 (Federated Malay States) Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 7 June 1942. Aged 26

Son of William Reginald Margetts Turtle and Katherine Maud Turtle.

Husband of Brenda Sigismunda S. Turtle of Finchley, Middlesex.

Buried Schiermonnikoog (Vredenhof) Cemetery, Friesian Islands, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: 69.

Reginald was the pilot of Stirling bomber N3761 BU-E, which took off from R.A.F. Stradishall on a bombing mission to Emden, Germany, the aircraft was intercepted and shot down by an Luftwaffe night-fighter aircraft flown by Oberleutnant, Prinz Egmont zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of II./NGJ2. Reginald's Stirling crashed at 0147 hours off Terschelling. Five of the crew are interred at various island cemeteries off the Dutch coast, the other two are both commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Data accessed shows that Reginald was an experienced Stirling pilot, mostly gained whilst flying with 149 Squadron, R.A.F. but unfortunately the German aircrew that was responsible for his demise were amongst the most successful of the Luftwaffe night-fighters. Prior to his death flying over the Ardennes on 12 March 1944, Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld was credited with 51 victories, although his demise was officially attributed to flying into unseen high ground, theories still abound that he may have been killed by order of the Fuehrer, after the attempt on his life.

VICKERS, DOUGLAS RYLAND. Flying Officer (Navigator/Bomber), 74622.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 104 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 24 November 1943. Aged 28.

Son of Vincent Rawson Scott Vickers and Gwyneth Howard Vickers of Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy. Grave Ref: Collective grave I. A. 30.

Diploma in Estate Management, Wye College A.L.A.S.

Also commemorated on Wye, Ashford, Kent, Second World War memorial plaque, and on the Kennington, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial (as a soldier). There are 122 Second World War graves at Staglieno Cemetery, most of them garrison burials, others are those of casualties brought in from the surrounding country of Genoa.

WELLESLEY, HENRY VALERIAN GEORGE. Captain, 56864.

6th Duke of Wellington

58 (Duke of Wellington's) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. (T.A.).

Attached to No 2 Commando.

Died 16 September 1943. Aged 31.

Born London. Resided Berkshire.

Son of Arthur Charles Wellesley, 5th Duke of Wellington, and Lilian, Duchess of Wellington of London and Strathfield Saye.

Buried Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave III. B. 43.

Pre war member of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). The 1/4th Battalion, became the 58 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorial Army) in 1936.

WILLAN, MARTIN STUART. Second Lieutenant, 104269.
2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 25 May 1940. Aged 21.
Born Bedfordshire. Resided Kent.
Son of Brigadier Robert Hugh Willen D.S.O., M.C. and Violet Constance Eyre Willen (néé Crabbe) of Teffont, Wiltshire.
Buried Calais Southern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: Plot L. Grave 17.

WILLIAMS, HARRY MALCOLM. Flight Lieutenant, 66508.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 102 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 14 April 1942. Aged 26.
Son of Thomas Harry and Natalie Williams of Brook, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Smeeth (St. Mary) Churchyard, Kent
Commemorated on Smeeth, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial as Malcolm Williams, and on the Wye College Second World War memorial plaque as H.M. Williams.
Harry's brother, Lionel Graham Williams also fell, who is commemorated on the Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial but as Graham Williams. Harry was the pilot of a Handley Page Halifax bomber, R9488 DY- which was on an Air Test, when it crashed near Baldersby, six miles north east of Ripon, Yorkshire, at 1246 hours on 14 April 1942. According to several eye witness to the crash, the aircraft had made a series of left and right turns before stalling, and spinning into the ground killing all eight airmen onboard the Halifax. As a Halifax usually had a crew of seven, probably Leading Aircraftman, John Livesey from Blackburn, Lancashire was normally ground crew. The cause of the accident was thought to be due to rudder overbalance.

LOST MAN

BANKS, RICHARD HOOTON. Flight Sergeant (Navigator), 1529841.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 630 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 2 December 1943. Aged 25.
Son of J. J. H. Banks and Florence Elizabeth Banks of Darlington, County Durham.
Buried Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: 5. E. 19.
1st Class Diploma in Agriculture, Wye College, London University.
Richard was the Navigator on Lancaster bomber ED777 LE-Q, which was flown by 23 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot) William A. Clark, of Kirkby, Lancashire. The aircraft took off at 1630 hours on 2 December 1943 from R.A.F. East Kirby, Lincolnshire, and was in a mixed bomber force of 458 aircraft comprised of 425 Lancasters, 18 Mosquitos, and 15 Halifaxes to take part in a mission to Berlin, Germany. There were no major diversionary raids carried out, and the bombers engaged on the raid took an absolutely direct route across the North Sea and Holland, and then on to the city of Berlin. The Germans correctly identified Berlin as the target for the bombers 19 minutes before Zero Hour, and many Luftwaffe fighter aircraft were waiting there. Incorrectly forecast winds scattered the bomber stream, particularly on the return flight, and German fighters scored further victories here. A total of 40 bombers, they being 37 Lancasters, 2 Halifaxes, and 1 Mosquito were lost. No. 460 (Australian) Squadron lost 5 of its 25 Lancasters on this raid, including the aircraft in which two newspaper reporters were flying. These were Captain Grieg of the Daily Mail and Norman Stockton of the Sydney Sun. The inaccurate wind forecast caused great difficulties for the Pathfinders, who were not able to establish their positions

correctly. The bombing photographs of the Main Force suggested that the attack was scattered over a wide area of southern Berlin and the countryside south of the city. The Berlin report confirms this but adds that some useful damage was caused in industrial areas of the eastern and western districts, with two more of the Siemens factories, a ball-bearing factory and several railway installations being badly hit. Damage elsewhere was light, only 136 buildings being destroyed. Richard's aircraft came down near the A79 at Groß (Gross) Schulzendorf, approximately four miles south-east of Ludwigsfelde. All the seven crew were initially buried at Groß Schulzendorf, but following the cessation of hostilities, all were laid to rest in the Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery.