



Bringing them home too

By Mike & Lesley Willoughby

Men of Henley on Thames and local
villages who gave their lives 1939-1946

Lest We Forget

Bringing them home too

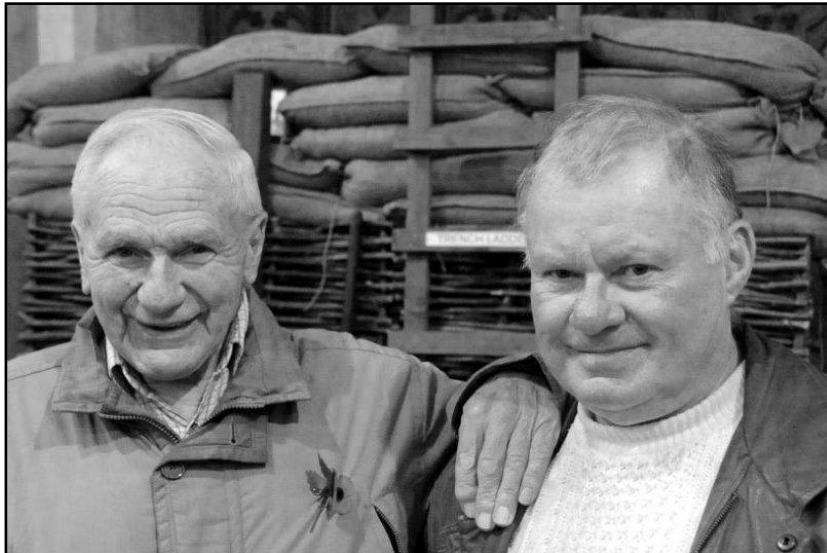
Mike and Lesley Willoughby



This book is dedicated to the memory of a very special friend
Brian William Hughes BEM.

Brian had been a keen supporter and of great assistance to our project from the outset. His commitment as the Royal British Legion standard bearer and fund raiser was legendary. We will not see his like again. Brian's dear wife Ursula always made sure he was immaculately turned out whatever the weather, Brian having already gone through his check list. In 2017 he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. *Never was an award more richly deserved!*

Lesley and I are so thankful to have had him as a friend.



Brian and Mike at the 2014 Lest We Forget exhibition.

This publication is intended as a follow up to our 2014 WW1 book, this time to ensure that the Men of Henley and Local Villages who died during and as a direct result of WW2 are suitably remembered. We had not planned a “book” as in 2014 because this year is not a centenary year. We will however archive all of the current research materials, documents, pictures etc. used to compile this publication so that if desired it can be used as a basis of a centenary book in twenty years or so. Hambleden and Woodcote have not been included as we feel that these have already been suitably covered in other projects. Whilst every effort has been made to eliminate any errors we are only human, and I am sure one or two will have sneaked in. As this is a personal electronic document, if pointed out, mistakes can be easily rectified. Additional new information can also be added for any future print run. We are very much indebted to Darren Pitcher and Hilary Fisher for their help during the compilation of this book and also to the numerous families, schools, colleges and organisations who have contributed valuable information and pictures.

A very special thank you must go to the staff at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at Maidenhead for all the friendly and efficient help that they have given over the course of the last fifteen years. Finally we must thank the Henley Mayor Ken Arlett and councillor Stefan Gawrysiak for making this publication possible.

Mike and Lesley Willoughby November 2020.

Abbreviations used :

HGS	Henley Grammar School Memorial
HTC	Holy Trinity Church Memorial
RGM	Rotherfield Greys Memorial
RPC	Rotherfield Peppard Church Memorial
SM	St Marys Church Memorial
TH	Henley Town Hall Memorial
MID	Mentioned in Despatches
RAFVR	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

HERBERT ALFRED ANDERSON

Private 2nd Battalion Royal Berks Regiment (5340966)

Died 20th January 1945, Burma aged 25

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar, Burma ref. 26.D.14.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

Leonard was born in Henley on 9th November 1919, the son of William Joseph Anderson, a Transport Driver with the Army Service Corps of 32 Greys Road, Henley, and his wife Elsie Elizabeth. He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 1st February 1920. Leonard joined the Army as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. On 20th January 1945 the Battalion were in Kabwet, Burma. At 11.00am, 'B' Company attacked enemy positions between Kокtet and Irrawady with artillery support. The attack failed owing to the enemy positions being stronger and more numerous than anticipated. Leonard was the only man killed during this attack, although seven of his comrades were wounded. He was aged 25. He was buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Burma.

REGINALD HORACE ARLETT

Private 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5385163)

Died between 22nd & 31st May 1940 aged 24

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC. SM

Reginald was born in Henley on 1st June 1915, the son of John Arthur Arlett, a waterman and professional sculler, of 75 Reading Road, Henley and his wife Elizabeth. He was baptised on 4th July 1915 at Holy Trinity Church. At the outbreak of the Second World War Reginald joined the army as a Private in the 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry and went to France with the B.E.F. In May 1940 the Germans were pushing the Allies back towards the coast. Towards the end of the month the 4th Battalion were defending Mount Casson, eventually breaking out on the 29th, only to find themselves surrounded by the Germans at Watou. Reginald was killed at some time during this rear-guard action between 22nd & 31st May. He was 24 years old and is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial. His younger brother William, also in the 4th Battalion was killed in the same action.

WILLIAM JAMES ARLETT

Private 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5385167)

Died between 22nd & 31st May 1940 aged 20

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC. SM

William was born in Henley on 5th July 1919, the son of John Arthur Arlett, a waterman and professional sculler of 17 Queen Street, Henley and his wife Elizabeth. He was baptised on 7th September 1919 at Holy Trinity Church. At the outbreak of the Second World War, William like his elder brother Reginald, joined the 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. They went to France with the B.E.F. and were both killed between Mount Casson and Watou, fighting a rear-guard action against the advancing Germans, between 22nd and 31st May 1940. Neither of their bodies were found for burial and they are commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial. At 20 William was four years younger than his brother Reginald.

FRANK GRENVILLE ASHCROFT

Trooper Royal Horse Guards (505290)

Killed in action 24th September 1942 aged 22

Buried in Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel ref. V.43.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS.

Frank was born in Manchester in 1920, the son of Frank Ashcroft, a Licensed Victualler and his wife Mary, later of 2 Park View Drive, Twyford. Frank junior was educated at Henley Grammar School from 18th September 1930. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Royal Horse Guards. In September 1942 the Horse Guards were part of the 10th Armoured Brigade and were acting as a reconnaissance regiment for the Battle of El Alamein. During this conflict Frank was killed in action, aged 22 and was buried in Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel.

RONALD JOSEPH AUSTIN

Sergeant 82 Squadron, RAFVR (908623)

Killed while flying 17th May 1941 Malta aged 27

Commemorated on Malta Memorial Panel 1. Column 2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Cookley Green. HGS.

Ronald was born on 12th September 1913 at Cookley, the son of George Austin, a Carter of Cookley, Swyncombe, and his wife Beatrice Emma. He was baptised at Swyncombe on 19th October 1913. Ronald started at the Henley Grammar School in September 1925 aged 12. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and was posted to 82 Squadron based at Bodney in Norfolk as Sergeant 908623. The Squadron flew the Bristol Blenheim IV. In May 1941 the Squadron was posted to Malta. On 27th May 1941 six Bristol Blenheims of 82 Squadron were sent to attack a large convoy of merchant ships headed for Tripoli, escorted by destroyers. Blenheim V6460 was piloted by sergeant E B Ingram and the crew were sergeant R J Austin and sergeant K P Collins. The aircraft

attacked from low level and two of them were either shot down or caught by the explosion of their own bombs. V6460 was one of those lost and the other Blenheim was piloted by Flight Lieutenant G M Fairbairn. Both crashed in the sea off Malta. On board V6460 pilot Ingram and Ronald Austin were killed, sergeant Collins was taken prisoner. In the other Blenheim all three crew were killed. Ronald's name is one of the five members of 82 Squadron commemorated on the Malta Memorial on that day. He was 27 years of age.

ARTHUR JOHN AYLING

Lieutenant Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (202861)

Died 11th June 1943 Norfolk aged 26

Buried in Henley Cemetery Sec.2. Grave 19.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HGS.

Arthur as born in Henley on 3rd April 1917, the son of William Godfrey Ayling, a Mechanical Engineer of 10 Church Street, Henley and his wife Ethel Lavinia. Arthur was educated at Henley Grammar School from 19th September 1929 until 1932 when the family moved to 47a Shelly Road, Exmouth Devon and he continued his education at Exmouth Grammar School (1932-1935). On leaving school he worked for Messrs Friend and Horton, Electrical Engineers in Exeter and in 1937 joined the Post Office Engineering Department, also in Exeter. In June 1940 he joined the Army and became an NCO Instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals, subsequently adding to his experience by spending a short time with Stuart Turner Ltd. In Henley. In October 1941 he was commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and went to Africa in 1942. In September of the same year he was invalided home and after a short recuperation he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, attached to the Light Anti-Aircraft practice camp at Stiffkey, Norfolk. While stationed here on 11th June 1943 he accidentally drowned. He was 26 years old. His body was returned to Henley for burial where his parents now lived at 40a Bell Street.

CECIL TOMALIN BAILEY D.C.M.

Warrant Officer Class 2, 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5373227)

Killed in action 29th May 1940 Belgium aged 44

Buried Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinghe

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

Cecil was born in Henley on 23rd April 1896 the son of William Bailey of Gravel Hill, Henley and his wife Elizabeth. His father died in 1897 aged 55. Cecil was baptised on 22nd April 1897 at St. Mary's Church, Henley. His mother Elizabeth remarried in 1898 to Frederick Langford and they lived at Remenham Farm. At the time of the

1911 Census Cecil was aged 14 and listed as a House Boy. He joined the Army in 1912, the start of 21 years serving with the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry, retiring in 1933 with the rank of Company Sergeant Major, having also been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal during the First World War. He married Florence May Horsman in 1932 and they lived at 24 Niagara Road, Henley and he worked as a postman. He also joined the local Territorials in 1937. Cecil was recalled to the colours in August 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War and retained his rank of C.S.M. and posted again to the 4th Battalion of the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. They went to France with the B.E.F. He was killed in action in Belgium on 29th May 1940 during the Allies withdrawal to Dunkirk. Cecil was buried in Nine Elms British Cemetery in Poperinghe in Belgium, aged 44.

On 13th February 1917, Sergeant Bailey had been awarded the D.C.M.; the citation read : "For conspicuous gallantry in action. Although wounded he reformed his men and made a block at a critical time. He displayed great courage and determination throughout the operations."

ALBERT EDWARD BALL

Private 2//6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment (6145325)

Accidental death 10th December 1941 aged 21

Buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery ref. Sec.16. Grave 83.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Albert was born in East Ham, London on 23rd December 1919 the son of Joseph William Ball of 64 Melbourne Road, East Ham, a driver for the local corporation, and his wife May Elizabeth. Nothing is known about his education or early life but on leaving school he worked as a wood machinist. On the outbreak of WW2 Albert joined the Army as a Private in the 2/6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. On 10th December 1941 he was billeted at 10 Norman Avenue, Henley. At around 6pm while he was constructing an electrical lamp out of an old meat loaf tin, Albert was electrocuted and died. A post mortem was held at the War Memorial Hospital and Mr Arthur Lett, the coroner for South Oxfordshire, after hearing evidence from Captain William Roy Blore RAMC and Private Hugh Campbell, recorded a verdict of accidental death. Albert was 21 and was buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery with full military honours.

FRANCIS BARRY

Brigadier Royal Artillery, General Staff

Died 12th March 1946 aged 53

Buried Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery ref. Section 13 grave 80

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Francis was born in Selapur, North West Province, India on 8th May 1892, the son of Colonel D.F. Barry, Indian Medical Service of The Brake, Cove, County Cork, Ireland, and his wife Ella P. Barry. He was educated at Presentation College, Cork, and at University College, Cork. Francis then went on to the Royal Military Academy Woolwich. After Woolwich he was drafted to South Africa where he remained until the outbreak of World War 1. He saw active service with the Royal Field Artillery with the rank of Temporary Captain, later promoted to Temporary Major. He later served in Egypt, Aden and the Sudan. Having attained the rank of Colonel he was attached to the War Office. From the outbreak of the Second World War until his death he was on the Army General Staff in London with the rank of Brigadier. He had married Ethel, third daughter of the late Captain Montiford Westroff Gavin, High Sheriff of Co.Limerick of Kilpeacon House, Crecora, County Limerick; they had three sons. The Brigadier was a very keen and proficient tennis player – he was a member of the Peppard Lawn Tennis Club and also a former member of the Henley Sailing Club. From 1938 the family lived at Apple Tree Cottage, New Street, Henley. Francis died on 12th March 1946 aged 53 and was buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery.

DENIS MICHAEL GAVIN BARRY

Captain 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (95533)

Killed in action 6th April 1945 aged 25

Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany ref. 12.K.24.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Denis was born on 5th September 1919 the son of Brigadier Francis Barry, General Staff of Kinsale, County Cork, Irish Republic, and his wife Ethel Mary. Later of 29 New Street, Henley on Thames. He had two brothers Patrick and Peter. He was educated at Cottesmore School in Sussex and Eastmans in Southsea, then at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire between April 1931 and December 1937 (a school which boasts seven V.C.s among its old boys). After school Denis went to Sandhurst where he passed out in 1938 and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers on 1st July 1939. He was promoted Lieutenant on 1st January 1941. By July 1944 Denis had attained the rank of Captain and was attached to the Royal Ulster Rifles taking command of 12 Platoon B. Company in the region of the Escaut Canal. From this point on, in the Royal Ulster Rifles battalion history he was known as Captain Michael or Mike Barry. In January 1945 he transferred to C. Company as Second-in-Command and was shortly after called on to take over command. On 6th April 1945 the battalion advanced into the German town of Lingen, on the River Ems in Lower Saxony. The Commanding Officer John Drummond's orders to Captain Barry who was in charge of C. Company, were

simple and direct – to get on to the crossroads on the outskirts of town by a circuitous route by using a right-flanking attack along a second road. A. Company, advancing straight up the main road towards the crossroads, would follow. C. Company who were to move as quickly as possible, leaving any strong opposition for B. Company to deal with. To assist Michael Barry there was a troop of Sherman tanks and three Churchill Crocodile flame throwing tanks. A & B Companies were to meet up in the market square and move forward in pre-arranged order. However, they were pinned down by fire from five or six men firing from the adjacent buildings. These were engaged by the rear section of Lieutenant Purcell's platoon but not before one of the enemy had mortally wounded Captain Barry. He was aged 25 when he died. One of this fellow officers provided a very suitable epitaph :

"Mike Barry was a fellow who had a genius for living, and although his life was cut tragically short, it can be certainly said that he enjoyed it to the full."

RONALD JOHN MORTON BATTY

Sergeant Air Gunner, 75 Squadron Royal Air Force (549542)

Killed while flying. 21th July 1944 aged 27

Buried Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands ref. 5. A. 9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM. HGS.

Ronald was born in Henley in 1917, the son of John Barry, a Brewer's Agent of 38 Hart Street, Henley and his wife Margaret Ann. In 1918 the family moved to The Armistice Hotel a temperance hotel at 31-33 Hart Street. He was educated at Burghfield House Preparatory school and then Henley Grammar School, and after a course in farming he joined the Royal Air Force in 1938. The squadron to which he was attached formed part of the Advanced Air Striking Force which flew to France the day before the outbreak of World War Two. After a hazardous journey across France from Rheims, Ronald was among the last parties to be evacuated from Brest, after Dunkirk. On his return to this country he saw service with the Ground Camouflage and Decoy Service and after taking up air gunnery he was posted to 75 Squadron, a New Zealand unit operating Avro Lancasters based at RAF Mepal in Cambridgeshire. On the night of 20th July 1944 at 23.30hrs, Ronald took off in Lancaster ME691 (AA-R) flown by Pilot Officer Harold Whittington. The aircraft was one of 147 Lancasters and 22 Mosquitos that were to take part in a raid on Hamberg Oil Refinery in the Ruhr. At 01.33hrs on 21st July the Lancaster was brought down and crashed near the Veghel-Uden road in the south east of the Netherlands. All of the crew with the exception of the flight engineer were killed, including Ronald. The flight engineer was taken prisoner. The rest of the crew were all buried in the Uden War Cemetery, 33kms north of Eindhoven.

RONALD LORRAINE BATTY

Lance Sergeant Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5389646)

Killed in action Italy 20th January 1944 aged 31

Buried Minturno War Cemetery, Italy ref. III.H.13.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH

Ronald was born on 27th July 1914 the son of Woodruffe Charles Batty, a plumber and decorator, of 189 Reading Road, Henley and his wife Fanny. Nothing is known about his education and early life but when he left school he worked as a heavy haulage driver. In C.W.G.C. it states that his wife's name was Barbara but no trace of a marriage has been found as yet. At the outbreak of World War Two Ronald joined the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry as a Private and by 1944 he had risen to the rank of Sergeant. He was killed in action on 20th January 1944 in the allies' battle for Minturno in Italy. Ronald was buried in the Minturno War Cemetery 78kms north of Naples.

PAUL DUNCAN BAYLISS

Gunner 414 Bty.104 (The Essex Yeomanry) Regt. Royal Horse Artillery (902871)

Died 1st April 1942 Egypt aged 25

Buried in Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt ref. B.D.2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Paul was born in 1917 the son of Percy Joseph Bayliss a book-keeper of Chagford Oak Road, Rochford, Essex and his wife Daisy Florence. Nothing is known about his early life or education but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Army as a gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery and was posted to 414 Battery and sent to Egypt. Paul died on 1st April 1942 aged 25. At the time of his death his parents were living in Henley on Thames.

FRED HERBERT BISHOP

Private 4th Battalion, Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5385386)

Killed in action 24th May 1940 aged 34

Buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery ref. Sec.16. Grave 40.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Fred was born in Bix in 1905, registered as Fred Herbert Bishop, the son of Fred Bishop a Drayman of 16 Oxford Place, Fairmile, Henley and his wife Frances Ann. On leaving school Fred worked for Major & Mrs Dixon at Sheephouse Farm, Henley. He joined the Army as a Private in the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. Fred was wounded in France and evacuated to the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton, where

he died of his wounds on 24th May 1940, aged 34. His body was returned to Henley for burial in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery.

GEORGE WILLIAM BOND

Leading Aircraftman 72 Squadron RAFVR (1223038)

Killed in action 20th March 1942 aged 33

Buried Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery (Men's) Plot E. Coll.grave 18.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

George was born in Henley in 1909 the son of George Bond, a butcher of 30 Albert Road and his wife Louisa. He was baptised on 13th June 1909 at Holy Trinity Church. On 25th January 1936 George married Winifred Wetherall at Holy Trinity Church. He later joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and was posted as Leading Air Craftsman (L.A.C.) to 72 squadron. In March 1942 they were based in RAF Ta Kali, Malta, equipped with Supermarine Spitfires. George was working as ground crew when the Germans launched a major bombing offensive on the Island and he died on 20th March 1942 and was buried in Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery in a communal grave along with four other men from RAF Ta Kali

CYRIL LESLIE BRADLEY

Private 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5382535)

Killed in action 19th May 1940 aged 26

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial Column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Cyril was born in Henley in 1914, the son of George Bradley, a farm labourer of 84 West Street and his wife Ethel. He was baptised 15th March 1914 at St Mary's Church, Henley. Cyril joined the Army at the outbreak of World War 2 as a Private in the 4th Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. He was killed in action in the Battalion's withdrawal to Dunkirk. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

ALFRED VERNON (VALE) BROOKER

Private 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (5384725)

Killed in action between 17th & 25th May 1940 aged 19

Commemorated on Dunkirk Memorial Column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Alfred (Vale) was born in Henley on 28th December 1920, the son of Arthur John Brooker, a labourer, of 22 Albert Road, Henley and his wife Minnie. He was baptised

on 6th February 1921 at Holy Trinity Church. The family later moved to 10 Hop Gardens, Henley. At the outbreak of World War 2 Alfred joined the Army as a Private, 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. He was killed in action on the battalion's withdrawal to Dunkirk between 17th and 25th May 1940. His body was never identified for burial. He was just 19 years old and is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

LEONARD CHARLES BROWN

Guardsman 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards (2619638)

Killed in action Italy 2nd August 1944 aged 24

Buried in Florence War Cemetery ref. IX. B. 3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Leonard was born in Henley on 24th May 1920 the son of Alfred Brown, a labourer of 41 West Street, Henley and his wife Jane Anne. He was baptised on 25th September 1920 at St Mary's Church. The family later moved to 64 Mount View, Henley. When he left school Leonard worked as a general labourer. He joined the Army in 1940 as a guardsman with the 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards. He was killed in action on 2nd August 1944 fighting near Florence in Italy and was buried in Florence War Cemetery, Italy aged 24.

WILLIAM ALFRED REGINALD BRYANT

Lieutenant Gordon Highlanders / Somerset Light Infantry (207032)

Killed in action Westphalia 22nd November 1944 aged 30

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery ref. 47.D.12.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

William (Toby) was born in Fordingbridge, Hampshire on 27th May 1924, the son of Harry George Bryant, a commercial clerk of Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge and his wife Florence Catherine. He was baptised on 5th July 1914 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin at Fordingbridge. William was a master at Henley Grammar School and later commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders. He married Irene Neuman in 1940. In 1944 he was seconded to 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and was killed in action on 22nd November 1944 (aged 30) whilst the battalion were attacking Niederheid in the northern Rhine area of Westphalia. William was buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

ARTHUR HENRY BUCKETT

Private 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5383165)

Died of wounds 17th May 1940 aged 26

Buried in Adegem Canadian War Memorial Cemetery

HENLEY Local Memorials : TH. SM

Arthur was born in Henley on 23rd June 1913 the son of Frederick Buckett, a painter of 35 West Hill and his wife Katherine May. He was baptised on 14th September 1913 at St Mary's Church. Arthur married Ivy Christine Huzzey in 1934 and they lived at 5 Manor Cottages, Culham Lane, Upper Culham. They had two sons, Henry in 1934 and Leonard in 1935. On the outbreak of WW2 Arthur enlisted as Private 5383165 4th Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and went to France with the BEF. He was wounded on 19th May 1940, the day that the Germans began their big push through Belgium and France. Arthur died in a field hospital on 17th May 1940 aged 26 and was buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery.

ERNEST WALTER BUCKETT

Gunner 292 Battery 94 H.A.A. Regt. Royal Artillery (1725640)

Killed in action Libya 25th December 1941 aged 32

Buried in Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya ref.8.G.9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Ernest was born in Henley on 15th February 1910 the son of Edward Buckett, a labourer of 26 Adwell Square, Henley and his wife Mary. He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 3rd April 1910. In 1939 Ernest and his widowed mother were living at 54 West Street, he was working as a hotel barman. He joined the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War as a gunner in the Royal Artillery and was posted to 292 Battery, 94 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment and sent to the Middle East. He was killed in action on 25th December 1941 aged 32 and was buried in Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya.

THOMAS ARTHUR BUCKETT

Guardsman 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards (2620369)

Killed in action Italy 8th April 1944 aged 33

Buried in Caserta War Cemetery, Italy ref. VII.B.15.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Thomas was born in Henley in 1912 the son of George William Buckett, a Labourer of 26 Adwell Square and his wife Annie Louisa. He was baptised on 13th October 1912 at St Mary's Church, Henley. At the outbreak of the Second World War Thomas joined the army as a Guardsman with the 6th Battalion Grenadier Guards. He was killed in action on 8th April 1944 whilst fighting in Italy, between Monte Cassino and the western seaboard, aged 33. Thomas was buried in the Caserta War Cemetery near Naples, Italy.

EDWARD OWEN BULE

Flight Sergeant (navigator) 164(RAAF) Squadron RAFVR (1602613)

Killed while flying 1st January 1945 Belgium aged 24

Buried Heverlee War Cemetery Joint grave 2.K.13-14.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS : Kidmore End,

Edward was born in Newport, Monmouthshire on 18th September 1920 the son of Fred Eric Bule, a Foreman Bricklayer and his wife Irene Doris. The family moved to Sonning Common in 1929, initially living in Virginia Cottage, Kennylands Road and then in 1931 they moved to 5 Kennylands Road. Edward was educated at Henley Grammar School from 15th September 1932 and on leaving school he went to work as a Post Office Engineer. He joined the RAFVR on 11th December 1941 at Oxford and was recommended for training as a Pilot/Observer. The first months of his training are difficult to trace, but we know he married Irene Doris Goodwin in 1943 in Lancashire. On 18th February 1943 Edward was sent to Canada to complete his training; by now having transferred to become a Navigator. He qualified in this role on 9th July and his first posting was to 464 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force on 27th November 1944. They were based at RAF Thorney Island, Hampshire, and were operating the De Havilland Mosquito FB V1 fighter bomber aircraft. Edward was promoted to Flight Sergeant on 30th December 1944. On 1st January 1945 Pilot Officer Irvine Bradley, who was on attachment from the Royal Canadian Air Force, took off from RAF Thorney Island in DH Mosquito, NT231, with Edward as his navigator/wireless operator. There were seventeen other aircraft of 464 Squadron on the mission and they were detailed to bomb enemy concentrations in the area of Houffalize – Vielsalm – Karlshausen – Martenlange, in the southwest of Belgium. Their targets consisted of tanks and other motor vehicles. They were reported as 'failed to return' but it now appears they were shot down by Oberfeldwebel Heinz Helmut Baudach flying an Me-262 jet fighter, and crashed near the village of Six Planes in Belgium. Edward was originally buried in the village and the grave was tended by the villagers. The Headmaster of the local school took photographs of the grave and they were sent to Edward's wife. (She gave birth to a daughter Anne on 25th May 1945.) After the

war Edward's body was moved to Heverlee War Cemetery near Leuven, Belgium, in a joint grave with the Canadian Pilot Irvine Bradley.

HERBERT VIGERS CALDICOTT

Civilian War Dead

Died as the result of enemy action 18th June 1944 aged 70

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Herbert was born in Dulwich on 19th September 1873, the son of Thomas Parker Caldicott, a ribbon merchant of Grosvenor Villas, Dulwich and his wife Eliza Vigers Caldicott. He was baptised on 29th October 1873 at St Matthew's Church, Brixham. At the time of the 1911 census Herbert was living at home with his widowed mother of 7 Dulwich Wood Park in south east London. He was then 37 and worked as a ribbon warehouseman. Herbert married Mabel Browne on 10th December 1914 at St Stephen's Church, South Dulwich, by which time he had become Managing Director of Messrs. H. V. Caldicott Ltd, 19-25 Argyll Street, W.1. For some years he lived at Wilminster Cottage, White Hill, Henley and was a member of the Thames Lodge of Freemasons. Herbert was killed on 18th June 1944 when a V.1. German Flying Bomb hit the Royal Military Chapel (Guards Chapel) in St James Park, during the morning service. There were 121 people killed and 141 injured.

ANTHONY HOWARD CARTMELL

2nd Lieutenant 4th Queen's Own Hussars, R.A.C. (193492)

Killed in action 9th November 1942 Egypt aged 21

Buried in Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery ref. 6.F.9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Anthony was born in Henley in 1921, the son of Eric Aubyn St John Cartmell and his wife Evelyn. At the outbreak of the Second World War Anthony was commissioned into the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, which were part of the Royal Armoured Corps. On November 9th 1942 he was killed in action at El Alamein, aged 21, and was buried at Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery in Egypt.

EDGAR GLYNN CHALLIS

Flight Sergeant Royal Australian Air Force (434619)

Killed while flying France 2nd August 1944 aged 22

Buried in Boran-sur-Oise Communal Cemetery Grave 15.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC. + parent's grave Holy Trinity Churchyard

Edgar was born in Hayes, Middlesex on 17th December 1922, the son of William Arthur Challis, later of 41 Station Road, Henley and his wife Florence Elizabeth. He was educated at Henley Senior School and then went on to the Bluecoat School, Reading. For a short time after this he worked at the Wessex Electricity Co, Henley. In April 1939 Edgar left England and went to Brisbane, Australia, where he entered St Francis's College to train for the ministry. Despite passing his theological licentiate in sixth place out of all Australia, Edgar was determined to take an active part in the war effort. He joined the Army, only to be discharged on account of his age and obligations. As soon as he was 21 Edgar joined the Royal Australian Air Force, even though he only had another six months before he would have obtained his degree. He hoped to become a fighter pilot, but unable to achieve this he trained as a mid upper gunner in an Avro Lancaster. In November 1943 Edgar returned to England to complete his training as a Flight Sergeant with 467 Squadron RAAF to Waddington in Lincolnshire. On 2nd August 1944 at 2.34pm Avro Lancaster ND346 took off from Waddington bound for a raid on a flying bomb facility in the Forêt de l'Isle, Adam. The pilot was Flying Officer Richard Dyer, his crew : Flight Sergeant Challis, Flight Sergeant Heap, Flight Sergeant Howard, Warrant Officer Le Maire, Flight Sergeant McKinnon and Sergeant Shayler, During the flight they collided with Lancaster ME853 over Boran sur Oise, 9km WSW of Chantilly in France. There were no survivors from either crew. Edgar was buried with Albert Heap, John McKinnon and John le Maire in Boran-sur-Oise Communal Cemetery, west of Senlis in France. Pilot Arthur Dyer, Anthony Shayler and Russell Howard were buried in the Viroflay New Communal Cemetery, Yvelines, 4km.east of Versailles, France.

CYRIL FRANK CHANDLER

Leading Aircraftsman Royal Air Force (1030299)

Died on home leave 2nd June 1941 aged 36

Buried Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Cyril was born in Reading in 1905, the son of John Thomas Chandler, an upholsterer, of 25 Letcombe Street, Reading and his wife Elizabeth Jane. Cyril married Elsie Elizabeth Knight in 1927 in Maidenhead and they had three daughters, Phyllis in 1930, Joy in 1934 and Joan in Henley in 1941. By this time the family were living at 30 Kings Road, Henley. Cyril worked as a traveller for a Henley firm of grocers and provision merchants for some years before entering the Royal Air Force on 7th April 1940. During his time in the RAF he had objected to the way he was treated at his first station. Cyril had also spoken to the Chaplain, telling him that although he was a Quaker, he was still very anxious to serve his

country. He came home to Henley on leave on Thursday 29th May 1941 and was due to return to his unit on the following Tuesday. The day before his return he complained of a headache and went to lie down in his room. Shortly after this his wife heard a gunshot. The police were called, also the family doctor, Dr T. Staines-Read of Henley, who certified the death due to a gunshot wound in Cyril's chest. A Coroners Court was convened and a verdict of "suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed" was returned. It would seem his patriotic and religious principles clashed. Cyril was buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery.

PATRICK CLISBY CHURCH

Leading Aircraftman, RAFVR (1030299)

Died in POW camp 16th July 1943 aged 31

Buried Kanchanaburi War Cemetery ref. 8.D.60.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

Patrick was born in Twyford on 27th February 1911, the son of John William Church of London Road, Twyford and his wife Alice. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from January 1922. Patrick married Beryl Lovegrove in 1938 and they lived at 31c Hamilton Road, Reading and he worked as an insurance clerk. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and by 1943 was a Leading Aircraftman. Patrick was taken prisoner by the Japanese sent to Hintock Valley Camp in Thailand. He was forced to work on the notorious Burma-Siam Railway where he died on 16th July 1943 aged 31. He was originally buried in Hintock Valley Camp but on 12th March 1946 he was re-buried in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand.

FREDERICK GEORGE CLARK

Sergeant 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards (2667022)

Died 20th October 1946, Palestine. aged 20

Buried in Khayat Beach War Cemetery ref. C.G.2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH, HT

Frederick was born in Henley on 21st April 1926, the son of Frederick Leonard Clark, a general labourer of 8 Albion Place, Henley and his wife Dorothy Annie. He was baptised 25th July 1926 at St Mary's Church. The family later moved to 65 Vicarage Road, Henley. Frederick joined the Army as a private in the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards. By October 1946 he had reached the rank of Sergeant. On 20th October 1946 Frederick died in the General Hospital, Haifa, Palestine, after a short illness, aged 20. and was buried in Khayat Beach War Cemetery, Haifa.

FRANK CLEMENTS

Lance Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5384751

Killed in action 19th May 1940 aged 33

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial Column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

Frank was born in Henley in 1907 the son of Charles Clements, a bricklayer of 134 West Hill, Henley and his wife Rose. He was baptised on 23rd June 1907 at St. Mary's Church. On leaving school Frank trained to be a bricklayer like his father. He married Phyllis A. Berry on 20th October 1928 at St. Mary's Church. At the outbreak of the Second World War Frank joined the 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry as a private. By May 1940 he was in France and had been promoted to Lance Corporal. Frank was killed in action on 19th May 1940 whilst taking part in the rear-guard action towards Dunkirk. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

RICHARD CLINCH

Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382727)

Killed in action 19th May 1940 aged 35

Buried in Gaurain-Ramecroix War Cemetery, Belgium

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH

Richard was born in Henley in 1903, the son of William Clinch, a painter of 35 Kings Road and his wife Annie. His father William died in 1924 at the age of 67. He was buried on 7th March 1924 at Holy Trinity Church. At the time the family were living at 31 Reading Road, Henley. At the outbreak of the WW2 War Richard joined the Army as a Private in the 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry and went to France with the B.E.F. By May 1940 Richard had been made a Corporal and the Battalion were withdrawing in the face of the advancing Germans. On 19th May they had reached the outskirts of Tournai when an obstruction in the road caused the convoy to come to a halt. Almost immediately nine Heinkel bombers appeared and dropped their loads. Without enough warning the bombs landed where the lorries were still full of men. Richard was among those killed, aged 35. He was buried in Gaurain-Ramecroix War Cemetery, Tournai, Hainault, Belgium. He is remembered on the Henley Town Memorial as L Clinch.

ARTHUR FREDERICK DOUGLAS COOK

Bandsman 6th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (5617113)

Died of wounds Italy. 28th June 1944 aged 27

Buried in Orvieto War Cemetery ref I.G.4.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Arthur was born in Barnstaple, Devon in 1916, the son of Thomas Arthur Cook, a nursery labourer of Tanners Lane, Landkey, Barnstaple, Devon and his wife Elizabeth. Nothing is known at present about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Army as a Bandsman in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Arthur married Constance Amy Ayres in Henley in 1942 and they lived at 12 Clarence Road, Henley. Later that year the 6th Battalion landed in Algiers as part of the 78th Infantry Division and then fought through Tunisia, Sicily and up through Italy. On 20th June 1944 Frederick died of wounds aged 27. His widow Constance married Denis Kinshott on 24th August 1946 at St Mary's Church, Henley and they lived at 4 River Terrace, Henley, and had two sons.

JOHN CREED

Trooper 16th/5th Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (7889653)

Killed in action 25th April 1943 aged 24

Commemorated on the Medjez-el-Bab Memorial Face 2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

John was born in Maidenhead in 1919, the son of William Creed and his wife Olive, later of 98 Greys Hill, Henley. John joined the Army as a Trooper in the 16th/5th Lancers. In 1943 they were fighting in Tunisia as part of the Royal Armoured Corps. Early in 1943 the Regiment received the new American Sherman Tanks and put them to good use in the Battle of Tunisia. John was killed in action on 25th April 1943 during the last weeks of the Battle. He was 23 years of age. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Medjez-El-Bab Memorial located within the cemetery of the same name, 60kms west of Tunis.

EDWIN HERBERT CRESSWELL

Private 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382059)

Killed in action Belgium 30th May 1940 aged 26

Buried in Lille Southern Cemetery Plot 7. Row C. Grave 2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : Pishill Church

Edwin was born in Henley on 28th August 1913, the son of Alfred Herbert Cresswell, a bricklayer of 110 Greys Road, Henley and his wife Alice. He was baptised on 2nd November 1913 at Holy Trinity Church, Henley. At the outbreak of the Second World War Edwin joined the Army as a Private, 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry and went to France with the B.E.F. He was killed in action at the 'Battle of Cassels' during the British rearguard action to Dunkirk, on 30th May 1940 – he was aged 26. At the time of Edwin's death his parents address is given as Pishill.

ARTHUR HAMMOND DALTON

Wing Commander (pilot) 24 Squadron RAFVR (75602)

Killed while flying in N.Ireland 31st July 1941 aged 47

Buried in Hutton (All Saints) Churchyard, Essex

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Arthur was born on 30th October 1892 the son of William Dalton, "The Burses", London Road, Hutton, Essex, living on own means, and his wife Catherine. He was educated at Charterhouse 1906-1907 and at Hailebury 1907-1910. At the time of the census in 1911 Arthur was a law student at the establishment of Edward Lovell Hawkins, Barham House, St Leonard's on Sea. He joined the City of London Yeomanry in 1914 and during the Great War he served as a subaltern in the 3rd (King's Own) Hussars before transferring to the Royal Corps in which he served until 1919. In 1926 Arthur was appointed as a Flight Lieutenant in the newly formed Auxiliary Air Force serving with 600 (City of London) Squadron until 1930. In 1937 he was re-appointed as assistant adjutant of an apprentice wing at a school of technical training. In 1939 Arthur married Eileen Hartley in London when he was living at Elm Tree Drive, NW8. At the outbreak of WW2 he was a Squadron Leader Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve attached to Auxiliary Air Command and he and Eileen were living at 'Broomhill', Hive Road, Bushey, Herts. Arthur was promoted to Wing Commander and posted to 24 Squadron which at the time operated as a VIP transport squadron. On 31st July 1941 he was flying a DH 87B Hornet Moth serial no. W9380 from RAF Limavady, Northern Ireland reconnoitering heavy anti-aircraft guns in the Londonderry area and flew into a mountain top in fog approximately 16 miles due south of Limavady and was killed, aged 47. Arthur was buried in All Saints Churchyard, Brentwood, Essex. His wife Eileen lived in Henley on Thames.

EDWARD OWEN DANIEL D.S.C.

Lieutenant Royal Navy, HMS Gloucester

Killed in action 22nd May 1941 aged 39

Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 44. Col.3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : SM

Edward was born on 19th October 1902 in Bahia, Brazil, the son of Martin Theodore Daniel, later of Denmark House, Henley and his wife Winifred Emily. He was

educated at Seaford College, Seaford, Sussex before going into the Royal Navy as sub-lieutenant in 1933. Edward married Diana Bonham-Carter in Alton, Hampshire in 1933 and they lived at Wey House, Alton. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1934 and on the outbreak of WW2 he was posted to the cruiser HMS Gloucester. On 22nd May 1941 while in the Kythira Strait 14 miles north of Crete the ship was attacked by German Junkers Ju 87 "Stuka" dive bombers, and struck by at least four heavy bombs. Of the 807 men aboard at the time of her sinking, only 85 survived. Edward was not one of them and died on 22nd May 1941 aged 39. The sinking of HMS Gloucester was considered to be one of Britain's worst wartime naval disasters. Edward's body was not recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. His wife Diana died in London on 11th April 1944. In the London Gazette 17th June 1941 it was announced that Edward had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously. "For courage and coolness when attacked by enemy aircraft".

ERIC GEORGE DAVIS

Able Seaman Royal Navy, HMS President III (P/JX 215140)

Killed in action, Barbuda 15th March 1942 aged 29

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 63, Col.2

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Eric was born in Reading on 14th May 1912 the son of George William Davis and his wife Daisy Lilian. He married Joyce Mary Smith in 1937 in Newbury and they came to live at 141 Reading Road, Henley and Eric worked as an agent for an assurance company. He joined the Royal Navy at the outbreak of World War 2 and was posted as an Able Seaman to HMS President III at Bristol. This was a shore base established at Bristol in 1939 to train those allocated to 'Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships'. After his training he was posted to the SS Manaqui, a steamer of the merchant fleet. On 19th February 1942 the ship sailed from Cardiff with a general cargo bound for Kingston, Jamaica, with an anticipated arrival date of 20th March. The ship never reached Kingston, and is understood to have been sunk by a submarine on or about 15th March 1942, near Barbuda. All on board – Master, 34 crew and 6 gunners were lost. Eric was one of the gunners. The submarine was initially understood to have been the German U-boat U-504, but this has recently been queried with the counter suggestion that it was an Italian submarine. This illustrated the problems faced in accounting for war casualties. Eric died at the age of 29. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

MARY DEWE

Civilian War Dead

Killed in air raid in London 10th September 1940 aged 25

Buried Commemorated on the London City Memorial Book

HENLEY. Local Memorials :

Mary was born in Henley in 1915 the daughter of Frederick William Dewe, a Flour Miller of Hinton, Fairmile, Henley and his wife Charlotte. In September 1928 the Henley Grammar School underwent a reorganisation, part of which was to admit female students. Mary was one of the first of these, being registered in September 1928. Her father Frederick Dewe died in 1939 aged 71. Mary was at one time a member of the Henley Tennis Club and was well-known in Henley. She died as the result of a German bombing raid during the Blitz in London on 10th September 1940 aged 25.

ALBERT VICTOR DIBLEY

Private 2/4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment (5505339)

Killed in action Italy 9th November 1944 aged 29

Buried Meldola War Cemetery, Italy ref. I.A.28.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC. +parents headstone HT churchyard

Albert was born in Henley on 18th February 1915, the son of William James Dibley, a chauffeur of 1 Marmion Road and his wife Ada. He was baptised on 4th April 1915 at Holy Trinity Church. 'Bert' as he was known to his many friends, excelled at most sports as a young man, especially football and cricket, playing both games for the Henley Y.M.C.A. teams. He was employed by Messrs. Cordery and Pether, Mr G.Girdler, and Messrs Harris, the cake manufacturers. He was called up in 1940 and joined the Hampshire Regiment, being posted as Private 5505339 to the 2/4th Battalion. Albert went to Italy in 1943 with his Battalion and was killed by a shell burst on 9th November 1944 near Meldola, in Italy, at 29 years of age. He was buried in Meldola War Cemetery in the Province of Forli, Italy

OWEN ROBERT BRUCE DICK

Pilot Sergeant RAFVR (1288945)

Killed while flying Scotland 7th August 1941 aged 32

Buried in Perth (Wellshill) Cemetery Sec.B. Jeanfield Div.

Joint grave 854.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Owen was born on 11th November 1909 the son of William Bruce Dick, a company director of 22 Hyde Park Street, Kensington and his wife Alberta Mary. He was

baptised at St. John's Paddington on 22nd December 1909. Nothing is yet known about his early life and education but when he left school he worked as an "oil salesman". Owen married Pamela Helen Meyer, they lived at Sheffield Terrace, Kensington and had two children. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and gained his pilot's wings. In August 1941 he was a sergeant/instructor at No.11 Elementary Flying Training School, Perth, Scotland. On 7th August 1941 he took off with a pupil LAC Dennis Frank Vaughan in DH Tiger Moth N7341 and was involved in a mid-air collision with Tiger Moth T7362, flown by LAC Edward Henry Ridgewell and crashed a short while later at Kingswell Wood, Scone about two miles away. Both the occupants died in N7341, the sole occupant of T7362 also died. Owen was buried in Perth (Wellshill) Cemetery aged 32. His wife by this time had moved to the Hawthorns, Reading Road, Henley and on 9th December 1944 married Charles Thayer Slater, a US Army war correspondent. Owen is recorded in CWGC as the husband of Pamela Helen Dick of Henley on Thames, hence his inclusion in this Memorial Book.

THOMAS HENRY EDDY

Driver, Royal Army Service Corps (T/228063)

Killed in action 11th April 1941 aged 28

Buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Henley Grave C.10.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC.

Thomas was born on 3rd May 1912 in Edmonton, Middlesex, the son of William Eddy, an Engine Driver and his wife Louisa. The family later moved to 159a Greys Road, Henley. At the beginning of World War 2 Thomas joined the R.A.S.C. and after his initial training was posted to 9/20th Staff Company as a Driver, where he worked as a motorcycle dispatch rider. At 10.40pm on the night of Thursday 10th April 1941 Thomas was returning to his Depot when he was in collision with a motor car at the top of Punt Hill, Maidenhead. He was admitted to the local hospital at about 11.15pm with a broken tibia, fibula and femur, plus a fracture of the skull. Thomas died at 2.45am the following morning, death being due to shock and multiple injuries. He was buried on 18th May in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Henley.

ROBERT LESLIE JAMES EDMONDS

Sergeant (wireless operator/air gunner) RAFVR (1264540)

Killed while flying in Scotland 9th January 1942 aged 19

Buried in Addington (St Mary's) Churchyard by S.W. Buttress

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Robert was born on 3rd July 1922 in Thornton Heath, Surrey, the son of Robert William Edmonds, a schoolmaster and his wife Edith. His mother died later in 1922 aged 36 and it would appear that Robert Edmonds may have been teaching in Henley when he met and married Ellen Laura Cordery of 17 St Marks Road, Henley, at Holy Trinity Church on 11th April 1925. On the outbreak of the Second World War Robert junior joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and trained as a

wireless operator/air gunner. After completing his training he was sent to No.19 operational training unit (O.T.U.) based at RAF Kinloss in north east Scotland. On 9th January 1942 an Armstrong Whitley IV twin-engine bomber K9017 took off from RAF Brackla, a relief landing ground for 19 OTU, for dual instruction under the command of Flight Sergeant Leslie Clarke. The other crew members were Pilot Sergeant James Wilson Royal Canadian Air Force; Pilot Sergeant William Robertshaw Royal Canadian Air Force; Wireless operator/air gunner Sergeant Ronald Potten RAFVR; and wireless operator/air gunner Sergeant Robert Edmonds RAFVR. At around 12.45pm the bomber crashed into trees at Cawdor near the airfield. All on board were killed. Robert was buried in Addington (St Mary) Churchyard, Surrey aged 19. The funeral was extensively reported in the Henley Standard.

JOHN ANDREW EDWARD D.F.C.

Flight Lieutenant 617 Squadron Royal Air Force (51120)

Killed while flying 24th June 1944 aged 29

Buried in Leulinghem Churchyard, France Grave 1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH

John was born in Antwerp, Belgium on 19th July 1914 the son of Harold Westbrook Edward, a steamship manager of Newlands, 12 Portland Road, Bowden, Cheshire and his wife Harriet Emily. The birth was registered as a Consulate Birth (British subject). John was educated at Brambletye School, Sidcup, Kent before going to in Lent Term 1928 to Radley College where he studied the standard subjects plus Spanish and also rowed in the junior sculls. On 1st August 1930 during his time as a student he embarked at Manchester Dock aboard the SS Manchester Citizen bound for Montreal, Canada. On the outbreak of WW2 John enlisted as a Private in the Royal Artillery and was then discharged to commission on 8th December 1939. In 1942 he transferred to the RAFVR and after completing his flying training he was posted to 50 Squadron as Flight Lieutenant 51120. From May 1942 the Squadron was stationed at RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincoln, flying Avro Lancasters. John was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross which was gazetted on 11th February 1944. His citation read "He invariably presses home his attack regardless of all enemy opposition. Both in the air and on the ground his courage has been of the highest praise." On 29th June 1944 John took off from RAF Woodhall Spa at 16.25 as pilot of Avro Lancaster Mk 1 serial no. DV403 coded KC-G armed with a "Tallboy" – a 12000 bomb designed by Barnes Wallis to penetrate thick concrete, and with instructions to destroy a flying bomb launch site at Wizernes in the Pas de Calais, France. Also on board with him were Flying Officer Lieut. Les King DFC; flight engineer; Flight Officer Lorne Pritchard DFC, RCAF, navigator; Flight Sgt. Jackie Brook, bomb aimer; Flight Sergeant Gerrard Hobbs; Pilot Officer James

Johnston DFC, RCAF air gunner; Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Price RCAF air gunner; Flight Sergeant Isherwood, air gunner. The aircraft was hit by flak (anti-aircraft fire) and the port wing caught fire. They began to lose height, slowly at first, but then went out of control and blew up before they hit the ground at the village of Leulingham, 7kms southwest of St Omer in the Pas de Calais at 16.58, still carrying their bomb load. Pilot John Edward, air gunners Thomas Price and Samuel Isherwood were killed outright and were buried in Leulingham Cemetery. Flight engineer Les King DFC died of wounds soon after the crash and was buried in the Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery. Gerrard Hobbs, Jackie Brook and Lorne Pritchard were all taken POW. Brook was sent to Stalag Luft 7 and Pritchard to Stalag Luft 1. The camp to which Hobbs was sent is not recorded.

John's parents Edward and Harriett had moved to Willand, Devon by the time of his death. During his time in Henley John was captain and a committee member at Henley Rowing Club and worked for Montague Spencer Ellis the accountant.

ALLAN CLIFFORD EDWARDS

Sergeant RAF Volunteer Reserve (1163977)

Killed while flying in Germany 11th October 1941 aged 19

Buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery Coll.grave I.B.5-8.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

Allan was born in Essex in 1922 the son of William Edwards, a grocer's manager, and his wife Annie. The family later moved to the Supply Stores, Sonning Common and Allan started at Henley Grammar School on 9th January 1934. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and after training he was posted to 75 Squadron which was stationed at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk and flew Vickers Wellingtons. On the night of 11th October 1941 Allan and his crew took off from Feltwell in Vickers Wellington Z8909 coded AA-, on a bombing raid to Cologne in Germany. Their aircraft crashed near the target and the crew were all killed. Allan was one of them. He and five other crew members were first buried in the British War Cemetery 1914-1918 in the Zollstock District, but after 1945 their remains were taken to the Rheinberg War Cemetery in Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.

MAURICE HALL FALCONAR

Lieutenant 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (65143)

Killed in action Hong Kong 23rd December 1941 aged 29

Buried in Stanley Military Cemetery ref. 5.A, Coll.grave 3-6.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

Maurice was born in Paddington on 13th October 1912 the son of Dr William Ernest Falconar, a physician of Rupert House, Henley and his wife Elizabeth Annie. Maurice attended Henley Grammar School from September 1924 until 10th April 1929. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment. By the middle of December 1941 he had been promoted to a full Lieutenant and posted to the 1st Battalion who were in Hong Kong. Maurice was killed in action on 23rd December 1941 aged 29, fighting around the town of Stanley, which finally fell to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. He was buried in Stanley Military Cemetery.

GEOFFREY FARNHILL

Wing Commander Royal Air Force (28039)

Killed while flying 5th April 1941 aged 30

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial column 409

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Geoffrey was born in 1911 the son of Frank Farnhill, a school teacher of 31 Newall Street, Littleborough, Manchester and his wife Mary. We know nothing yet about his early life and education. According to CWGC he married Mary Maitland and lived in Henley on Thames. Geoffrey enlisted in the RAF and was commissioned Flying Officer on 5th September 1933. On the outbreak of WW2 he was promoted to Squadron Leader and appointed commanding officer of 62 Squadron which flew Bristol Blenheim light bombers. On 10th December 1940 he was promoted to Wing Commander and sent to Singapore. On 4th April 1941 three Bristol Blenheims of 27 Squadron collided while doing aerobatics and crashed into the sea south of Siglap Obelisk and. The following morning 5th April a party led by Wing Commander Farnhill left Singapore Dockyard aboard a Royal Navy mooring vessel HMS Buffalo. The ship hit a mine laid by HMS Stronghold in March in Minefield 3, and blew up. There were also approx. 20 airmen of 151 Maintenance Unit on board the boat and there were no survivors. Geoffrey was 30 years of age and is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial.

CYRIL LIONEL FENDER

Sergeant (navigator) 81 OTU RAFVR (1437206)

Killed while flying in England 21st November 1944 aged 22

Buried Henley (Holy Trinity) Churchyard grave C.P.10.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Cyril was born on 22nd May 1922 the son of Lionel Richard Fender the manager of Henley Gasworks, of 64 Greys Road, Henley and his wife Elsie Fanny. Cyril went to school locally and on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as AC1 RAFVR and trained as a navigator. At 22.20hrs on Saturday 21st November 1944 Armstrong Whitley serial no. EB410 was on its final approach to 81 OTU (operational training unit) RAF Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Its crew consisted of flight sergeant Carmody (pilot); flying officer Hunt (bomb aimer); sergeant Cyril Fender (navigator); sergeant

Marland (wireless/op) and sergeant Hayden (rear gunner). They had taken off on a NAVEX (navigational exercise) at 18.00hrs which would have taken them east to Grimsby, north to Brunton, Northumberland and then home – three hours scheduled flying time. They were now way behind schedule indicative of being lost. As the weather had closed in they had flown most of the exercise blind. On the final approach their starboard wing was ripped off due to contact with trees near Llechrydau Farm on the moorland ridge above Pen-y-gwely Reservoir five miles north of Oswestry. EB410 crashed onto its nose and turned over. The pilot was trapped under the wreckage. Rear gunner Hunt was catapulted from the gun turret and landed about 30-40 feet away, uninjured. The farm bailiff and his men were quickly on the scene and extricated the rest of the crew from the wreck, but sergeant Fender had already succumbed to his injuries. His body was returned to Henley where he was buried on 27th November 1944 in Holy Trinity Churchyard aged 22.

ROBERT (Bob) ARTHUR FOWLER

Private 8th Battalion Royal Scots (144661597)

Killed in action France 16th July 1944 aged 19

Buried in Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery XIV.B.9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC + parents' grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard

Arthur Robert Fowler was born in Henley on 14th June 1925, the son of William Tom Fowler, a drayman of 28 Greys Hill, and his wife Lily. He was baptised 19th July 1925 at Holy Trinity Church. Robert joined the Army as Private 14661597 8th Battalion Royal Scots Regiment. He was killed in action at Caen, in France, on 16th July 1944 at the age of 19. Bob was buried in the War Cemetery at Banneville-la-Campagne, located 10kms west of Caen in Normandy.

WALLACE MONTAGUE FRANKLIN D.F.C.

Flight Lieutenant 27 Squadron RAFVR (115936)

Killed while flying in Bombay 21st May 1945 aged 39

Commemorated on Singapore Memorial Column 446

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Wallace was born on 27th August 1906 in Goodmayes, Ilford the son of Charles Ellis Franklin a shipping clerk, later of Coniston, Central Avenue, Stanford Le Hope and his wife Jessie Flora. Nothing is known yet about his early life or education but on leaving school he worked in a bank. Wallace married Gladys Agnes Scarbrow in 1931 and by 1939 they were living at the Lych Gate, Pollards Hill, Croydon at which time his occupation was a bank cashier. The couple later moved to Woodlands, Foxhound Kennels, Fairmile, Henley on Thames. On the outbreak of WW2 Wallace enlisted in the RAFVR becoming a Flight Lieutenant and he was later posted to 27 Squadron. During his time there he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross which was gazetted 7th January 1944. The squadron flew Bristol Beaufighters and the DH Mosquitos. It seems that Wallace was posted to HQ in Bombay in 1945 and

was killed at Akyab in May. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial at Kranji.

HENRY (Harry) ELISHA GEORGE

Royal Marine Artillery

Died after service in WW1 and WW2 18th September 1946, aged 56

Buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Henry was born in Henley in 1890 the son of Eleazor George, a general labourer of 5 Queen Street and his wife Fanny. He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 6th July 1890. Harry joined the Royal Marine Artillery in 1908 and served through World War 1 and on until 1929 to complete twenty one years, when he transferred to the Reserve. For a number of years following this he worked as the custodian at Henley swimming baths. He was recalled for further service in 1939 at the outbreak of World War 2 and served with the Royal Marines for a further six years until he was discharged on medical grounds in 1945. Harry died on 18th September 1946 aged 56 and was buried on 19th September in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

SIDNEY GEORGE GODLEY

Stoker 1st Class, HMS Royal Oak, Royal Navy (P/K 57546)

Killed in action 14th October 1939 aged 36

Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 35. Column 1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Sidney was born in Henley in 1903 the son of William Henry Godley, a builders labourer of 144 West Hill, Henley and his wife Fanny. He was educated at the old National School and after leaving, worked for a time at Henley Brewery. He joined the Navy in 1919 as a lad of 16. Sidney married Rose Emily Brown in 1924. They had four children, Sidney born 1917, Beryl born 1931 and twins Jean and Ronald born 1935. By this time the family were living at 32 Callington Road, Whitley, Reading. Sidney's parents were at 35 Mount View, Henley. He was posted to the battleship HMS Royal Oak as a Leading Stoker when she was commissioned in June 1938. The Royal Oak was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in Scapa Flow at 01.30 on Saturday 14th October 1939. Sidney was one of those killed. He was aged 36. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

JOHN FRANCIS GOOCH

Sergeant Armoured Car Regiment, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force

Killed in action 15th February 1942 aged 37

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial Column 390

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS : Shiplake Village.

John was born in Shiplake in 1905 the son of Robert Henry Gooch, a grocer and tea dealer, of the Lashbrook Hotel, Lower Shiplake, and his wife Annie Adelaide who actually owned the hotel. He was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Shiplake on 7th February 1910. John was educated at Henley Grammar School. He married Hildegard Franz-Toggler in Manchester in 1934 and some time later they went to live in Singapore. As war clouds gathered in Europe men from all walks of life joined the Volunteer Forces. John joined the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force and by 1942 he had reached the rank of sergeant in the Armoured Car Regiment. He was killed in action on 15th February 1942 aged 37. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. John is also remembered on the Shiplake Village and Henley Grammar School Memorials.

KENNETH GOOD

Sergeant (pilot) 106 Squadron RAFVR (758181)

Killed while flying 4th March 1941 aged 24

Buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium H.H.36.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Kenneth was born in 1918 in Nottinghamshire, the son of Sidney Good, a pastry cook and confectioner and his wife Edith. The family later moved to 10 Bell Street, Henley. Kenneth was educated in Nottingham and Nuneaton and on leaving school trained to be an agent for the Pearl Assurance Company. He and his younger brother Denis volunteered for the RAF Volunteer Force in May 1939. In 1941 Kenneth was serving with 106 Squadron based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire as Sergeant (Pilot) 758181. On the night of 3rd March 1941 at 20.10hrs he took off in Handley Page Hampden X3002 coded ZN-? From Coningsby on a bombing raid to Cologne. The rest of the aircrew were : sergeant Victor Essex ; sergeant David Crouch; and sergeant Albert Ward. The aircraft was shot down by German night fighters and crashed at Maria-Ter-Heide near Antwerp in Belgium and all of the crew were killed. Kenneth was 24 years old and they were all buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Belgium

FRANK HENRY GOODCHILD

Royal Marine President III (SS Chelsea) (P/O 15426)

Killed in action 30th August 1940 aged 51

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC. Also Hull Merchant Navy Roll of Honour.

Frank was born in Aston on 30th December 1889, the son of John Goodchild, a Licensed Victualler, of the Flower Pot, Aston, and his wife Ellen. After leaving school Frank worked as a porter for the Great Western Railway and then in 1909 he joined the Royal Marines, serving in many parts of the world for 21 years. In 1919 he married Ada Brown and over the next ten years they had five sons and a daughter. In 1930 he went onto the Reserve and at the outbreak of World War 2 he was recalled to the colours. Frank was posted to HMS President III, a shore

base at Bristol where he was trained as a gunner for use of armed merchant Vessels which were classed as D.E.M.S. (Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships). Frank had already made two trips as a Gunner, one to South America and one to Canada. In August 1940 he was on his third trip, this time abroad the S.S. Chelsea, a 4804ton British Cargo Steamer, which was built in 1925 and owned by Brown, Atkinson and Co. The ship was travelling from Montreal, Canada with a cargo of 7600 tons of maize bound for London via Methil, a port in Scotland. On 30th August the ship was torpedoed, without warning, by the German submarine U-32 and sunk. Twenty four out of a crew of thirty five were lost. Frank was one of those lost aged 51. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

FREDERICK ARTHUR C. GOODWIN

Flight Lieutenant RAFVR (138580)

Killed while flying 27th April 1944 aged 42

Buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery Sec.17. Grave 212.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Salisbury Club Memorial

Frederick was born in Manchester in 1902, the son of Frederick George Goodwin, a house painter of 11 Railway View, Dukinfield, and his wife Frances Louisa. After leaving school Frederick worked as a cotton spinner. At the outbreak of World War 1 he joined the R.A.M.C. but after the retreat from Mons he was transferred to the Brigade of Guards, with which he did 21yrs service with the colours and on reserve. In 1929 he became a Royal Automobile Club Scout and gained rapid promotion until he reached the rank of superintendent. Frederick married Alice Appleton in 1930. Around this time Frederick and Alice moved to Henley and lived at 1 Wyndale Close where he became a member of Thames Lodge, and the Salisbury Club. On 30th August 1939, whilst still working for the RAC, Frederick was called up for service with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, which he had joined the previous year. He immediately gained the rank of sergeant and was posted to Swindon as a Rail Transport Officer. In 1940 Frederick went to France and assisted in the evacuation of the B.E.F. from Dunkirk. In 1941 he was commissioned and within ten months had risen to the rank of Flight Sergeant. He was then posted as Rail Transport Officer to Blackpool, Preston and Carlisle, before being posted to Coastal Command for a specialised job in January 1944. Frederick was killed on 27th April 1944 by an enemy bombing raid, aged 52. His body was returned to Henley and he was buried in the Fairmile Cemetery.

DOUGLAS TIMOTHY GRANT

Lieutenant 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (258260)

Killed in action Holland 9th December 1944 aged 23

Buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery ref. 19.G.8.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

Douglas was born in Brentford in 1921, the son of William George Grant, a Transport Driver and his wife Gladys Lilian, later of "Ramadan", Peppard Road,

Sonning Common. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 14th September 1933. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. By 1944 he had been promoted to full Lieutenant and was fighting in Holland. Douglas was killed in action at Elst on 9th December 1944, aged 23. He was buried in the Jonkerbos War Cemetery, near Nijmegen, Holland.

WILLIAM ALBERT GRANT

Trooper Royal Armoured Corps. 1st East Riding Yeomanry (5383320)
Killed in action Belgium between 28th May and 20th May 1940 aged 20
Buried in Terdegghem Churchyard grave 1.
HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

William was born in Essex in 1919, the son of William A. Grant and his wife Mary. The family later moved to Henley. William junior joined the Army as a Trooper with the 1st East Riding Yeomanry. In 1940 they were in Belgium as part of the Royal Armoured Corps. In late May the Battalion were part of the garrison in Cassels. The Germans were advancing fast and the orders to retire should have been received on 28th May. They didn't arrive until 6am on 29th, by which time the Germans had surrounded the town. Orders were received to hold out until nightfall. Patrols sent out by 1st East Riding Yeomanry into the adjacent countryside suffered considerable losses. When the garrison finally set out at 9.30pm the Germans were across their line of travel. Many were killed, wounded and taken prisoner; very few were to reach Dunkirk. William died between 28th and 30th May 1940, aged 20. He was buried in Terdegghem Churchyard, 9kms north of Hazebrouck in Belgium.

ANGUS NIGEL GRAY

Sergeant (observer) 15 Squadron Royal Air Force (581175)
Killed while flying France 13th August 1940 aged 20
Buried in Fermanville Churchyard ref. Coll.grave
HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

Angus was born in Henley in 1920 the son of George Albert Gray, a schoolmaster of Lauderdale, 15 Fairmile, Henley and his wife Evelyn Amy. He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 17th August 1920. At the start of World War 2 Angus joined the RAF and trained as an Observer and posted as Sergeant (Obs) to 15 Squadron based at RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire. On 13th August 1940, a Bristol Blenheim IV serial no. R3768 coded LS- took off from Wyton to bomb an airfield at Lannion, Brittany, France. The crew was pilot officer Francis Dench; sergeant observer Angus Gray; and sergeant air gunner Edgar Scrase. The aircraft crashed in the village of Fermanville, Manche, 14kms east of Cherbourg, killing all of the crew. No Bristol Blenheim was claimed by the Luftwaffe on Sunday 13th August 1940 so R3768 was probably hit by flak (anti-aircraft fire) over Manche. They were buried in the Churchyard at Fermanville near Cherbourg.

DAVID GREEN

Sergeant 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382725)

Killed in action between 22nd & 31st May 1940 aged 30

Commemorated on Dunkirk Memorial column 92.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : on wife Bertha's grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

David was born in Hambleden on 6th January 1910, the son of George David Green, a fishmonger, later of 39 Duke Street, Henley and his wife Mary Jane. He was baptised on 13th February 1910 at St Mary's Church, Henley. According to the book "Hostelries of Henry" George senior was also the licensee of the "Rose & Crown", 56 New Street, Henley from 1886 to 1917. As a child David junior helped out in his father's fishmonger shop and when he was older he used to drive to Billingsgate Market in London to buy the fish, and then he would deliver it to their customers around the local villages. He was also in the Henley Town Band, in which he played two instruments, a member of the Ancient Order of Buffaloes, and the Territorial Army. He married Bertha Louisa Lambden on 10th February 1936 at Holy Trinity Church Henley and they lived at 5 Greys Hill. They had three children : Shirley born 1936, Joan born 1938 and David born 1940. Sadly David died of pneumonia in October 1940 and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

At the outbreak of war David senior joined the Army as a Private in the 4th Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. Whether his rank was carried over from his time in the Territorials is not known, but David soon attained the rank of Sergeant. The 4th Battalion went to France in January 1940. On May 10th that year after a period referred to as the "phoney war" the Germans launched their attack on the "low countries" (Belgium and Holland), and the British including the 4th Oxon & Bucks were pushed back. By dawn on 19th May the Battalion were well clear of Ath, the withdrawal being covered by tanks and armoured fighting vehicles. All went well until the outskirts of Tournai when all the leading lorries came up against an obstacle in the road. As they drew up to find a way around this, the convoy was attacked by nine German Heinkel bombers. At least two troop-carrying lorries packed with men, a petrol lorry and two ammunition trucks – one being loaded with 3inch mortar bombs – and various platoon trucks were hit and all sent up in an enormous blaze. After this bombing forty eight men of A Company alone were missing, including Sergeant David Green. He was 30 years of age. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial and on his wife's gravestone in Holy Trinity Church Cemetery.

GEORGE ROBERT GREEN

Gunner, Royal Artillery (14570259)

Died of illness 13th July 1943 aged 37

Buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery grave ref Sec 17. Grave 206.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. SM

George was born in Colnbrook on 23rd September 1904, the son of William Green, a roadman, later of 18 West Hill, Henley and his wife Margaret. George was a member of the Lads Brigade and the Sea Cadets. George worked for Henley

Corporation as a refuse collector for twenty years before he was called up. He married Lydia Kate Strange on 18th April 1927 at St Mary's Church and they lived at 39 West Street. George was called up on March 18th 1943 when he became a gunner in the Royal Artillery. He died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, after a painful illness on 13th July 1943 aged 37 and was buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery.

LESLIE CHARLES GREEN

Lieutenant 135 Excavator Company, Royal Engineers (63673)

Killed in action Belgium 29th May 1940 aged 25

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial column 20.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HGS : Rotherfield Peppard Church

Leslie was born in Henley in 1914, the son of Sydney William Green, a Farmer of Swiss Farm, Henley and his wife Mary Elizabeth. Leslie was baptised on 17th January 1915 at St Mary's Church. He started at Henley Grammar School in January 1924. At the outbreak of the Second World War Leslie was commissioned into the Royal Engineers as Second Lieutenant. By 1940 he was in France and had been promoted to Lieutenant and posted to 135 Excavator Company. He was killed in the rear-guard action to Dunkirk on 29th May 1940 aged 25. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial. Locally he is also remembered on the Henley Town, Rotherfield Peppard and Henley Grammar School Memorials.

RONALD LESLIE GREENING

Leading airman Royal Navy, HMS Goshawk (FAA/FX 80581)

Killed in action 17th January 1941 aged 20

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial Bay 2. Panel 2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM : HGS.

Ronald was born in Henley in 1920, the son of Edgar Alfred Greening, a cabinet maker of 15 Kings Road and his wife May Caroline. He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 8th August 1920. Ronald was educated at Henley Grammar School from 14th September 1931. Soon after the outbreak of World War 2 he joined the Royal Navy. In 1941 he was classified as a Leading Airman, HMS Goshawk, which was a flight training base in Trinidad for the Fleet Air Arm. In January 1941 the Blue Star passenger and refrigerated cargo ship Almeda Star left the port of Liverpool with a crew of 166 and 194 passengers, bound for River Plate, South America. The ship was torpedoed by the German U-Boat U-96 about 250 miles west of the island of Lewis in the Hebrides and sank with all hands. The 194 passengers comprised RNVR Officers, Royal Navy Ratings, Fleet Air Arm Airmen and Mechanics. Ronald was one of these aged just 20. He is commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial

RALPH EDWARD HENSHAW

Lieutenant 4th Own Queen's Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps (85258)

Died in action 27th April 1941 aged 22

Commemorated on Athens Memorial ref. Face 1

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM

Ralph was born in London in 1919, the son of Albert Goodess Henshaw and his wife Winifred Margaret nee Moore. His parents divorced and his father went to America where he married again. In 1939 his mother was living at Regatta View, Wharfe Lane, Henley with Charles Stanley Fisher a solicitor. She was registered as "unpaid domestic ". They married in 1942. Ralph joined the Army as 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars. In 1940 the regiment was sent to the Middle East. He was killed in action on 27th April 1941 aged 22 while fighting at Kalamata on the Peloponnese Peninsular in Greece. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Athens Memorial

HAROLD HORACE HITCHMAN

Fireman Civilian War Dead, National Fire Service

Killed whilst fire fighting in Croydon 1st May 1944 aged 39

Location of grave not known

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Harold was born in Henley on 17th December 1907, the son of John Albert Hitchman, a basket maker of 30 Market Place, Henley and his wife Elizabeth. He married Ada Cook in 1932 and later they lived at 127 Penhurst Road, Thornton Heath. Their daughter Christabel was born in 1937. At the outbreak of the Second World War Harold joined the National Fire Service. He was killed whilst fighting a fire in Frant Road, Croydon on 1st May 1944 on his 36th birthday. His place of burial is not known at this time.

THOMAS ALEXANDER HOLLYER

Air Fitter(A), Royal Navy H.M.S.Daedalus (FX/80954)

Died 9th March 1941 aged 23

Buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery ref.Sec.16. Grave 69.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Thomas was born in Southwark on 13th December 1917, the son of George Ernest Hollyer a retired police officer of 58 Courtenay Street, Lambeth and his wife Mabel. The family later moved to The Old Grammar School, Henley. At the outbreak of the Second World War Thomas joined the Fleet Air Arm as an Air Fitter and was posted to H.M.S.Daedalus, Lee on Solent. He died on 9th March 1941 aged 23 in a road accident when the taxi he was travelling in taking his girlfriend Lydia Hall home from a dance crashed during an air raid. Thomas's body was brought back to Henley and he was buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery on 14th March 1941.

EDWARD HORNEY

Private 5th Battalion Hampshire Regiment (6021460)

Killed in action 9th September 1943 aged 28

Buried in Salerno War Cemetery, Italy

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Edward was born in Walsall on 23rd June 1915 the son of George Horney, a miner and his wife Elizabeth. By 1939 Elizabeth was a widow and the family were living at 10 The Green, Walsall. Edward was aged 24 and a lathe worker. He married Hilda Mabel Sessions in Pontypool in 1942 and they moved to Henley, living at 5 Trust Corner. On the outbreak of WW2 Edward enlisted as Private 6021460 5th Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Commonwealth and American forces invaded the Italian mainland on 8th/9th September 1943. Edward was killed in action on 9th September 1943 aged 28 and buried in the Salerno War Cemetery.

GEORGE ARTHUR HORSLEY

Sapper 17 Field Company, Royal Engineers (5349928)

Died of wounds in Normandy 6th July 1944 aged 32

Buried in Hermanville War Cemetery ref. 2.A.11.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM

George was born in Henley in 1911, the son of James Horsley, a general labourer of 70 New Street and his wife Susan. After leaving school George worked as an assistant at Hambleden Lock, and then at a firm along the Wargrave Road. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Home Guard, then in 1931 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper and was posted to 17th Field Company. George went to France with the Company on D Day and died of wounds which he received in the fight up towards Caen on 6th July 1944, aged 32, a month after the original landings. He was buried in the Hermanville War Cemetery, 113kms south of Caen.

WILLIAM HOSKINS

Private 8th (H.D.) Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (D/14687)

Killed of wounds 17th December 1939 aged 51

Buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery Sec.D (C of E). Grave 126.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM

William was born in 1888 in Bristol, the son of William Hoskins, a general labourer, later of 314 West Hill, Henley, and his wife Constance Eliza. By the time of the 1901 Census the family had moved to Shepherds Lane, Warfield near Bracknell, Berks. William junior had joined the Army as a Private in the 1st Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry, and they stationed at Nilgiris in India at the time of the 1911 Census. The Battalion stayed there until the outbreak of World War 1, when in November 1914 they left for Mesopotamia (Iran). William and the Battalion arrived there on 5th December 1914 and took part in the campaign against the Ottoman Forces. In

December 1915 the British – Indian Force was besieged at Kut, and eventually the Garrison surrendered on 29th April 1916. 8,000 soldiers were taken prisoner, 300 of which were Oxon & Bucks, including William. Evidently the prisoners were very badly treated and hundreds died in captivity. William fortunately survived, and on his return to England he married Charlotte Young, the widow of Charles Young, who was killed in action in France in 1917. William & Charlotte married in Henley on 8th December 1919 and they lived at 2 Clarence Road, Henley with Charlotte's children Elsie and Ralph, from her first marriage. He worked for Walden & Co, the builders, and was a member of the British Legion. At the outbreak of World War 2 William enlisted under the Home Defence Scheme and was posted to the 8th (H.D.) Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. It was whilst on duty near Minster Lovell that he appears to have been involved in a collision with a car, whilst riding his bicycle. He was found lying unconscious by the side of the road, with severe head injuries. William was taken to a local hospital for treatment and then transferred to the Tidworth Military Hospital where he died on 17th December 1939 aged 51.

HENRY GEORGE HOWARD

Private 1st Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5380331)

Killed in action 27th May 1940 aged 29

Buried in Comines (Komen) Communal Cemetery British Plot. Grave 3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC.

Henry was born in Henley in 1912, the son of Paul Richson Howard, a labourer of 56 West Hill and his wife Annie. He was baptised on 22nd February 1912 at St Mary's Church, Henley. The family later moved to 167 Greys Road. On the outbreak of the Second World War Henry joined the Army as a Private in the 1st Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. Henry was killed in action on 27th May 1940 during the Allied withdrawal to Dunkirk aged 29 years. He was buried in Comines (Komen) Communal Cemetery located 12kms south of Ypres in Belgium.

ROBERT HOWARD

Private 1st Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5379564)

Died from wounds 28th May 1940 aged 29

Buried Hondschoote Communal Cemetery Row C. Grave 4.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : SM

Robert was born in Henley in 1909, the son of Harry Howard, a bricklayer's labourer, of 136 West Hill and his wife Ada. Later the family moved to 16 Hop Gardens. Robert was baptised on 10th April 1909 at St Mary's Church, Henley. On leaving school he also worked as a labourer. He married Margaret M. Hickman on 4th June 1938 at Holy Trinity Church. His address at the time was 110 Greys Hill, Henley. Their daughter Marina was born in 1939. At the outbreak of the Second World War Howard joined the Army as a Private in the 1st Battalion Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry. At the end of May the Allied Forces were being pushed back by the advancing Germans. Robert died from wounds received during the withdrawal to Dunkirk on

28th May 1940, aged 29. He was buried in the Hondschoote Communal Cemetery, a town 15kms southeast of Dunkirk. His wife's address at this time was 48 Greys Road.

DONALD HOWORTH M.C

Lieutenant 8th/2nd Battalion The London Rifle Brigade (277475)

Killed in action 10th September 1944 aged 21

Buried in Leopoldsborg War Cemetery, Brussels grave IV.B.3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Donald was born in 1923 in Inverness, Scotland, the son of Col. George Howorth OBE MC of Farr Lodge, Henley and his wife Alice Dora. He was educated at Hordle House School, Lymington, Hampshire, Canford School, Wimborne Minster, Dorset and Jesus College, Cambridge. Before joining the Army he was a member of the Bix Home Guard and the Henley Sailing Club. Donald was gazetted into the Rifle Brigade and posted to the 8th (2nd) Battalion. He was wounded twice and had only just returned to duty when he was killed in action on 10th September 1944, aged 21. Donald was awarded the Military Cross, gazetted on 21st December 1944 after his death. He was buried in Leopoldsborg War Cemetery to the north east of Brussels.

MICHAEL GRAHAM GREGORY HUNTER-MUSKETT

Warrant Officer (wireless operator) 194 Squadron RAFVR (642825)

Killed while flying 24th August 1944 aged 24

Buried in Ranchi War Cemetery, India. Coll.grave. 8K. 1-6.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HT

Michael was born in North Yorkshire in August 1920, the son of Rawdon Hunter Muskett and his wife Violet Ellen, later of Courtrai, Henley on Thames. He was educated at Beaumont College and took a great interest in flying from boyhood. His father died in 1925 and in 1939 his mother was living at 84 Reading Road, Henley. Michael joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in May 1939 and by 1941 had qualified for aircrew as a Wireless Operator. He had taken part in bombing raids over Germany in 1940 and 1941 and at the end of 1942 was posted to 194 Squadron in India. The Squadron was flying the Douglas Dakota on supply dropping missions to Burma. On 28th August 1944 Douglas Dakota FZ644 took off on a supply drop and was brought down over Khamasan in Burma. All of the crew were killed. They comprised Pilot Officer Leonard Fletcher, RCAF aged 20, Warrant Officer Leonard Fletcher, RCAF aged 20, Warrant Officer Neil Melrose RAFVR aged 25, Flying Officer Thomas Leishman, RAFVR aged 22, Sgt. Alan Downie RAFVR aged 20, Paul Richardson RAAF aged 26, and also Warrant Officer Michael Hunter-Muskett aged 24. They were all buried in Ranchi War Cemetery in Jharkhand State, India.

FREDERICK JOHN TULL HUTTON

Private 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment (5507771)

Killed in action Tunisia. 1st December 1942 aged 28

Buried in Massicault War Cemetery ref. 1V. H. 17.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

Frederick was born in Henley on 15th October 1913, the son of Leonard Hutton, a general labourer of 32 West Hill, Henley and his wife Dorcas. He was baptised on 9th November 1913 at St Mary's Church. Frederick married Margaret Annie Buckett in 1937 and they lived at 49 Gravel Hill and he worked as a general labourer. At the start of the Second World War he joined the Army as a Private in the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. On 11th November 1942 the Battalion sailed for Africa, disembarking in Algiers on 21st November. On 29th they moved to Teboura, Tunisia where, on 1st December they were attacked by a force four times their size. Frederick was killed during this attack aged 28. He was buried in Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia.

WILLIAM HAROLD INWOOD

Leading Aircraftman 140 Squadron RAFVR (1227770)

Died 25th November 1944 aged 35

Buried in Cambridge City Cemetery grave 15155.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

William was born on 10th July 1909, the son of Gerald & Agnes Inwood (information from CWGC). Nothing is known about his education or early life but by the time of the 1939 Register he was living at Magnolia Cottage, Wargrave Road, Wargrave, next door to Marsh Lock Cottage, working as a "houseman". William married Clare Gertrude Hurst in 1941 in Reading. and it appears that they lived at 28 Adwell Square, Henley. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR as AC1 1227770 and by 1944 had been promoted LAC and posted to 140 Squadron. William died of tuberculosis at Papworth Village Settlement, Papworth Everard, Cambridge on 25th November 1944 aged 35. He was buried in Cambridge City Cemetery. His widow Clare married Edward C. Buckett at St Mary's Church, Henley on 11th January 1947 when she was living at 30 Mount View, Henley

FRANK JACKSON

Sergeant 166 Squadron RAFVR (1580041)

Killed while flying. 28th August 1942 aged 22

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial panel 154

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Frank was born in 1921, the son of Harold Owen George Jackson a Post Office supervisor of 23 Well Lane, Walsall, and his wife Fanny Marian. Nothing is yet known about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in

the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. By August 1943 Frank had been posted to 166 Squadron and promoted to Sergeant. On the night of 27/28 August 1942 Vickers Wellington HE901 took off from RAF Kirmington at 19.37 on a “gardening operation” – the dropping of mines over predetermined area in French coastal waters. On board the aircraft were pilot warrant officer John Arthur Newman; Sergeant Frank Jackson, Sergeant Ronald William Holmes, Sergeant Arthur Roy Harrup and Sergeant Keith Balfour Philips RAAF. The aircraft was reported missing and it was presumed they had crashed in the target area. Sergeant Philip’s body was washed up on the Cherbourg coast and he was buried in the Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery. The other members of the crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Frank was 22, and at the time of his death his parents were living at Regatta View Cottage, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Henley on Thames.

ROBERT EDMUND JELLEY

Lance Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5384342)

Died 10th June 1941 aged 22

Buried in Prague War Cemetery

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Salisbury Club Memorial

Robert was born in Guildford in 1919 the son of Margaret Louise Jelley. She married Eric D.Day in 1928 and they lived at Branksome Cottage, Hilton Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight. Details on Robert’s early life are unknown but at some time he became a member of the Salisbury Club in Henley. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as a Private in the 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry and was later promoted to lance corporal. Robert died as a POW in Prague aged 22 and was buried in Prague War Cemetery.

CHARLES REUBEN JAMES JENKINS

Ordinary Seaman, Merchant Navy

Died at sea, west of Trinidad 9th August 1942 aged 21

Commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial panel 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Charles was born on 16th June 1921, the son of James Jenkins, a postman of 34 Harmond Road, St Pancras and his wife Caroline Dorothy. After leaving school he worked as a post office messenger boy. On the outbreak of WW2 Charles enlisted as an Ordinary Seaman in the Merchant Navy. On 29th July 1942 he was on board British Motor Tanker “San Emiliano” that left Curacao, an island in the Lesser Antilles with a cargo of 11,286 tons of aviation spirit bound for Suez via Trinidad and Table Mountain. At 03.04 on 9th August the unescorted tanker which had dispersed from convoy E-7, was hit by a torpedo fired by German submarine U-155 about 450 miles west of Trinidad and sunk in flames after breaking in two. The

master James Tozer, 33 crew members and six gunners were lost. Eight other crew members were picked up by a US Army Transport and landed at Paramaribo, Suriname. Charles was one of those lost, he was 21 years old. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial. CWGC information tells us that Charles parents lived in Henley on Thames but he is not on any of the local memorials. Charles's mother Caroline married Arthur Piercey in Henley in 1950 and died in Henley in 1976.

RICHARD DOMVILLE REGINALD JENKINS

Gunner, Royal Artillery 42 Battery 15 Light A.A.Reg. (1601674)

Killed in action 9th November 1942, aged 26

Buried in El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt ref. XXXIII. A.19.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Richard was born in Penzance, Cornwall on 23rd July 1916 the son of Raymond Thomas Leonard Jenkins a cable operator, later of 18 Western Road, Henley on Thames and his wife Elizabeth Fanny (nee Weyman). The family including Richard, who was working as a commercial artist and draughtsman, were sharing the house with the Weyman family (his wife's relatives). On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery and was posted to 42 Battery 15th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Richard was killed in action in November 1942, aged 26 and was buried in El Alamein War Cemetery.

REUBEN JOHN WILLIAM JEWELL

Lance Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382587)

Killed in action 31st May 1940 aged 28

Commemorated on Dunkirk Memorial Column 92

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH

Reuben was born in Winnersh, Berkshire in 1913, the son of William Jewell, a farm labourer of Hotel Farm Cottages, Winnersh and his wife Maria. They later moved to 99 Harpsden Road, Henley. Reuben married Violet Grace Foale in 1938. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the army as a Private in the 4th Battalion of the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. By the end of May 1940, Reuben had been promoted to Lance Corporal and his battalion were fighting in the rear-guard action towards Dunkirk. He was killed in action on 31st May 1940 aged 28, His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

JOSEPH JONES

Sergeant 4th Bn. Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (2208916)

Killed of wounds 19th May 1940 aged 34

Buried in Gaurain-Ramecroix War Cemetery, Belgium ref.I.D.9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Joseph was born in Salford, Manchester in 1907, the son of Joseph Jones a carter and his wife Leah of 6 Crowther Street, Salford. As soon as he was old enough Joseph joined the regular army and served three years with the Grenadier Guards. He was then placed on the army reserve. Around 1927 Joseph moved to Henley and worked as a milk roundsman for the Remenham Dairy. On 7th April 1928 he married Annie Harris at Holy Trinity Church. She was the daughter of William Harris, a sawyer of 64 Greys Hill, Henley. On 7th August 1929 their son Dennis Albert was born, and baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 6th October 1929. Joseph and Annie were still living at 64 Greys Hill at this time. Their next child, a daughter Enid Carole, was born on 5th February 1936, also baptised at Holy Trinity, on 5th April 1936. At this time Joseph was serving with the Henley Territorials and they now lived at 6 Wyndale Close. He was still working as a milk roundsman. At the outbreak of WW2 he was recalled from the Reserve and served as a Sergeant with the 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry. The Battalion sailed for France aboard the M.T. St Helier at 20.00hrs on 18th January 1940 and berthed at Le Havre at 08.30hrs the next morning. The Battalion spent the next months in training and generally honing their battle skills. On May 10th 1940 after a period referred to as the "phoney war", the Germans launched their attack on the low countries (Holland and Belgium) and the British, including the Ox & Bucks were pushed back. By dawn of 19th May the Battalion was well clear of Ath, the withdrawal being covered by tanks and armoured fighting vehicles. When they reached the outskirts of Tournai they were forced to detour round an obstacle in the road and pull up. The convoy were a sitting target for the nine German Heinkel bombers which attacked and hit the loaded vehicles of munitions and men and all went up in an enormous blaze. 48 men of A Company were missing. Sergeant Jones was badly wounded and although tended by local civilians, he died of his wounds on 19th May 1940 aged 34. This information did not reach the Records Office until 15th August. Joseph was buried in the Gaurain-Ramecroix War Cemetery to the west of Tournai in Belgium. After the war his widow was able to visit his grave on a trip organised by the military authorities. At this time the family were living at 'Tremough', Farm Road, Henley.

RHYS RICHARD JONES

Flight Sergeant 250 Squadron RAFVR (1336951)

Killed while flying, 2nd June 1944 aged 24

Buried Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy ref.XV I.B. 1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS : Kidmore End.

Rhys was born in Neath, South Wales on 19th December 1919, the son of Mr G.R.Jones and Mrs Olwen Jones a school teacher of later of Milfred, Wood Lane, Sonning Common. Rhys started at Henley Grammar School on 23rd March 1933. When he left school he worked as an engineering secretary for the GPO. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and was posted to 250 Squadron where he attained the rank of Flight Sergeant. In 1944 the Squadron was based in Guidonia, Italy, flying Curtiss Kittyhawk IV. On 2nd June 1944 Rhys was flying a Kittyhawk serial no. FX744 on an armed recce of route 'D' when he called up to say that his engine was failing and that he had jettisoned his bombs. The aircraft was losing height and he was ordered to bale-out. Instead Rhys decided to force land, which he did but the aircraft crashed and caught fire. He died in the fire on 2nd June 1944 aged 24 and was buried in Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy.

GEORGE GORDON JUDD

Flying Officer (pilot) 15 Squadron RAFVR (119300)

Killed while flying 31st July 1943 aged 21

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial Panel 125

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS. Checkendon Church Memorial

George was born on 15th April 1922, the son of Reginald Gordon Judd, a motor engineer, later of Heatherlea, Beacon Hill Road, Hindhead, Surrey and his wife Eleanor Frances. By 1939 the family had moved to Nuthatch, Checkendon. George was educated at Henley Grammar School from 9th January 1934 and on leaving school George joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. After gaining his pilot's wings George was posted to 15 squadron as a flying officer. In 1943 the Squadron was based at RAF Mildenhall and were flying Short Stirling IIIs. On the night of 30th July George and his crew took off for a raid over Ramscheid in Germany. At 01.29hrs on 31st July they were shot down by anti-aircraft fire (flak) and crashed in a field 4km north of Mannheim. George was killed in the crash, aged 21, as were Sergeant Dennis Brown, also 21; Sergeant Sydney Long 26 and Sergeant William Wells. The other members of the crew – Pilot Officer K.A. Banks; Sergeant D. Fry and Sergeant L. Richards were all taken as POWs. George's body

was never identified for burial and he and the other crew members who died are commemorated on the RAF Runnymede Memorial.

WILLIAM KNIGHT LAMB

Merchant Navy, 33years service

Died at sea on Active Service 2nd October 1941 aged 49

Buried at sea

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

William was born in London on 22nd July 1892 the son of William George Lamb, a hotel clerk, later of 17 Ampton Street, St Pancras and his wife Ellen nee Harvey. She originally came from Henley. He was baptised at St Mary's Church, Henley on 4th September 1892. William joined the Royal Navy on 29th September 1908 as L653 Telegraph Boy/Boy Clerk. At the time of the 1911 census William was an Officer's Steward aboard the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Pioneer in Auckland, New Zealand. Shortly after this in 1912 the ship was transferred to the Royal Australian Navy. During WW1 the ship on which William was serving was torpedoed and sank in the North Sea. After being on a raft for four and a half hours with Lieutenant Briggs, also from Henley, they were picked up by a Norwegian ship. With other survivors that the ship had picked up, they were taken to Bergen where they were interred for two years until the end of the war. During this time William met Anna Roed, a member of a local concert party who played at the camp to entertain the internees. On his release from internment William married Anna in Bergen and they went to live in Henley. In 1920 they had a son Reginald and in 1931 their daughter Daphne Christine was born at 30 Western Avenue, Henley, by now the family home. She was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 20th December 1931. By this time William was back at sea, working as a deck steward now with the P & O Company. In 1941 he was on board the ocean liner "RMS/SS Strathnaver" which had been commandeered as a troopship. He died at sea at 01.45 am on 2nd October 1941 of heart failure from heat exhaustion aged 49. At the time the ship was in the middle of the Red Sea off the coast of Sudan. William was buried at sea at 10 am the same morning. The Church of England service was carried out by Chaplain George Armstrong. A large representative of the ship's crew, lead by the Captain lined the deck and a military guard of honour accompanied the body which was draped with the Union Jack. William's body was committed to the deep with full military honours of both the Merchant Navy and H.M. Army. His family were living at 72 Vicarage Road, Henley and son Raymond was serving in the Grenadier Guards. William is not recorded in CWGC records at this time but the process is in motion to rectify this.

CHARLES HENRY LANCASTER

Corporal 1st Btn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (3320495)

Killed in action 4th May 1944 aged 27

Commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial. Face 18

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Charles was born in West Bromwich on 29th March 1917 the son of Henry Lancaster and his wife Dorothy. On leaving school he was awarded a travelling scholarship by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. On the outbreak of WW2 Charles enlisted as Private 3320495 1st Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He married Elsie Margaret Robertson Leach daughter of Elizabeth Leach of 22 Western Avenue Henley in 1941 and then the Regiment was sent to Burma. Charles was killed in action on 4th May 1944 aged 27. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial.

On 6th October 1944 at Holy Trinity Church, Elsie Margaret Robertson Lancaster of 22 Western Road, Henley, married Lieutenant Michael Alexander Plint, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers of Belle Vue Road, Henley.

CHARLES WILLIAM LANE

Lance Bombardier 78 Battery Royal Artillery (1549429)

Died 12th August 1945 aged 44

Buried in Jakarta War Cemetery grave ref. 3. B. 12.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : SM

Charles was born in Kilburn in 1901, the son of Charles Henry Lane, a bus driver of 116 Malvern Road, Kilburn and his wife Caroline Bertha. Charles William married Doris Barson in Henley in 1922 and they lived at 157a Greys Road. They had three children Peggy born 1924, Anthony 1927 and Josephine 1934. Sadly Josephine died aged 9 in 1943. At the outbreak of WW2 Charles joined the Army as a Private in the Royal Artillery and posted to 78 Battery, 75 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. This was formed in Oxford on 2nd September 1939 for the defence of the local RAF Airfields. They moved around the U.K. protecting various sites including the oil refineries at Hamble on the Solent. On 8th November 1941 they were sent to the Middle East and by 1945 Charles had been promoted to lance bombardier and was stationed in Singapore. When the Japanese invaded he was captured and sent to Palembang Camp in Sumatra. Charles died there on 12th August 1945, aged 44, a few days before the camp was liberated. He is buried in Jakarta War Cemetery, and he is also remembered on his wife and daughter's grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

CHARLES JAMES LEWINGTON, M.M.

Sergeant Home Guard, 27th Coy. London Battalion (Roehampton)

Killed Richmond Park, 17th May 1942 aged 49

Buried Holy Trinity Churchyard Grave D.12.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

Charles was born in Henley on 14th November 1892, the son of George Lewington, a town council carman of 163 Greys Road, Henley and his wife Kate. He was baptised on 5th February 1893 at Holy Trinity Church. After Charles left school he worked as a warehouseman. During the First World War he served with the 9th London Regiment and was awarded the Military Medal. In 1921 he married Jeanne Louise Cheviller in London and they lived in Bayswater. On the outbreak of WW2 Charles joined the 27th County of London (Roehampton) Home Guard, retaining the rank of Sergeant. He was killed in an explosion while on an exercise in Richmond Park on 17th May 1942, along with four other members of the Home Guard. It is thought that while collecting firewood for a cooking fire that they inadvertently picked up some unspent ordnance which they placed on the fire, which subsequently exploded. He was 49 years of age. The funeral took place in Holy Trinity Church on 22nd May 1942.

CARRICK FORBES LOCK

Pilot Sergeant No.12 OTU RAFVR (1330863)

Killed while flying 4th June 1942 aged 21

Buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC : SM

Carrick was born in Sussex in 1921 the son of Gladys E. Wilson of 5 Deanfield Road, Henley. After leaving school Carrick joined the RAFVR and trained as a pilot. On gaining his wings he was posted to No.12 OTU (Operational Training Unit) based at RAF Chipping Warden, six miles north-east of Banbury. Sergeant Duncan Dunlop (pilot) aged 19, Sergeant Carrick Lock(pilot) aged 21, Aircraftsman 2nd Class Leonard Honeker (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) aged 20, took off from Chipping Warden in Vickers Wellington 1C serial no. Z8964, About forty minutes the aircraft was seen to fly over Deanfield Road, Henley on Thames, then Henley Grammar School where the lad that witnessed the crash was working. The plane then crashed into trees on the northern end of Hop Gardens, Henley. At the time there were allotments there, now a School has been built on the site. All three crewmen on board were killed. Leonard Honeker was buried in his local churchyard in Malden. Duncan Dunlop was buried in the churchyard of St Helen's in Benson, which is about five miles from the crash site, despite the

fact that his parents lived in Bournemouth.

HENRY WHITFIELD LUKER

Sergeant, 63 Squadron RAF, Royal Australian Air Force (6756)

Died While Flying 18th June 1943 aged 24

Buried Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery Sec.17 Grave 213

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Henry was born in Eastleach, Gloucestershire, on 11th September 1918, the son of John Luker a farmer and his wife Helen. The family left England for Australia in 1912 and went to live in Smith Street, Cleveland, Brisbane. Henry worked for his father as a lorry driver and mechanic. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force on 8th January 1940 and posted to RAAF Richmond as an AC 1. aircraft handler and rigger. Over the next months he progressed with his training until 17th November 1940 he was promoted as a Temporary Sergeant and posted to train as a flight engineer. In 1941 Henry came over to England in June and was posted to 455 Squadron RAF Leuchers to continue his training. He was awarded his pilot engineer's badge on 22nd March 1943 and promoted to Sergeant. On 27th he was posted to 467 Squadron based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. On 7th June he was posted to 83 (Pathfinder) Squadron based at Wyton in Cambridgeshire, equipped with Avro Lancaster bombers. On 18th June Avro Lancaster ED439 coded OL-N, took off from Wyton at 10.10hrs on a bombing training flight. On board were, Pilot Officer Max Keiran Cumming, pilot : Sergeant Henry Whitfield Luker, flight engineer : Sergeant Francis William Wilcox, navigator : Sergeant John Roughley, bomb aimer : Sergeant Harry William Cheshire, wireless operator/air gunner : Sergeant Norman Woodcoch, air gunner : Flight Sergeant Robert Alan Taylor, rear gunner : Corporal Thomas John Bond, passenger : Corporal Francis Neville Sloss, passenger. At 11.45hrs the aircraft dived out of cloud and its wingtip hit the roof of a derelict building causing it to crash into a cornfield at High Gate Farm, Screddington, 7mlles SE of Sleaford, Lincs. By the time rescuers arrived on the scene the aircraft was burnt out. There were no survivors of the 7 RAF/RAAF crew + 2 RAFVR passengers. Henry's funeral was arranged by his uncle, Mr Charles Luker, who lived at 2 Norman Avenue, Henley. Henry was buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery on 23rd June 1943. The service was taken by an Australian Chaplain RAF, the coffin covered by the Union Jack, was escorted to the graveside by a guard of honour of the Henley Air Training Corps.

In 2013 a memorial to the crew of ED439 was unveiled in St Andrews Church, Screddington. North Kesteven, Lincs.

HAROLD BENJAMIN (Ben) MATHER

Trooper 56th Regt. Reconnaissance Corps RAC (5383110)

Killed in action 14th May 1945 aged 23

Buried in Faenza War Cemetery, Italy ref. VII. C. 19.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Harold was born in Henley in 1921, the son of Harold Mather, a milk man, of 8 Reading Road, Henley and his wife Bertha. The family later moved to 33 Niagara Road, Henley. At the outbreak of the WW2 Ben joined the Army as Trooper 5383110 56th Regt. Reconnaissance Corps, Royal Armoured Corps known as Chevasse's Light Horse. In Italy in April 1945 the Allies began a renewed push against the Germans. Harold was killed during this advance, on 14th April 1945, aged 23 and was buried in Faenza War Cemetery, Italy.

KEITH THOMAS STRATTON MEADEN

Leading Motor Mechanic Royal Navy (D/MX573544)

Died 8th November 1944 aged 18

Buried in Freetown (King Tom) Cemetery ref. 5. B. 1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM

Keith was born in Henley on 29th November 1925 the son of Thomas William Hazel Meaden, a career sailor in the Royal Navy (retired 1924) and Dorothy Isabel Meaden nee Stratton. Keith joined the Royal Navy and in 1944 he was posted to Sierra Leone as Leading Motor Mechanic aboard HDML 1077 (Harbour Defence Motor Launch). Keith died on 8th November 1944 of haemorrhage and severe shock after being bitten by a shark while swimming in Freetown Harbour. He was buried in Freetown (King Tom) Cemetery Freetown Sierra Leone

GEORGE ERNEST MITCHELL

Trooper 15th (Scottish) Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps, RAC. (145052520)

Died 7th April 1943 aged 18

Buried Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery Sec.16 Grave 99

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

George was born in 1925 and we know that he was an orphan. From 1940 until 7th January 1943 he was employed by Mr R. V. Mellett, a baker, of 158 Reading Road, Henley, where he had made his home. In January 1943 George joined the Army as a trooper in the 15th Scottish Regiment. On 7th March 1943 he was on his way back to barracks after being on leave in Henley. He was found on Kings Cross

Station suffering from a gunshot wound. The Coroner at the London inquest recorded a verdict of "suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed". George was buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery on 14th April 1943.

WILLIAM THOMAS MALCOLM MOAR

Major RAMC attached 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders (67836)

Killed in action 22nd November 1940 aged 27

Buried in Bedlington (Netherton Lane) Cemetery Sec.F. Grave 1601 A

Henley. Local Memorials : None

William was born on 17th December 1912 the son of Malcolm Moar, a clerk for Wanstead Borough of 28 Woodcote Road, Wanstead, and his wife Edith Mary. Nothing is yet known about his education or early life, but by 1937 he was a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was promoted to acting Major on 16th March 1940 and temporary Major on 16th April 1940. William was attached to 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders and died in Woodland View, Bedlington, Northumberland on 22nd November 1940 aged 27. He was buried in Bedlington (Netherton Lane) Cemetery. William's address was given as "La Maissonette, Seaton Down Road, Seaton, Devon. By this time his parents had moved to 76 Reading Road, Henley. His father Malcolm died in Townlands Hospital in February 1960 aged 75 and his mother Edith Mary also died in Townlands at the end of 1960, aged 77.

DOUGLAS MOORE

Aircraftsman 1st Class, Royal Air Force (645710)

Died Pagina Tan, Borneo, 27th February 1945

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial, Column 454

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

Douglas was born in Guyhirne, Cambridgeshire, the son of Charles Joseph Moore and his wife. At the outbreak of WW2 Douglas joined the Royal Air Force. In 1941 he was Aircraftsman 1st Class stationed at No 1 Photo Reconnaissance Unit at RAF Benson. On 9th April 1941 he married Lilian May Payne, the daughter of Alfred Edward Payne of 56 Greys Road, Henley at Holy Trinity Church. Douglas was taken a prisoner by the Japanese during the fall of Singapore. He died on 27th February 1945 whilst being force-marched across Borneo by his captors and is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. His age is not known.

JOHN WILLIAM MORRIS

Able Seaman, Royal Navy

Died Oxford City Isolation Hospital 23rd November 1946 aged 24

Buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Henley

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

John was born in 1922, the son of John George Albert Morris a temporary waiter and actor of 23 Vicarage Road, Henley and his wife Gladys M Morris. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 as an Able Seaman and served aboard the light cruiser HMS Sirius on the "Asdic" anti-submarine device. John came safely through the Mediterranean Campaign and was also present at the D-Day landings. He was demobilised in May 1945. Earlier that year he was admitted to Oxford City Isolation Hospital with an illness which it is felt he contracted during his war service. John died of the illness on 23rd November 1946 aged 24. His funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday 27th November and he was buried in the churchyard there. His father died at 23 Vicarage Road and was buried along with his son.

HARRY GEORGE NEWBURY

Corporal 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (5334828)

Died 12th September 1942 aged 30

Commemorated on Brookwood Memorial, Surrey Panel 12. Col.3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Harry George Newbury was born in Henley in 1912, the son of Harry James Newbury, a stoker of Greys Hill, Henley and his wife Edith Eleanor. He was baptised on 4th August 1912 at Holy Trinity Church. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Army as a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Berks Regiment. Harry had been promoted to Corporal by September 1942. He died on 12th September 1942 at the age of 30. His death is reported as "lost at sea". Research is ongoing but it would not seem unreasonable by the date Harry went "missing at sea" on that particular date, that he was one of those aboard the RMS Laconia when she was sunk by a torpedo from German U-boat U-156. There were 296 British soldiers on board as well as 160 Polish soldiers guarding the 1800 Italian POWs.

DEREK KEPPEL COLERIDGE O'MALLEY

Pilot Flying Officer 264 Squadron RAFVR (72475)

Killed while flying. 4th September 1940 aged 29

Buried Kirton-in-Lindsey Cemetery N.Lincs

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Derek was born on 7th November 1910, the son of Barrett Lennard Albermarle O'Malley, a journalist on the Morning Post, of 14A Northcote Avenue, Ealing, London and his wife Lorna Josephine. He was educated at Westminster and went on to Christ Church College, Oxford having won a scholarship. From 1929 to 1932 he was a member of the University Air Squadron and later qualified as a barrister. On 1st November 1938 Derek was commissioned Pilot Officer in the RAFVR. He married Rachel Mary Genevieve Macdonald in Henley in 1939 and their son Stephen was born the following summer. Derek was called to full time service on 18th September 1939. He completed his training and joined 264 Squadron at RAF Fowlmere in Hertfordshire. On 24th August his Boulton Paul Defiant was damaged in a collision with another aircraft during a scramble at RAF Hornchurch – neither Derek nor his gunner were injured. At 21.30 on 4th September 1940 he was the pilot of Boulton Paul Defiant N1628 which crashed at Northorpe while practising night landings from RAF Kirton in Lindsey. On this occasion both Derek and his gunner, sergeant Laurie Rasmussen, Royal New Zealand Air Force, were sadly killed. They were buried in adjacent graves in Kirton in Lindsey Cemetery. His widow Rachel continued living at 10 Royal Mansions, Henley, near the railway station and took in crews for the Regatta each year. She died in Henley in 1982.

BRUCE MICHAEL OSBORN

Pilot Officer (pilot) 609 Squadron RAFVR (107996)

Died in action 1st May 1942 near aged 21

Reading Crematorium Panel 2

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Bruce was born in 1920 in Richmond, Surrey, the son of Frederick John Osborn and his wife Winifred Ethelwyn, later of "The Towers", Turville Heath, Henley on Thames. No information is known about Bruce until August 1940 when he joined the RAFVR as AC1 at Cardington aged 19. He was then posted to 7 OTU Hawarden with the rank of sergeant having gained his wings. On 14th October 1940 Bruce was posted to No.54 Squadron at Catterick where he flew the Spitfire Mk.1. On 8th September 1941 he was commissioned Pilot Officer and was posted to 609 Squadron which in 1942 was based at RAF Digby, 11mls south east of Lincoln where he flew the Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb. Between 11th January 1942 and 24th March 1942 Bruce flew over fourteen missions. These notably included one on board Spitfire Vb AB975 on "Operation Fuller", a sea sweep seeking the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prince Eugen on 12th February. Another was on board Spitfire Vb W3173 on "Operation Ramrod 13", a sweep of the U-Boat Pens at Ostend escorting Bristol Blenheims on 28th February. Alas while home on leave he was driving his Singer car near the Maidensgrove turn at Stonor when he was

involved in a collision with an Army vehicle being driven by Lance Corporal C.E.Smith of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, which proved to be fatal. Bruce died on 1st May 1942 aged 21 and was cremated at Reading Crematorium.

FRANK LESLIE PARROTT

Flight Sergeant Royal Air Force (359815)

Died of illness. 29th March 1944 aged 40

Buried in Henley Holy Trinity Churchyard Grave B.1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : SM

Frank was born in Henley in 1904 the son of Henry Parrott, a labourer of 54 West Hill, Henley, and his wife Mary. He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 1st May 1904. After leaving school Frank served an apprenticeship with Stuart Turners in Henley, then in 1926 he joined the Royal Air Force as a mechanic. Frank married Doris May Pearce on 11th April 1928 at St Mary's Church. They had two children, Pauline in 1931 and Tony. The family lived at 17 York Road. Frank was in the RAF for eighteen years. He served in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk. Early in 1944 he was "mentioned in dispatches" for devotion to duty. This was published in the London Gazette. Frank died in Grimsby Hospital after an operation and a long and painful illness. He was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard on 3rd April 1944. The RAF was represented by Sergeant Barradell of 148 (Bomber) Gunnery Flight.

THOMAS JAMES PAVEY

Gunner 619 Regiment Royal Artillery (1737826)

Killed in explosion 1st June 1945 aged 37

Buried in Sage War Cemetery, Germany

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

Thomas was born in Newport, Monmouthshire on 15th March 1908 the son of Thomas Pavey of 69 Henry Street, Newport and his wife Katherine. Thomas snr. died in 1910. Thomas jnr. married Nellie Mills in 1939 and they moved to "Firwood" St Marks Road, Henley. At the outbreak of WW2 Thomas joined the army as Gunner 1737826 619th Regiment Royal Artillery. Later during the war due to a shortage of infantry the 619th Regiment retrained and became an infantry regiment. In May 1945 they were being used in a policing role as part of the "army of occupation". Thomas died on 1st June 1945 aged 37. Nine other men of the regiment died on the same day in what was reported as an "accident". It is thought to have been a munitions explosion. Thomas was buried in Sage War Cemetery, Oldenburg, Niedersachsen, Germany.

HARRY ALAN PAYZE

Flight Sergeant (pilot) 152 Squadron RAFVR (655513)

Killed while flying 13th April 1943 Tunisia aged 26

Buried Enfidaville War Cemetery ref. V.F.30.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC : HGS + grandparents' grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard

Harry was born in Chelsea in 1917 the son of Arthur Payze and his wife Margaret. Arthur had lived at 68 St Marks Road, Henley with his parents Percy and Mary before his marriage and after he had moved to Cookham, Berks and then back to Henley. Harry was educated at Henley Grammar School and at the outbreak of WW2 he joined the RAFVR. By 1943 he had qualified for his wings and was posted to 152 Squadron as a Flight Sergeant. In March 1943 the squadron became a fighter bomber squadron and were based at Souk-el-Khemis in North Africa, flying Spitfire VBs. There were actually a number of airfields around Souk-el-Khemis known only by their code name. 152 Squadron were based at "Paddington". Harry was in "B" Flight. During April 1943 Harry flew in sorties on 4th, 9th, 11th and 12th. On 13th he took off at 16.30 on board Spitfire 5B serial no. EE777 (Blue 2) one of six aircraft of "B" flight along with six Spitfires from "A" Flight on bomber escort duty plus 18 North American B-25 Mitchells of 445 Squadron USAF on a raid on Oudna Landing Ground. At approx. 17.10 they were jumped by a group of Messerschmitt Bf-109s and Focke Wulf 190s. Harry's aircraft was shot down but it is not clear whether he was shot down by the USAF B25s that they were escorting, or the attacking enemy fighter aircraft. He was buried in Enfidaville War Cemetery in Tunisia aged 26.

ROY LESLIE PEACOCK

Sergeant 15 OTU RAFVR (740307)

Killed while flying 14th August 1940 aged 23

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial Panel 18

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Roy was born on 23rd January 1917 the son of George Luther Peacock, a railway clerk of 106 Pinkneys Road, Maidenhead and his wife Elsie Maud. The family later moved to Henley on Thames. Nothing is known about Roy's education or early life but in 1939 he enlisted in the RAFVR and became a Sergeant. On 14th August 1940 Vickers Wellington 1 L4308 took off from 15 OTU RAF Harwell for a navigation exercise : Harwell, Salisbury, Barnstaple, Lundy Island, and back to Harwell. On board were Sergeant Roy Peacock, Sergeant Harold Sabin, Sergeant John Brooke, Sergeant Aneurin Morgan, Sergeant John Fuller (RNZAF) and Sergeant Jason Ive.

At approx. 11.25 the Wellington was seen diving towards the waters of the Bristol Channel with flames streaming from its port engine. A search was made of the area, some 5 miles east of Lundy Island and an Admiralty yacht recovered the body of Sergeant Sabin, who was brought back for interment in Harwell Cemetery. There was no trace of his five companions, including Sergeant Roy Peacock. They are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Roy's mother Elsie Maud Peacock died in Henley in 1978

LEONARD HILARY BORLASE PEARCE

Flight Sergeant (pilot), 249 Squadron RAFVR (741920)

Killed while flying 9th April 1941 aged 27

Buried in Kirkby Wharfe (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extn.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HGS

Leonard was born in Chatham, Kent on 31st March 1914, the son of Thomas Pearce, a captain in the Royal Navy, and his wife Annie Christina. The family later moved to Henley and lived at Lamorna, Greys Road. Leonard was educated at Henley Grammar School from September 1923 to July 1925 and Haileybury. From there he went to Imperial Services College and was a well-known member of Henley Rowing Club. Leonard joined the RAFVR around August 1938 as an Airman (under training) Pilot and was awarded his aero certificate 18856 at Cambridge Aero Club on 26th June 1939 flying a DH 60 Gipsy 1,85. Leonard was called up on 1st September 1939 and was posted to 11 Group Pool at St Athan on 3rd September. He converted to Spitfires and on 7th October was posted to 92 Squadron at Tangmere when it was being reformed, flying Hurricanes, and was promoted to Flight Sergeant. Leonard joined 32 Squadron at Biggin Hill in 1940 and shared the shooting down of an Me 110 on 15th August 1940. On 18th August he was shot down in Hawker Hurricane R4106 in combat over Canterbury and managed to successfully bale out, being only slightly wounded. His Hurricane crashed at Rose Garden Cottage, Chartham Hatch, west of Canterbury. On 17th September he was posted to 249 Squadron at North Weald, Kent. In October Leonard went to 46 Squadron based at Stapleford Tawney, Essex and on 13th he made a forced landing at Biggin Hill after being attacked by Me 109s over Dungeness, again he was slightly wounded. The squadron moved to Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorks. in March 1941. On the night of 9th April 1941 just before midnight, Leonard was returning from an operational patrol, was coming in to land at Sherburn when the aircraft stalled and crashed near Barkston Ash, Tadcaster. Leonard died in the crash, aged 27. He was buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Kirby Wharfe.

LESLIE JULIAN PEARSON

Private 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382728)

Killed in action 19th May 1940 aged 20

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial Column 93

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC : SM

Leslie was born in Henley on 25th June 1920, the son of George Harry Pearson, a carter, of 139 Greys Hill, Henley and his wife Helen Harriett. He was baptised on 16th March 1924 at Holy Trinity Church. Leslie joined the Army as a Private in the Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry. He was killed in action on 19th May 1940 during the withdrawal to Dunkirk – he was 20 years of age and is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

GEORGE ALBERT PEDDER

Private 10th Battalion Highland Light Infantry (14681002)

Killed in action in France 30th July 1944 aged 19

Buried in Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery ref. IV. E.13.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM

George was born in Henley on 18th July 1925, the son of Albert Pedder, caretaker, Cemetery Lodge, Fairmile and his wife Louisa Ann. He was educated in Henley and was also a member of the Henley Lads Brigade. On leaving school George worked as a garden boy and joined the Home Guard at the age of 17. In 1940 he joined the Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry but was later posted as a Private to the 10th Battalion Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment). George was killed in action in Normandy on 30th July 1944, aged 19 and was buried at Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery 13 kms south of Bayeaux in Normandy.

HENRY EDWARD PICKETT

Musician Royal Marine Band (HMS Penelope) (RMB/2741)

Killed in action 18th February 1944 aged 39

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 87 Col.3

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Henry was born in Henley on 25th November 1904, the son of Henry Edwin Pickett, a postman of 135 Reading Road, and his wife Esther. He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 6th February 1905. The family later moved to Bankside, Pishill. On leaving school Henry became a musician and in 1920 he joined the Royal Marines Band. He married Dorothy I Stanborough in Portsmouth in 1929 and later moved to Cambridge. On the 18th February 1944 Henry was aboard the Royal Navy

Cruiser HMS Penelope. As they were leaving the Anzio area to return to Naples, the ship was struck by a torpedo fired by the German Submarine U-410. The torpedo struck her in the engine room and sixteen minutes later a second torpedo hit the boiler room, causing the ship to sink immediately. The 'Penelope' was making 26 knots at the time of the attack, which appears to be a unique occurrence, as no other vessel before this time had been hit at this speed. Four hundred and fifteen men, including the Captain, went down with the ship, also Henry. There were two hundred and six survivors. Henry is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and is not on any local memorial.

ERNEST JAMES PRESTON

Stoker 1st Class, Royal Navy (HMS Acheron) (P/SS 125476)

Killed in action 17th December 1940 aged 41

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 42 Col.2

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Ernest was born in Finchampstead on 1st August 1899, the son of George Preston, a painter, of Cricket Hill, Finchampstead, and his wife Beatrice Eleanor. He was baptised at St Nicholas, Remenham on 17th September 1899. By the time of the 1911 Census the family had moved to 26 Harpsden Road, Henley. Ernest married Phyllis E. Tozer in 1923 and they lived at 102 Vicarage Road in Henley. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Royal Navy and by 1940 he was aboard the destroyer HMS Acheron as a Stoker 1st Class. On 17th December 1940 'Acheron' was running sea trials off the Isle of Wight following the repair of bomb damage sustained on 24th August 1940. The trials were carried out at night in complete darkness. During one of the passes they made on the measured mile, 8 nautical miles west-south-west of St Catherine's Point Isle of Wight, she struck a mine towards the bow, her own speed driving her under. The ship sank within 4 minutes, taking with it 196 crewmen and yard workers onboard for the trials. Ernest was one of those who perished, aged 41. Only nineteen of those on board survived. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

JACK PURTON

Trooper 1st Northants Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps (5383321)

Killed in action 10th July 1944, west of Caen aged 25

Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery, Tessel

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Jack was born in London in 1921, the son and Jack and Emily Jane. The family later moved to Henley on Thames. At the outbreak of the Second World War Jack

joined the Army as a Trooper in 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, attached to the Royal Armoured Corps. In June 1944 the Regiment took part in the D-Day landings, and over the next month were fighting to the west and southwest of Caen. Jack was killed in action on 16th July 1944 aged 25. He was buried in Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery, Tessel in Calvados, 16kms.west of Caen in France.

JOHN SEPTIMUS PYNE

Sergeant Air Gunner, RAFVR : 460 RAAF Squadron (1852477)

Killed while flying 9th April 1944 aged 19

Buried in Cambridge City Cemetery grave 13760

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : HGS

John was born in Reading in 1925 the son of Horace William Pyne and his wife Louise Ann. The family later moved to Station House, Wyndale Close, Henley and Horace was the local Station Master. John attended the Henley Grammar School. On leaving school he entered the RAF Volunteer Reserve and in 1944 was posted to 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, stationed at Binbrook in Lincolnshire. On 9th April 1944 the squadron were destined for a mine laying operation in Danzig Bay in the Baltic. The aircraft on which John was an air gunner was an Avro Lancaster III serial no. ME727 coded AR-X2 and it took off from RAF Binbrook at 21.24 for a bombing raid on Villeneuve St Georges. It crashed six minutes later at Scallows Wood, 5 miles east of Binbrook. All of the crew were killed - Pilot Officer William Douglas McKenzie : Flight Sergeant Walter David Weekes, navigator : Flight Sergeant Byron John Simpson bomb aimer : Flight Sergeant Ronald Mansfield, wireless operator : Sergeant Sidney Basil Barber flight engineer, Sergeant John Lowes Crouch air gunner :and Sergeant John Septimus Pyne, air gunner. The crew were all buried in the Cambridge City Cemetery except for Basil Barber who was buried in Acocks Green (St Marys) Churchyard

CECIL BADEN READ

Corporal Royal Army Service Corps (S/14535214)

Died 14th January 1946 aged 45

Buried Munster Heath War Cemetery, ref.2. A.1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : HGS

Cecil was born in Taplow, near Maidenhead on 13th November 1900, the son of John Cook Read and his wife Ellen Annie. At the time of the census in 1901 the family are living at 'The Plough', Boyne Hill, Maidenhead when John is the Publican. Cecil was aged 6 months at this time. By the time of the next census in 1911, the family are at the Phyllis Court Club, Henley where John was the head boatman.

Cecil started at Henley Grammar School in April 1913 and left in December 1916. On leaving school he worked for a time at the Phyllis Court Club, then worked with Mr Rudolph Consterdine for the YMCA both in Folkestone and France. He remained with them for seven years. Cecil then joined Messrs Simmons & Sons at their Henley office, remaining there for seventeen years, having charge of their tithe department. It was during this time that he married Hester Katherine Mott, a teacher, the daughter of Frederick James Mott, a postman. The marriage took place on 14th July 1934 at Holy Trinity Church. They had two children, Gillian and Martyn and lived at 'The Fields' Cromwell Road, Henley. From the beginning of the Second World War, Cecil had served with the St Johns Ambulance Brigade and was a member of the Henley First Aid Post. He was also an accomplished pianist and his abilities in this direction were always in demand. Cecil was also the honorary secretary of Holy Trinity Church PCC. He was called up in February 1943, at the age of 42, joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a Private. By 1946 he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and been posted to No.6 F.D.S. British Army of the Rhine, at Minden in Germany. On the night of 3rd January 1946 Cecil went to bed, and as it was a cold night he, and the sergeant he was sharing the room with, decided to light the gas fire. Routine procedure was to turn the gas off overnight but it appears this was not done. When the gas main was turned back on the following morning the sergeants were still fast asleep. A batman went to the bedroom around 7.40am and could smell gas. He raised the alarm and despite being given artificial respiration Cecil died shortly afterwards. The other sergeant recovered. Cecil was buried in the Munster Heath War Cemetery, Telgte, Nordrein, Westfalen, about 70kms north of Dortmund in Germany. Hester and her children remained in Henley and she became a much loved and respected teacher at Holy Trinity School. She died in 1999.

FORBES McKENZIE ROBERTSON

Leading Aircraftman RAFVR (1396142)

Killed while flying 24th April 1943 aged 20

Buried Arcadia (Oak Ridge) Cemetery Lot 9. Block U. Grave 2.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Forbes was born in Romford, Essex on 23rd July 1922, the son of David L. Robertson, a transport clerk at National Benzole, Stonor Park of 3 St Marks Road, Henley and his wife Christina Whitelaw Robertson nee Ross. The first information we know about Forbes is that he enlisted in the RAFVR as an AC1 at the outbreak of WW2. He was promoted to LAC by the end of 1942 and sent as a British cadet to No.5 British Flying Training School at Riddle Mckay Aero College, Clewiston, Florida, USA. He was enrolled in Course 13 which comprised of 70 RAF cadets

and 17 USAAF cadets. Primary training began on 17th January 1943 and the cadets were split into small groups, often four cadets in each group under one instructor. In Forbes's case his instructor was Frederick J. Brittain and his fellow cadets were Cowan, Thorpe and Morse. The aircraft used for their primary training was the Stearman PT-17 and Forbes' first flight was on 20th January and lasted 30mins. This was followed by six further flights totalling 4hrs.41mins before he went solo on 30th January. By the end of this part of the course on 16th March 1943, Forbes had clocked up 34hrs 43mins total flying time. He then moved on to the Basic & Advanced part of his training which was undertaken in the AT-6 Havard under a different Instructor. By 23rd April 1943, Forbes had completed 11hrs flying time in the Havard. On 24th April 1943 Forbes took off from Clewiston at around 14.52 local EWT (Eastern War Time) on board AT6A Havard 42-16622 on a cross country flight having already clocked up 40 hours solo time. He proceeded to fly in a northward direction and unbeknown to him, according to the US Weather Bureau at Melbourne, Florida, a cold front was moving in a southerly direction towards the area into which he was heading. Such springtime features were often marked by severe thunderstorms with associated hazards. Forbes crashed at 15.22 near State Route 29, Kenansville, Florida, 79mls north of Clewiston. It is believed that he lost control of the aircraft flying in the turbulent storm. He was killed on impact, at the age of 20. His funeral service was held at 11am on Monday 26th April 1943 and he was buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Arcadia, in what is now known as "The British Plot". The service was carried out by Reverend Frank Ireland.

Forbes's father David died in Henley in 1944 aged 48. His mother Caroline died in Colchester, Essex in 1979 aged 90.

JOHN CHARLES SALTER

Able Seaman Royal Navy (MTB444) (C/JX 310486)

Killed in action 15th February 1944 aged 21

Buried Holy Trinity Churchyard

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

John was born in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, in 1923 the son of Frank Salter, a bricklayer and his wife Elsie. He later moved to Henley and lived with his Aunt and Uncle Richard and Sarah Lewendon (his mother's sister) at 27 Church Street, Henley. Nothing is known about his education but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy. On the night of 14th/15th June 1944, John was a member of the crew of the Motor Torpedo Boat (MTB) 444 commanded by Lieutenant Edward Derek Leaf with Sub-Lieutenant Peter Davis and ten crew. The boat left its base in Lowestoft leading a flotilla of five MTBs on a 38knot dash across the North Sea to set an ambush for a German convoy. On reaching Ijmuiden

on the Dutch coast they waited for three hours in a stationary position until the German convoy attempted to get into the harbour. With the element of surprise on their side they attacked, sinking or damaging all the enemy ships and escaping unscathed. As the flotilla turned to press home after the attack, they in turn were ambushed by German E-boats and in the words of Sub-Lieutenant Davis "all hell broke loose". Within what seemed like a few seconds MTB 444 was reduced to a smoking wreck. Lieutenant Leaf was fatally wounded and rest of the crew were dead or wounded. Sub-Lieutenant Davis assessed the damage and finding that he could restart the engine, nursed the boat back to Lowestoft, entering the harbour about four hours later. Lieutenant Derek Leaf, Petty Officer Archibald Wilkes, Leading Telegrapher Roy Staples and Able Seaman John Salter were all killed. John's body was returned to Henley where he was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard on February 19th 1944, aged 21.

ERIC FREDERICK SARGEANT

Lance Sergeant Royal Engineers (2008698)

Killed in action France 7th August 1944 aged 24

Buried St Charles de Percy War Cemetery , SW of Caen ref.II.C.5.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

Eric was born in 1920 in Remenham the son of Gerard Alfred Street Sargeant, a builder, of Remenham Hill and his wife Beatrice Clara. He was baptised at St Nicholas Church, Remenham on 8th February 1920. Eric was educated at Henley Grammar School from 21st January 1930, where he proved to be a useful athlete, and later became a member of the Henley Rowing Club and played rugby for the Old Henleians. On leaving school Eric assisted his father in his business of building and decorating. In 1940 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. By August 1944 Eric had been promoted to Lance Sergeant and following on from the Normandy Landings, the British were making a major thrust from Caumont l'Event towards Vire in Normandy. The aim was to drive a wedge between the German 7th Army and Panzer Group West. He was wounded during this action and died of his wounds. He was aged 24. Eric was buried in St Charles de Percy War Cemetery, 44kms south west of Caen.

LEONARD SAUNDERS

Signalman Royal Navy (HMS Walney) (C/JX 214162)

Killed in action 8th November 1942 aged 26

Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial panel 58. 3.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

Leonard was born on Saturday 19th August 1916 the son of Walter and Sarah Saunders of Brent Villa, Ollerfield Road, Yiewsley, Middx. After leaving school Leonard and his brother Leslie came to Henley and worked in a hardware shop. Also working there was his wife-to-be Joan Lesley Ward, the daughter of Leslie Clarence Ward, a professional golfer of Western Road, Henley. They married at Holy Trinity Church on 4th April 1942. By this time Leonard was already in the Royal Navy, having been called up in 1940. In October 1942 he was a Signaller aboard HMS Walney, a BANFF Class Sloop (which had previously been a US Coastguard Cutter). On 6th October 1942 the ship was designated for special duties in connection with the North Africa landings. On 13th October she was readied for use in breaking into Oran Harbour in Algeria. On 26th she sailed from the Clyde with the HM Cutter "Hartland", as part of the escort for a military convoy bound for Gibraltar. Once there, they began loading the men and supplies for the raid on Oran. The ship was packed with Commandos. On 8th November the 'Walney' rammed the outer and inner booms of Oran harbour in an endeavour to land the Commandos to prevent the French garrison from sabotaging the port facilities. Unfortunately, before this happened the ship had come under intense fire from the shore batteries, also two French submarines and a destroyer. The ship was hammered from point blank range. A 105mm shell exploded in her boiler room, killing all inside and knocking out the power. Ammunition exploded and the ship still drifted on, eventually colliding with the French destroyer. The survivors abandoned ship, most drowned – a few are picked up by the French. Alas Leonard was not among them. He died at age 26 and is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

LESLIE GEORGE SCOTT

Driver, 13 Corps Supply Column, Royal Army Service Corps (T/221998)

Died 9th April 1941 aged 33

Commemorated on Brookwood Memorial Panel 17. Column 1.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC : SM

Leslie was born in Dulwich on 29th December 1909, the son of William Frederick Scott, a Grocer's Shop manager and his wife Mary Jane. The family later moved to 24 King's Road, Henley where Leslie worked as a delivery van driver. He joined the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War as a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. In April 1941 he was part of the Supply Column on board a ship carrying supplies and reinforcements to the Allies at Tobruk, North Africa, when he was taken ill and died on 9th April 1941, aged 33. Leslie was buried at sea and is commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial.

HENRY THOMAS SHARP

Gunner, Royal Artillery (1768057)

Died 29th March 1943 aged 38

Buried Holy Trinity Churchyard, Henley Grave J.41.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Henry was born in Henley on 7th August 1905, the son of Edward Sharp, a labourer of 19 Park Road and his wife Charlotte. He married Edith Florence Hanns in 1928 and they lived at 34 Park Road, Henley and Henry worked as a builder's labourer. Their son Peter was born in 1934 and baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 18th February 1934. On the outbreak of WW2 Henry joined the Army as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery. He died on 29th March 1943, aged 38, and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard on 2nd April 1943.

FRANK GORDON PERCY SHAW

Sergeant Pilot, RAFVR (904873)

Died of injuries, 4th February 1941 aged 25

Buried in Henley (Fairmile) Cemetery Sec.16. Grave 31.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Frank was born on 28th July 1915 in Wandsworth, the son of William Alfred Shaw, a vaudeville actor, and his wife Edith Blanche (nee Jehu). Nothing is known about his early life but when he left school he trained as a commercial artist. On 26th February 1915 whilst living at 28 Garth Road, Morden, Surrey Frank obtained his Royal Aero Club flying certificate at Redhill Flying Club flying a DH Moth, Gipsy 1. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR as a sergeant pilot. His father had died in 1936 and his mother and grandparents Arthur and Emmeline Blanche Jehu went to live at 9 Norman Avenue, Henley. On 4th February 1941 he was on board Airspeed Oxford P1081 of Central Flying School, RAF Upavon with Sergeant pilot Hector E. Bennet when the aircraft stalled and crashed on approach to the relief landing ground at Alton Barnes, north of Upavon, while practising a forced landing. Both occupants were taken to RAF Hospital, Yatebury, Cherhill, near Calne, Wilts. where they died as a result of their injuries. Frank Shaw's body was taken to Henley where he was buried in the Fairmile Cemetery. Sergeant Hector Bennett was cremated at Bristol (Arnos Vale) Crematorium and is remembered on the WW2 Memorial there.

MALCOLM EDWIN SHIRTLIFF

Leading Aircraftman RAFVR (969125)

Killed while flying. 19th October 1940 aged 23

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial panel 24

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Malcolm was born in Hampton, Middx. on 16th March 1917 the son of Leonard Byron Shirliff, a mechanical engineer of Cape Lodge, Nightingale Road, Hampton, and his wife Jessie Elizabeth. The family later moved to Hurley, Berkshire and then to Henley on Thames. After school Malcolm worked as a salesman for a corn merchant. On the outbreak of WW2 he volunteered for the Royal Air Force and enlisted as AC.1. In 1940 he married Peggy Yates of Worcester. Sometime later Malcolm volunteered for flying training and was posted to No.8 Special Flying Training School at RAF Montrose in Scotland. On 18th October 1940 he took off from Montrose at 14.05hrs. on board Miles Master aircraft N7576 on a one hour training flight and that was the last heard from him. He was reported missing later the same day. All traces of his movements were unobtainable until Sunday 20th October 1940 when pieces of wreckage of a Miles Master were washed up on the beach at Johnshaven, Montrose and were identified as part of Master aircraft N7576. Malcolm was reported as having officially died on 19th October age 23. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. His father Leonard died in Henley in 1957.

DOUGLAS REGINALD SILVEY

Lance Sergeant 73 Anti-Tank Regt. Royal Artillery (1545227)

Killed in action 17th June 1944 aged 24

Buried in St Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, France Ref.IV.J.13.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Douglas was born in 1919 the son of Frederick James Silvey, a farm labourer of 7 Council Cottages, Remenham Hill and his wife Catherine Mary. He had two older brothers and sisters, plus one younger sister. Douglas's father died in 1933 aged 53. At the outbreak of WW2 Douglas enlisted as a Private in the Royal Artillery and by 1944, having served in the North Africa and Sicily campaigns, he had risen to the rank of Lance Sergeant serving with the 73rd Anti-Tank Regiment in Normandy. Douglas was killed in action on 17th June 1944 aged 24. He was buried by his officer and two of his men the following day. He was later reburied in St Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, 10kms west of Caen.

One of his officers wrote to Douglas's mother Catherine, a letter in which he pays high tribute to "a very valuable and well liked member of the troop. We all feel his loss deeply and send our sympathy to you. "

OLIVER HENRY SKELTON

Pilot Officer (observer) 427 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force (J/18375)

Killed while flying. 26th February 1943 aged 29

Buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Holland ref. XVI. D. 10.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Parents' grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard

Oliver was born in Kingston, Surrey on 25th June 1913, the son of Oliver Edwin Skelton, a post office sorter, and his wife Alice Clara. The family later moved to 41 Park Road, Henley. After leaving school Oliver got a job with the United Fruit Company in Guatamala City, Guatamala. On one of his travel manifests it gives his occupation as 'artist'. He went from Guatamala to Miami, Florida in February 1939 and then to New Orleans on 15th May 1941, this time his occupation was given as a clerk. Shortly after he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto, and trained as an air gunner. In 1943 he was posted back to England as a Pilot Officer and sent to RAF Croft, Warrington, North Yorkshire to 427 Squadron RCAF. On 26th February 1943 Vickers Wellington III BJ886 took off for a raid on Cologne. The pilot was Sergeant William Harwood, his crew Sergeant Harold Steel (observer), Sergeant Vivian Caplin (air gunner), Flight Sergeant Theo Curtis (wireless operator/air gunner), Flight Sergeant Charles Leach (air gunner), and Pilot Officer Oliver Skelton (navigator). The aircraft was shot down by a German night fighter and crashed in Holland, all of the crew perished. Oliver was buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery at Gelderland, 10kms SE of the town of Nijmegen. He was 29.

ARNOLD VICTOR DAN SMITH

Gunner, 1 Medium Regt. Royal Artillery (8382666)

Killed in action 31st July 1944 aged 25.

Buried Imphal War Cemetery, India ref. 6.C.II.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

Arnold was born in Henley on 1st July 1919, the son of Albert Daniel Smith, a gardener of 23 Albert Road, Henley and his wife Rhoda Elizabeth. He was baptised on 21st September 1919 at Holy Trinity Church. Arnold was educated at Henley Senior School, and on leaving there worked for a time for Messrs. Pither & Son. He was also a member of the local Territorials. In 1938 Arnold joined the army as a gunner in the 1 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. He served in France during the early stages of WW2, getting back to England from Dunkirk. While back in England,

he married Bettina Mary Jarvis in 1941. Arnold was then posted to India where he took part in the war against the Japanese. He was killed in action in Burma on 31st July 1944 aged 25 and was buried in Imphal War Cemetery, India. Imphal is the capital of Manipur State in north east India, near the Burmese Border.

GEORGE SMITH

Aircraftman 1st Class, RAF serving on HMS Courageous (548938)

Killed in action 17th September 1939 aged 19

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial Panel 3

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate : HGS

George was born in Nettlebed in 1920, the son of Sidney Smith a club steward of Oxford Road. Nettlebed, and his wife Martha Sophia. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 15th September 1932 and shortly after leaving joined the Royal Air Force. In 1939 George was posted as an AC.1 to HMS Courageous, an aircraft carrier, which at the time housed two squadrons of Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers. On 15th September 1939 the 'Courageous' was on anti-submarine patrol in the Western approaches of the English Channel along with a destroyer escort screen. On 17th September at 19.40hrs the German Submarine U-29 fired three torpedoes from less than 3000yds at HMS Courageous, two of which hit home. The ship sank within 15mins with the loss of 519 lives. George was one of those who died. He was aged 19. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede.

THOMAS SMITH

Lance Corporal 1st Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5379143)

Killed in action 27th May 1940 aged 32

Buried in Comines Communal Cemetery, British Plot. Grave 95.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Thomas was born in Henley in 1908, the son of James Smith, a jobbing gardener of 169 Reading Road, Henley and his wife Annie. Thomas married Florence E. Whitbread in Henley in 1934 and went to live in Beaconsfield. He joined the Army on the outbreak of WW2 as a Private in the 1st Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry and by 1940 had been promoted to Lance Corporal. Thomas was killed in action on 27th May 1940, aged 32 and buried in Comines (Komen) Communal Cemetery, 12kms south of Ypres, Belgium.

PHILIP RAYMOND SWAN

Sergeant (pilot) RAFVR (1387580)

Killed while flying. 5th July 1942 aged 22

Buried in Rotherfield Peppard (All Saints) New Churchyard grave 72

HENLEY. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Peppard : HGS

Philip was born in Sonning Common on 30th September 1919, one of three sons of Sidney George Swan, a motor mechanic, of Peppard Road, Sonning Common and his wife Annie. He was baptised at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End on 18th January 1920. Philip started at Henley Grammar School on September 14th 1931. He was a member of the Old Henleinsians and of Henry Rowing Club. Philip joined the Metropolitan Police in April 1939. In May 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and gained with 'wings' in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. On his return to England he was posted as Sergeant (pilot) to 53 OTU (Operational Training Unit) at Llandow, Glamorganshire, where he started on Course No.20 on 9th June 1942. Philip was killed on 5th July 1942 when he was flying Spitfire Mk II P7504 and was involved in a mid-air collision with another Spitfire P8592 piloted by Sergeant Russell Stanley Pearce (also of 53 OUT) during practising aerial combat manoeuvres over Welsh St Donats, 2½ miles north east of Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. Philip's body was found some yards from the aircrafts wreckage which indicated that he had tried to bale out but was too low for his parachute to open. His body was returned home and his funeral took place at All Saints Church, Peppard on 10th July 1942 and Philip was buried in the churchyard there. Russell Pearce was buried in Llantwit Major Cemetery.

RONALD DOUGLAS THAYRE

Lance Bombardier, 98 HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery (151320)

Died 7th December 1945 aged 26

Buried Holy Trinity Churchyard, Henley Grave J.35.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HTC

Ronald was born in Sussex on 16th February 1919, the son of Allan Thayre and his wife Lilian. He moved to "Bungalow" Slade End, Wallingford and lived with the Fowler family, working as a market garden labourer. He married Mildred Doris Fowler in 1939 and they lived in Henley on Thames. At the outbreak of WW2 Ronald joined the Army as a Gunner in 98th (Surrey & Sussex Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. After serving in numerous theatres of war around Europe, Ronald died of tuberculosis in the Osler Pavilion Hospital in Oxford on 7th December 1945 aged 26 years and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard. His widow Mildred married Richard Sheehan in Henley in 1946.

HUGH PROTHEROE THOMAS

Lieutenant 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (64044)

Killed in action Belgium 16th May 1940 aged 23

Buried in Overijse Churchyard, Vlaams Brabant, Belgium

Local Memorials : TH : SM. Salisbury Club Memorial

Hugh was born in Pembrokeshire in 1917, the son of Major Sir Hugh James Protheroe Thomas Kt. OBE, DI, JP, and his wife Lady Charlotte Evelin . Thomas, later of 8 St Andrews Road, Henley. He had a wide circle of friends in Henley to whom he was known as "Binkey". At the outbreak of WW2 Hugh was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment and went to France with the B.E.F. where he was promoted to Lieutenant. Hugh was killed in action on 16th May 1940, aged 23, during the withdrawal to Dunkirk. He was buried in the Overijse Churchyard, Belgium.

GORDON LESLIE TOFIELD

Flying Officer (pilot) 61 Squadron RAFVR (65555)

Killed while flying 2nd June 1942 aged 22

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery re. 9.E.I.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC + his grandparents Robert & Emma Hays's grave in Holy Trinity Churchyard

Gordon was born in Henley in 1920, the son of Herbert Leslie Victor Tofield, a fitter/service engineer of The Lodge, Badgemore and his wife Elsie Violet. Gordon was baptised on 27th June 1920 at St Mary's Church, Henley. The family later moved to 6 Hamilton Avenue. Gordon was educated at Henley Grammar School from 9th January 1934, by which time the family had moved to 1 Western Avenue, Henley. On leaving school Gordon worked for the Post Office. At the outbreak of WW2 he volunteered for the RAF Volunteer Reserve and quickly qualified as a pilot. He gained a commission as a Flying Officer and was posted to 61 Squadron, initially flying the Handley Page Hampden, a twin-engine medium bomber and then converted to the Avro Manchester. His final conversion was to the four engine Avro Lancaster in 1942. In June of that year, 61 Squadron were based at the RAF Station Syerston in Nottinghamshire. On the night of 1st June 1942 at 22.50hrs, Gordon took off in Avro Lancaster serial no. R5544, coded QR-Z for the second 1000 bomber raid, this time on Essen, Germany. His crew were Sergeant Ronald Larter, Flight Sergeant (observer), Leslie Partridge, Flying Officer, W. R. Williams, Sergeant (wireless op/air gunner), John Titterington, Pilot Officer (air gunner), Samuel Walsh and Sergeant (air gunner) Roy Buglar. The aircraft was shot down by heavy flak (anti-aircraft fire) and crashed near Dusseldorf in the early hours of

2nd June 1942 and all of the crew except Flying Officer Williams were killed. Williams was taken prisoner and put in Stalag Luft 3. The crew were initially buried in Dusseldorf's North-Freidhof Cemetery but were later moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery after the war. This is located in the west of Germany near the Dutch border.

THOMAS WADDINGTON

Squadron Leader (pilot), 233 Squadron Royal Air Force (39623)

Killed while flying. 11th September 1942 aged 26

Buried in Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery ref. Plot 2. Row D. Joint grave 11.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : SM : HGS

Thomas was born in Surrey in 1916, the son of Thomas Henry Waddington, a chauffeur, and his wife Margaret Ann. The family later moved to 16 Kings Road, Henley. Thomas started at Henley Grammar School in September 1928. His father, Thomas Henry died in 1939 aged 68. Thomas junior joined the Royal Air Force and by 1942 had gained his 'wings'. Later he was posted to 233 Squadron in Gibraltar having attained the rank of Squadron Leader. In Gibraltar his Squadron operated the Lockheed IIIa Hudson on maritime patrol. On 11th September 1942 Thomas took off from Gibraltar at 06.32 on board Lockheed Hudson FH398 on an anti-submarine patrol. His crew consisted of Pilot Officer Henry Charles Johnson : Pilot Officer Gordon Alfred Kenyon and Flight Sergeant Thomas McMurty Moore. During bad weather they flew into a hillside near Gibraltar and blew up, killing all of the crew. The four members of 233 Squadron were buried in adjacent graves 2D 11 and 2D 12 in Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery.

According to 233 Squadron Operation Record Book for 11th September 1942, six aircraft went out on anti-submarine patrol, one of which did not return.

JOHN WILLIAM WARNER

Rifleman 9th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (14727919)

Killed in action 31st October 1944 aged 18

Buried in Mierlo War Cemetery ref. VII. E. 9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC

John was born in Henley in 1926 the son of George Warner of 3 Trust Corner, Henley and his wife Florence. John was barely eighteen when he joined the Army as a Rifleman in the 9th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He was killed in action on 31st October 1944 while fighting in the Maas area of Holland and was buried in Mierlo War Cemetery, Noor-Brabant, Holland, aged 18 years and 8 months.

FREDERICK ARTHUR WATLING

Private, Army Catering Corps attached Royal Artillery (1726154)

Killed in action 10th November 1945 aged 36

Buried Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

grave ref. 6.F.4.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Frederick was born on 6th April 1909, the son of Frederick William Watling, a fishmonger and poulterer of 21 Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent and his wife Elizabeth. The first we know of Frederick is in the 1939 Register when he is working as a fishmonger with his father at 25 Thanet Road, Broadstairs. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as a Private in the Army Catering Corps and was attached to the Royal Artillery. He married Evelyn Kate Spooner in Henley in 1940 and she lived at 113 Greys Road, Henley. He was killed in action on 10th November 1945 at the age of 36 and buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

RICHARD (DICK) WHEELER

Civilian War Dead

Killed in German air raid on Islington (V-1 'Doodlebug) 27th June 1944

Buried St Margaret's Church, Harpsden aged 44

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS : Salisbury Club Memorial

Richard was born in Henley in 1900, the son of Harriett Wheeler of 5 Kings Road, Henley. He was baptised on 18th May 1900 at St. Mary's Church, Henley. Richard started at Henley Grammar School in September 1916 as a Pupil Teacher. He married Harriett Green, the daughter of Mr S.W. Green of Highlands Farm in 1919 and they had one daughter and lived at 18 Western Road, Henley. Richard was the organist at Harpsden Church for a number of years, a member of the Henley Bowling Club, and the Salisbury Club. He later worked as a school teacher in London. Richard was killed during a German air raid on Islington on 27th June 1944 when at 12 noon a German V-1 Doodlebug landed near Highbury Railway Station. Richard was 44 years old. His funeral took place at St Margaret's Church, Harpsden at 11.30 on Saturday 27th May 1944.

RONALD JOHN RAYMOND WHEELER

Lance Sergeant 255 Field Coy. Royal Engineers (2122539)

Killed in action 24th April 1943 aged 35

Buried in Massicault War Cemetery Tunisia ref. I.M.14.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : SM : HGS

Ronald was born in Henley in 1908 the son of William Wheeler, a painter of 30 Gravel Hill, Henley and his wife Ada. He was baptised on 19th April 1908 at St Mary's Church, Henley. Richard was educated at Henley Grammar School from September 1920, at which time the family were living at 5 Kings Road, Henley. He married Violet Frances Hewett in 1933 and they had three children, Myrtle 1934, Wendy 1936 and Ronnie. The family lived at 13 South Avenue, Henley. Ronald joined the Army as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. By 1943 he had been promoted to Lance Sergeant and posted to the 255 Field Company. He was killed in action on 24th April 1943 whilst trying to rescue some of his men from a blazing truck, set on fire by enemy shells. Ronald was buried in Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia, aged 35.

CHARLES ALBERT WICKHAM

Private 4th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment (6096589)

Killed in action. 3rd August 1944 aged 28

Buried Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery ref. V.B.12.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Charles was born in Hove, Sussex on 3rd April 1916 the son of William Wickham a baker of 46 Goldstone Road, Hove, Sussex and his wife Lilian. He became a professional pianist when he left school and played for Joe Kay's band at the Norfolk Hotel, Brighton. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 6096589 4th Battalion Devonshire Regiment. Charles was well liked by all who knew him during the period he was billeted in Henley and became engaged to Joan Buckett of 70 West Street, Henley. He will be remembered as having assisted Ron Russell's band at a number of local dances. Charles was killed in action on 3rd August 1944 aged 28 during the "Battle of Normandy" following on from the D Day landings. He was buried in Tilly-Sur-Seulles War Cemetery, 13 kms south of Bayeaux in Normandy.

JOHN CHARLES WILLOUGHBY

Private, Straits Settlements Volunteer Force (13815)

Killed in action. 12th September 1944 aged 29

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Col.398

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS

John was born in Henley in 1915, the son of George Willoughby, a school attendance officer of Council Cottages, Highmoor and his wife Lizzie. He was educated at Henley Grammar School. In 1937 he left by boat from London for Singapore. When WW2 broke out, John, like many others of the business

community, joined the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force. He was killed in action on 12th September 1944 aged 29. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. (brother of Francis)

FRANCIS JOHN WILLOUGHBY

Sergeant (pilot), 42 Squadron Royal Air Force (565351)

Killed while flying 21st June 1940 aged 26

Buried in Bergen (Mollendal) Church Cemetery ref.A.9.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : HGS :

Francis was born on 19th March 1914, the son of George Willoughby, a school attendance officer, of Council Cottages, Highmoor and his wife Lizzie. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from September 1925 aged 11½. Francis joined the RAF on leaving school and was sent to No.1 School of Technical Training at RAF Halton and gained his pilots wings. married Enid Mary Payne in Chalfont St Giles in 1938. He joined the RAF and by the time of the Register in 1939 was staying with his wife in a hotel in Docking, Norfolk. Probably by then he had been posted to 235 Squadron who were based at RAF Docking. In 1940 he was posted as sergeant pilot 565351 to 42 Squadron Coastal Command at RAF Wick in Scotland. On Friday 21st June 1940 at 14.24 hrs eight Bristol Beaufort torpedo bombers took off from Wick for an attack on the German battleship "Scharnhorst" which was moored at the time in a fiord at Trondheim in Norway. Francis was piloting Beaufort L4486 coded AW-C, his crew comprised of Pilot Officer Herbert John Seagrim : Leading Aircraftsman John White and Leading Aircraftsman Colin Alistair Malcolm. From reports from other aircraft in the group they were attacked on their way to the target by German Me-109s of II/JG77 and L4486 was shot down over Bergen and crashed into the sea. The only body recovered was that of Francis and he was buried in Bergen (Mollendal) Church Cemetery. The other members of the crew are commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. The only report of an attack (unsuccessful) on the "Scharnhorst" that day was by six Gloster Gladiators. (brother of John).

ARTHUR GEORGE FREDERICK WILSON

Corporal RAFVR (1430176)

Died 13th April 1946 aged 24

Buried Karachi War Cemetery, India

Henley. Local Memorials : TH : HTC : HGS

Arthur was born in Henley on 2nd February 1921 the son of Arthur George Cropley Wilson a shop keeper of 73 St Marks Road, Henley and his wife Kate. He was

educated at Henley Grammar School and when he left trained as a photographer. Arthur worked for some time in London as an advertising photographer and also part-time as a cinema projectionist. In 1940 he married Constance Carter, the daughter of Mr H W Carter a former Henley station master. In 1941 Arthur enlisted in the RAFVR as AC1 1430176 and initially worked in Belgium and France on photographic ground duties. Their daughter Valerie was born in 1942 and son Roderick in 1945. By 1945 Arthur had been promoted to Corporal and sailed for India on 2nd February 1946. He died on 13th April 1946 after a short illness in a Lahore Military Hospital aged 25 and was buried in Karachi War Cemetery.

ROGER ERIC WILTSHIRE

Flying Officer (pilot), RAFVR (180172)

Killed 11th February 1946 aged 23

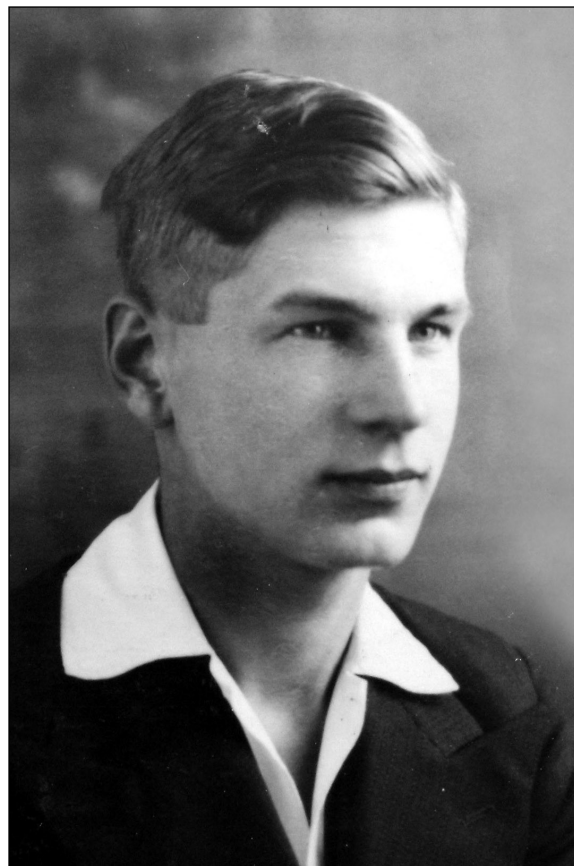
Buried in Oxford (Botley) Cemetery plot H/3. Grave 143.

HENLEY. Local Memorials : None

Roger was born in Essex on 6th September 1922, the son of James George Wiltshire and his wife Constance. He married Alma Edwina Gray at St.Nicholas Church, Remenham in September 1945 and they lived at 14A Friday Street, Henley. At the outbreak of WW2, Roger joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and trained as a pilot, gaining his wings at No.16 Flying Training School, RAF Burnaston near Derby flying a Tiger Moth, Gipsy Major 130 on 15th October 1945. In February 1946 he was stationed at Burnaston, as a flying instructor. On 11th February Roger had a serious car accident in his two seater sports car when in very dark and rainy conditions he pulled out to avoid a stationary vehicle and collided head on with an oncoming lorry on the Burton to Derby road. He was taken to the Derby Royal Hospital with severe head injuries but died before he reached there. His passenger Sergeant Austin Villiers Tushingham was only slightly injured. Roger was buried in Oxford (Botley) Cemetery aged 23. His family address was given as 46 Alleswater Road, London N14 and his wife was living at "Windy Knoll" Henhurst Hill, Burton, about nine miles from where her husband was based.



Flt/Sergeant Edward Owen Bule
Killed while flying 1st January 1945



Private Stanley Pryke
Killed in action 10th May 1940



2nd Lieut. Charles Geoffrey Richards
Killed in action 9th June 1941



Flt/Lieutenant Glencairn S Ogilvie
Killed while flying 18th December 1940

Men of Kidmore End



Corporal Richard Clinch
Killed in action 19th May 1940



Flight Lieutenant John Andrew Edward
Killed while flying 24th June 1944



Sergeant David Green
Killed in action 22nd May 1940



Flight Sergeant Leonard H B Pearce
Killed while flying 9th April 1941

Men of Henley



Signalman Leonard Saunders
Killed in action 8th November 1942



Steward William Knight Lamb
Died at sea 2nd October 1941



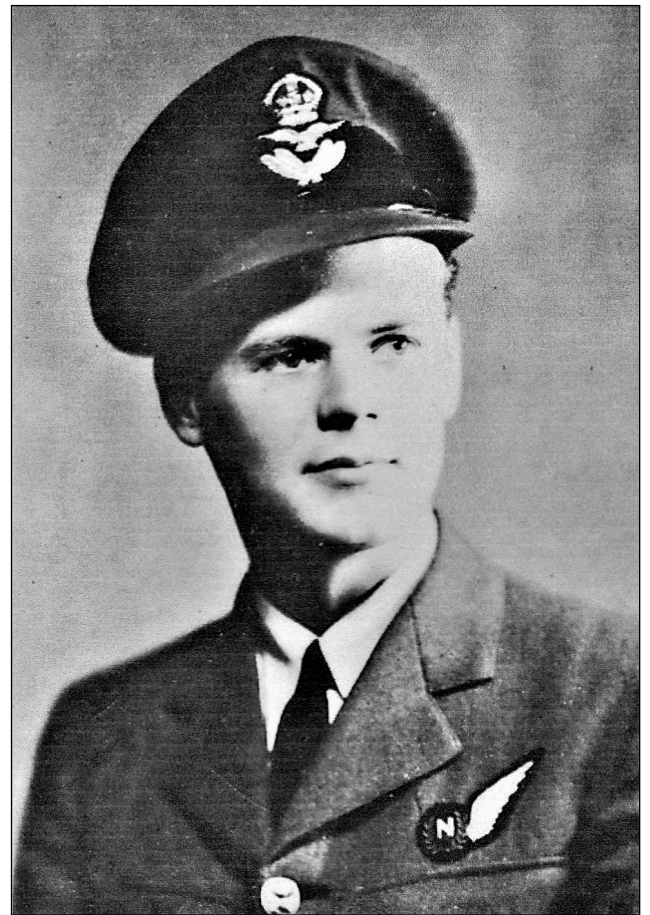
Rifleman John William Warner
Killed in action 31st October 1944



Warrant Officer Cecil Bailey DCM
Killed in action 29th May 1940



LAC Charles William F Smith
Killed while flying 19th June 1943



Flying Officer Ernest T G Harris
Killed while flying 10th March 1945



Funeral procession of LAC Charles Smith to Dunville (Riverside) Cemetery

Men of Shiplake



Pilot Officer Peter Levinghe Clayton
Killed while flying 6th June 1942



Sergeant Cyril Symonds
Killed while flying 18th December 1944



Pilot Officer Hugo James Ross
Killed while flying 25th November 1940



AC1 Richard Frank Salter
Died as POW 18th September 1944

Men of Stoke Row, Highmoor, Nuffield and Nettlebed



Major Geoffrey Ernest Makins MC
Died 4th September 1944



Lieutenant Rodney W B Lloyd MC
Killed in action 2nd February 1945

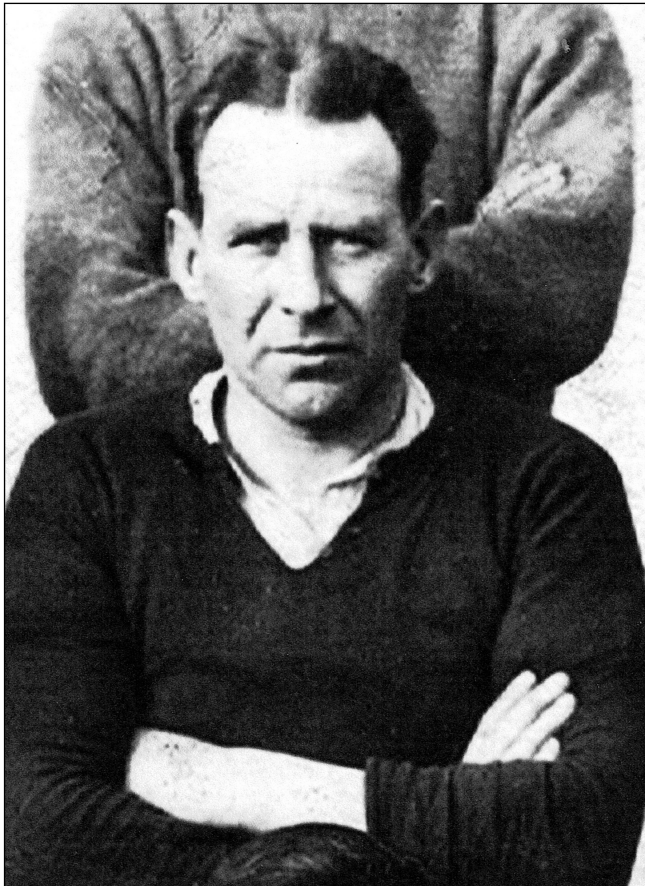


Lieut. Hubert Blake Hobson
Killed in action 28th January 1942



Sergeant Philip Raymond Swan
Killed while flying 5th July 1942

Men of Rotherfield Greys and Rotherfield Peppard



Marine Frank Henry Goodchilld
Killed in action 30th August 1940
Henley



Wing Cmdr. Anthony Woodhouse
Killed while flying 13th August 1944
Bix



Stoker 1st Class Basil Lambourne
Killed in action 22nd May 1941
Stoke Row



Course 14 No.5 British Flying Training School, Riddle McKay Aero College, Clewiston, USA. Forbes McKengie Robinson killed while flying 24th April 1943.
(back row sixth from LHS). Henley.

MEN OF THE LOCAL VILLAGES

MEN OF BIX

HENRY JAMES BAREFIELD

Corporal 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (5255209)

Killed in action 1st August 1944 aged 28

Buried in Tilly-Sur-Seulles War Cemetery

BIX. Local Memorials : Bix Church

Henry was born in Henley in 1916 the son of Henry Barefield a gardener of Bix Folly, Lower Assendon and his wife Daisy. After leaving school he went to work at Ruislip Cooperative Stores. Henry jnr. Married Mabel Irene Gutteridge in 1938. He originally enlisted in the army as Private 5255209 Worcester Regiment but he soon attained the rank of corporal and was transferred to the 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. Henry and Mabel had two children, Jeanette born in 1940 and David in 1942 by which time they were living at Crays Pond. He was killed in action on 1st August 1944 aged 28 and was buried in Tilly-Sur-Seulles War Cemetery, west of Caen in Normandy, France.

ROSS BERNARD FISHER

Wireman Royal Navy HMS Albatross (P/MX 66361)

Killed in action 11th August 1944 aged 24

Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial

BIX. Local Memorials : Bix Church

Ross was born in Bix on 24th September 1920 the son of Henry T Fisher a carpenter of 8 Bix Common and his wife May. He attended Bix and Nettlebed Schools and was a troop leader in the Greys Scouts under Captain Agnew. Before volunteering for the Royal Navy early in 1940 he was on the staff of the Wessex Electricity Company. He was also well known on a number of the local cricket and football grounds. Ross played cricket for Bix under the captaincy of Eric Sargent who died on 7th August. Ross married Gladys Bell in Liverpool in 1942. He served as Wireman P/MX 66361 in the Navy originally on HMS King George and then on HMS Albatross (Repair Ship). Ross was killed in action of 11th August 1944 when the ship was torpedoed off the coast of Courseulles Sur Mer, Normandy the ship was damaged beyond repair and 66 of her crew including Ross were killed. He was 24 years old. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

JOHN ALISTAIR HOLLAND ROBINSON MC

Captain 2nd Battalion Norfolk Regiment (117924)

Died of wounds 9th February 1944 aged 25

Buried in Anzio War Cemetery, Italy

BIX. Local Memorials : Bix Church

John was born in Bix on 31st December 1918 the son of Gerard Arthur Holland Robinson and his wife Margaret Beatrice Robinson of North Ridge, Bix. He was one of the first pupils at St Joan's School in Henley from where he went on to Wellington House in Westgate, from there to Eton and then New College, Oxford in 1937 where he was reading law. John was also an accomplished rower. On the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Norfolk Regiment and posted to 2nd Battalion. By 1944 he had attained the rank of captain and was awarded the Military Cross. The citation read : *On the afternoon of 1st February 1944 "D" Company was ordered to attack. The objective was the forward slope of a large flat feature in the Anzio Bridgehead, practically devoid of cover and overlooked by the enemy. Captain Robinson as second in charge of the company was placed in charge of the two leading platoons. He successfully led his men to the objective where they at once came under heavy and accurate enemy artillery and mortar fire. With total disregard of his own safety Captain Robinson organised the consolidation of the position, despite the heavy enemy fire he moved about in the open encouraging the men and directing operations. Heavy casualties were sustained but the outstanding example set by this officer and the inspiration and confidence he gave to his men enabled the position to be consolidated and held. A week later John was mortally wounded and died on 9th February 1944 aged 25. He was buried in Anzio War Cemetery in Italy.*

HENRY DE CLIFFORD ANTHONY WOODHOUSE D.F.C. A.F.C.

Wing Commander(pilot) RAFVR (34189)

Killed while flying 13th August 1944 aged 29

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial

BIX. Local Memorials : Bix Church

Henry was born in New York on 16th June 1915 the son of Henry De Clifford Woodhouse a merchant of Rocky Lane Farm, Henley and his wife Rebecca. Much of his early life was spent in the USA but he qualified for his pilot's licence on 20th August 1932 at Hanworth Flying Club, flying a DH Moth Cirrus 3. Henry joined the RAFVR as Flight Lieutenant in April 1938. In April 1941 he joined 610 Squadron as a squadron leader and after gaining some operational experience took command

of 71 Eagle Squadron in June 1941. In August he was promoted to lead the Tangmere Wing and in October was awarded the DFC. He was posted to Burma in February 1942 to take command of fighter operations there. He returned to UK in 1943 where as a Group Captain he commanded 16 Wing and TAFs first wing of Typhoons from August 1943 to April 1944. On leaving this post he dropped rank to Wing Commander in order to become involved in night bomber support duties. While Henry was at 51 OTU converting to Mosquitos it is believed that he shot down a V1. He later flew at night over Germany as a supernumerary with 85 Squadron where he also gained his AFC (Air Force Cross). Henry joined 85 Squadron based at West Malling in Kent. On 13th August 1944 he took off on board DH Mosquito serial no. MM632 on a mission over the North Sea. The aircraft was reported missing, presumed crashed and he and his navigator Flight Lieutenant Walter Weir were presumed killed on 13th August 1944, both aged 29. They are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

MEN OF CHECKENDON

GEORGE GORDON JUDD

Flying Officer (pilot) 15 Squadron RAFVR (119300)

Killed while flying 31st July 1943 aged 21

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial

CHECKENDON. Local Memorials : Checkendon Church Gate : HGS

George was born on 15th April 1922 in Frensham, Surrey, the son of Reginald Gordon Judd, a motor engineer of Heatherlea, Beacon Road, Frensham and his wife Eleanor Frances. Later the family moved to 5 Nuthatch Cottages, Checkendon. George was educated at Henley Grammar School from 9th January 1934 and on leaving school he trained as a draughtsman. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and trained as a pilot. George gained his "wings" and was promoted to Flying Officer. He was then posted to No.12 OTU (Operational Training Unit) at Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire, about six miles north west of Banbury, Oxon. where he was to be further trained to fly the Vickers Wellington. It was here that he formed his crew : Sergeant Dennis Brown, navigator : Sergeant Sydney Long, bomb aimer : Sergeant William Wells, wireless operator : Sergeant Douglas Fry and Pilot Officer Ken Banks, rear gunners. Having completed their time at 12 OTU they then went to 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridge. Up until now their training had been based around the Vickers Wellington . Now they would have to familiarise themselves with the Short Stirling – at that time the main heavy bomber of Bomber Command. It was

here that Sergeant L Dick Richards their flight engineer was to join them . On completing the conversion course they were posted to 15 Squadron based at RAF Mildenhall arriving there on Tuesday 15th June 1943. The first thing that George Judd had to do was to complete two “second dickie” flights with experienced pilots and crew so as to familiarise himself with operational conditions. The first was on 19th June with Wing Commander John Stephens and his crew on board Short Stirling HK818 coded LS-O, they took off from Mildenhall at 22.11 on a bombing mission to the Schneider armament works at Le Creusot, returning at 05.11. George’s second was on 21st June with Pilot Officer Van Eupen and his crew on board Stirling BF439 coded LS-D, took off Mildenhall 00.02 on a bombing mission to Krefeld returning at 03.35. His first fully operational flight with his own crew was on the night of 22nd/23rd June 1943 Stirling EF391 coded LS-M took off from Mildenhall at 23.45 on a “gardening trip”, dropping acoustic and magnetic mines over East Freisia on the north west coast of Germany. They “planted” at 01.52 from 1500 feet and returned to base at 04.25. On this trip for some unknown reason Dick Richards and Ken Banks were replaced by air gunners Sergeant Douglas Thomas and H. Brodie. Douglas Thomas was killed in a 15 Squadron raid on Cologne 29th June 1943 on board Short Stirling BK694 coded LS-C piloted by Pilot Officer Jack Keen. They were shot down at 02.20 by a German night fighter piloted by Hptm. Werner Hoffman of 4/NJG 5 and crashed at Lommel (Limburg) Belgium. In all six of the crew perished and Flight Sergeant J D Duckett RNZAF was taken prisoner of war. (This had been Pilot Officer Jack Bradshaw Keen’s 12th operational flight, the same total as George Judd was to achieve). George’s second op was 24th/25th June 1943 Stirling EF427 coded LS-A. The only crew change was J Smeaton in for Ken Banks. Their target was Wuppertal and they took off from Mildenhall at 23.29, bombed from 11.500 feet at 01.32 and arrived back at base at 04.25. The third op was 25th/26th June 1943 EF427 coded LS-A with his regular crew. Took off Mildenhall 23.43 their mission was mine laying off La Rochelle where they arrived at 01.37 and dropped their load from 4000 feet. 28th/29th June 1943 EF327 coded LS-A regular crew, mission Cologne, took off Mildenhall 23.47, bombed target at 01.58 from 12000 feet and arrived back at base 04.20. 3rd/4th July 1943 EF427 coded LS-A regular crew, mission again Cologne, took off Mildenhall 23.20, bombed target at 01.33 from 14000 feet, arrived back at base 04.10. Having now got five completed missions in his log book Gordon and his crew were given six days leave. On their return they were just in time to take part in the first raid of “Operation Gomorrah”, the Battle of Hamburg. 24th/25th July 1943 EF427 coded LS-A with regular crew took off 22.20 target Hamburg. As well as their normal bomb load they noticed that the armourers were loading a quantity of paper wrapped bundles and thought that this was for propaganda leaflet dropping, although it

turned out to be “window” tinsel cut into strips designed to confuse the German radar. As the bombers approached the German coast the bundles were unwrapped and their contents posted down the aircraft’s flare chute with the intention of making the enemy think that there were more aircraft than there actually were. EF427 bombed the target at 01 19 from 14000 feet, arrived back at base 05 00. 25th/26th July 1943 EF427 coded LS-A with regular crew took off 22.22 target Essen bombed 0040½ from 14000 feet, arrived back at base 02.35. 27th/28th July 1943 EF427 coded LS-A with regular crew took off 22.20 target Hamburg, bombed 01.11 from 13000 feet, diverted to Newmarket on return, arrived 04.35. 29th/30th July 1943 BF533 coded LS-H with regular crew took off 22.45 target Hamburg, bombed 00.55 from 12000 feet. On the way back had a brush with a Junkers Ju-88, Ken Banks fired a short burst at the enemy aircraft and this seemed enough to put him off and he disappeared. Arrived back at base 04.10. 30th/31st July 1943 12th mission. EF427 coded LS-A took off 22.42 regular crew target Remscheid – Aircraft reported missing. EF427 was shot down by flak as it finished its bombing run. i

Dick Richards, Ken Banks and Doug Fry were the only ones to get out before the Stirling crashed at 01.29 in a field 4 km north of Mannheim, in Germany. Pilot Flying Officer George Judd aged 21, bomb aimer Sergeant Sydney Long aged 26, navigator Sergeant Dennis Brown aged 21 and wireless operator Sergeant William Alfred Wells were killed in the crash. Their bodies were never identified for burial and they are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial

RONALD ARTHUR LOOKER

Private Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5384112)

Killed in action 22nd January 1945 aged 23

Commemorated on Rangoon Memorial

CHECKENDON. Local Memorials : Checkendon Church Gate

Ronald was born in 1921 the son of Arthur James Looker a night watchman of 3 Council Cottages, Checkendon and his wife Ada Edith. Nothing is known about his education or early life. Soon after the outbreak of WW2 Ronald enlisted in the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry as Private 5384112. He was sent to Burma and was killed in action at Akyab towards the south of the country on 22nd January 1945 aged 23. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial. Ronald is also remembered on the Checkendon Village Memorial on the church lych gate.

VICTOR JAMES PRIOR

Private 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment (5384153)

Killed in action 31st August 1944 aged 22

Buried in Montecchio War Cemetery.

CHECKENDON. Local Memorials : Checkendon Church Gate

Victor was born in 1922 the son of Edward Prior of 2 Council Cottages, Checkendon and his wife Christina Emily. Nothing is known about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 Victor enlisted as Private 5384153 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. He was killed in action in Italy on 31st August 1944 aged 22 and was buried in Montecchio War Cemetery which is situated 12 kms west of Pesaro, Italy.

MEN OF DUNSDEN

ARTHUR LESLIE COSTER

AC1 RAFVR (922066)

Killed in action 12th June 1942 aged 37

Buried in Ranchi War Cemetery, India

DUNSDEN. Local Memorials : None

Arthur was born on 4th April 1905 the son of Thomas William Coster a heavy timber carpenter of 2 Oxford Terrace, Great Marlow, Bucks and his wife Edith Mary. Nothing is known about his education and early life but he married May Simmonds in 1928 and they lived at Sandhurst Lane, Bexhill, Kent, where he worked as a gardener. On the outbreak of WW2 Arthur enlisted in the RAFVR as AC1 922066 and was later posted to 979 Balloon Squadron in India for its defence against the Japanese air attacks from Burma. He was killed in action on 12th June 1942 aged 37 and was buried in Ranchi War Cemetery, India. When he joined up his wife moved back to Dunsden and married Arthur Franklin in 1948.

CHARLES DEACON

Lieutenant Royal Navy HMS Angelo (237111)

Died 11th April 1952 aged 53

Buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery

DUNSDEN. Local Memorials : None

Charles was born in Mapledurham on 18th November 1888 the son of George Loder Deacon and his wife Sophie. Charles was baptised at Mapledurham on 16th December 1888. His father died in 1892 and his mother married Alfred James

Payne and went to live in Kidmore End. Nothing is known about Charles education but on leaving school he worked as a painter's boy. On 17th August 1906 he joined the Royal Navy aged 18, then on 18th November signed on for another 12 years. Charles had married Alice Louise Aird on 3rd February 1918 in Edmonton . By the time of his discharge he had attained the rank of Warrant Officer and they went to live in Dunsden. Charles was recalled on the outbreak of WW2 listed as a commissioned gunner and lodged at 7 Queen's Terrace, Southampton. He served aboard HMS St Angelo with the rank of Lieutenant. Charles died of illness on 11th April 1942 and was buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery.

ERNEST JESSE GRANT

Marine 26 Royal Marine Light Anti-Aircraft Battery (PO/X 110244)

Killed in action 4th November 1944 aged 19

Buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Belgium

DUNSDEN. Local Memorials : Dunsden Village Memorial

Ernest was born on 6th January 1925 the son of Gilbert Grant a bricklayer of 6 Council Cottages, Dunsden and his wife Louise. Nothing is known about his education or early life but when he left school he became an apprentice upholsterer. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Royal Marines as Private PO/X 110244 and was posted to a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Belgium. Ernest was killed in action on 4th November 1944 aged 19 and was buried in the Schoonselhof Cemetery in Belgium.

WILLIAM HENRY MASON

Private 9th Durham Light Infantry (5338994)

Killed in action 16th July 1943 aged 23

Buried in Catania War Cemetery, Italy

DUNSDEN. Local Memorials : Dunsden Village Memorial

William was born on 22nd August 1919 the son of Victor William Mason, a builder's labourer of Black Boy Cottage, Dunsden and his wife Florence. Nothing is known about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 5338994 9th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. William was killed in action whilst fighting in Italy on 16th July 1943 aged 23 and was buried in Catania War Cemetery

MEN OF HARPSDEN

DENNIS GOFFE

Leading Aircraftsman 40 Squadron Royal Air Force (551547)

Killed while flying 25th May 1940 aged 20

Buried in Rety Communal Cemetery, France

HARPSDEN. Local Memorials : None

Dennis was born in Harpsden in 1920 the son of Frederick Ernest Goffe, a chauffeur of "The Beeches Lodge" Harpsden and his wife Ethel Louise. He was educated at Harpsden School and Henley Technical Institute and on leaving he worked at Stuart Turner Ltd. In 1937 Dennis joined the RAF as AC1 551547 and trained to be a wireless operator. Around this time he became engaged to Dora Beck of 20 St Marks Road, Henley. By 1940 he had been promoted to leading aircraftsman and posted to 40 Squadron based at RAF Wyton, Huntingdon. At 10.27hrs on 25th May 1940 Bristol Blenheim Mk IV P4920 coded BL-N took off from Wyton to attack targets in the triangle Rety – Fiennes – Guines, in northern France. On board were Sergeant S I Tonks, pilot : Sergeant Jack Alexander, observer : LAC Dennis Goffe, wireless operator /air gunner. The aircraft was reported "missing" following the raid and it later transpired that they had crashed near Rety in the Pas de Calais, Jack Alexander aged 28 and Dennis aged 20 were killed and pilot Tonks was taken POW. Dennis and Jack were buried in Rety Communal Cemetery, 16kms north-east of Boulogne Sur Mer and 6kms south-east of Marquise in France

JOHN ESMOND MOORE

Lieutenant Royal Navy HMS Royal Oak

Killed in action 14th October 1939 aged 30

Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial

HARPSDEN. Local Memorials : None

John was born in Crouch End, London on 27th March 1909 the son of Albert John Campbell Moore, a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and his wife Sylvia Alice. He was baptised at Emmanuel Church, Compton Gifford, Plymouth on 22nd March 1910 when the family were living at 21 Stoke Terrace, Devonport. John was educated at Hunstanton and then joined the Royal Navy as a Cadet in 1926. He then went to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and was promoted to Midshipman on 1st January 1927 and over the next two years served on HMS Ramillies : HMS Renown : HMS Dauntless : and HMS Tiger. John was promoted Acting Sub-Lieutenant on 1st May 1929, Sub-Lieutenant on 16th January 1930 and Lieutenant on 1st December 1931 during which time he had also served on HMS Lucia and HMS L56

(submarine). In 1932 John married Elizabeth Adey, the daughter of Mr and Mrs H S Adey of "The Beeches" Harpsden Wood. The family lived at Thrulstone, Western Way, Alverstoke, Hants. and had two children. On 25th February 1935 John was on board HMS Medway, submarine depot ship : April 1935 HM Submarine Phoenix : 30th August 1937 HMS Dolphin, submarine depot, Gosport : 11th December 1937 Commanding Officer HM Submarine H34 : 16th June 1938, Commanding Officer HM Submarine H50 : 1st September 1938 Commanding Officer HM Submarine H34 : 30th January 1939 HMS Royal Oak, battleship. On 14th October 1939 the Royal Oak was torpedoed by German submarine U-47 in Scapa Flow. Despite valiant rescue efforts 835 men were killed that night or died later of their injuries out of a complement of 1234. John was one of those killed aged 30. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

CAMPBELL EDWARD CHARLES PEDLER

Private 5th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5384705)

Killed in action 27th July 1944 aged 22

Buried in Ranville War Cemetery north-west of Caen

HARPSDEN. Local Memorials : None

Campbell was born in Amersham, Bucks. in 1922 son of Charles William Pedler a golf professional later of Harpsden Golf Club, Henley and his wife Edith Mary the club stewardess. Campbell "Teddy" was educated at Harpsden and Henley Schools before being apprenticed as a engineer to Brakspears Brewery . He joined the Territorials when only aged 17 and on the outbreak of WW2 was Private 5384705 5th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry. While in the army he passed no less than six engineering courses and in 1944 volunteered for "special services" with the Parachute Regiment. Campbell was killed by a bomb while in his dug-out in Normandy after returning from the front line on 27th July 1944 aged 22. He was buried in Ranville War Cemetery north-west of Caen in France

MEN OF HIGHMOOR

WILLIAM ARCHER

Sergeant (observer) 76 Squadron RAFVR (924344)

Killed while flying 4th June 1942 aged 30

Bergen General Cemetery

HIGHMOOR. Highmoor Church Memorial

William was born in Wolvercote in 1912 the son of William Archer and his wife Lenna. William jnr. spent much of his youth at "The Barn, Lower Highmoor and Satwell Close, along with his sister Lenna. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and when he had completed his training he was posted as sergeant (observer) 924344 to 76 Squadron based at RAF Middleton St George, County Durham which flew the Handley Page Halifax B.II. On the night of 3rd June 1944 HP Halifax R9457 coded MP-A took off from Middleton St George at 23.16 hrs on a bombing mission to Bremen. On board were Flight Lieutenant John Walter Stell, pilot : Flight Sergeant Charles Ronald Metcalf : Sergeant Douglas Perry Brooks, wireless operator/air gunner : Sergeant William Archer, observer Sergeant Ronald Greenwood, air gunner : Sergeant D H Nelson : and Sergeant R C Cockburn. Approximately two hours later they were shot down by a Luftwaffe Ju-88 piloted by Hauptmann Helmut Lent of 11/NJG2 and crashed at St-Maartensvlotbrug (North Holland) 16 kms NNW of Alkmaar. Sergeants D H Nelson and R C Cockburn survived the crash and were taken POW. The rest of the crew including William perished and was buried in Bergen General Cemetery along with Sergeant Ronald Greenwood and Sergeant Douglas Perry Brooks. The bodies of Flight Lieutenant Stell and Sergeant Metcalf were never identified and they are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

JOHN AUSTIN DENHAM

Lieutenant 219 Coy Pioneer Corps (267643)

Killed on active service 3rd November 1944 aged 31

Buried in La Deliverance Cemetery, Caen

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial

John was born on 3rd May 1913 the son of Arthur Christopher Denham of St Bartlems, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent and his wife Ethel. The family later lived at Little Manor House, Witheridge Hill. He was educated at Charterhouse School 1926-1931 when he went up to Queens College, Oxford and gained his BA Hons. On leaving Oxford John trained as a solicitor and practised in Stafford. John joined the army a month before the outbreak as 927803 61st Field Regiment Royal Artillery. He was discharged to commission on 26th March 1943 and posted to the 219 Company Pioneer Corps where he attained the rank of Lieutenant. John was killed on active service with a French liaison unit on 3rd November 1944 aged 31 and was buried in La Deliverance War Cemetery, Douvres, Normandy.

PAUL ALFRED THEODORE ENFIELD

Private 5382808 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry

Killed in action 28th May 1940 aged 28

Buried in Oye Plage Communal Cemetery

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial

Paul was born in 1912 in Washington, USA, the son of George Enfieldjoglou and his wife Eve Turner (nee Whittall). He married Rosemary Elsie Wells of Highmoor whose family home was next door to the Green Man public house in Highmoor. Paul enlisted as Private 5382808 4th Battalion Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry and went to France 1939/40. He was killed in action 28th May 1940 and buried in Oye Plage Communal Cemetery east of Calais, France

ALFRED JOHN LEOPOLD EVANS

Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy (HMS Dunedin) P/KX98397)

Killed in action 24th November 1941 aged 47

Commemorated on Royal Naval Memorial, Portsmouth

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial

Alfred was born in Reading in 1894, the son of William Evans an iron moulder later of "The Grove" Stoke Row and his wife Kate. He married Lilian Wells in 1927 and they lived at Highmoor Cross. On the outbreak of WW2 Alfred was recalled to the Naval Reserve following WW1. He was posted as stoker 1st class to HMS Dunedin a light cruiser. On 24th November 1941 the ship was sunk while on patrol in the South Atlantic east of St Paul's Rock. Three torpedoes from the German submarine U-124 hit the ship and she sank with the loss of 419 lives. Alfred was among the casualties aged 47. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

JOHN JACKSON HAMILTON

Flight Lieutenant 24 Squadron RAFVR (101631)

Killed while flying 10th December 1941 aged 28

Buried in Highmoor (St Paul) Churchyard

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial

John was born in London in 1913 the son of George Hamilton a ship broker of Alexander Court, 171-175 Queen's Gate, London SW and his wife Lilian Ellen, later of Satwell Barton, Highmoor. John gained his BA at Peterhouse College, Cambridge and became a civil engineer. On the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned Flight Lieutenant Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was posted

to 24 Squadron. John married Alice Joan Matthews in Highmoor in 1940. On 10th December 1941 he took off from RAF Hendon on board Miles Whitney Straight BD145 of 24 Squadron with the intention of flying to RAF Turnhouse. On board with him was Warrant Officer Sidney Charles Williams. Two miles north of Radlett Aerodrome the aircraft suffered power failure as the propeller spun off and the aircraft crashed into a recreation ground at Park Street village, two and a half miles from St Albans, Hertfordshire. Both occupants were killed. John's body was returned to Highmoor and he was buried in St Paul's churchyard on Saturday 13th December 1941 at 11.30 am. He was 28 years of age. John is commemorated on the Peterhouse College Memorial in Cambridge. Warrant Officer Sidney Charles Williams was buried in Maidstone Cemetery, Kent, aged 27.

GEOFFREY OWEN NARES

Lieutenant 12th Lancers Royal Armoured Corps (155098)

Died 20th August 1942 aged 25

Buried Heliopolis War Cemetery, Egypt

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial

Geoffrey was born in Hampstead, Middx. on 10th June 1917 the son of Owen Ramsey Nares, an actor, and his wife Marie nee Pollini, an actress. The family later moved to Highmoor. Nothing is known about Geoffrey's early life but following in his father's footsteps he made his acting debut at the Adelphi Theatre on 17th December 1934 in "The Winning Post". In 1941 he was commissioned and attained the rank of Lieutenant 155098 12th Royal Lancers (The Prince of Wales's Royal Regiment of Lancers). He fought a hard war in the desert in Egypt where he contracted pappataci fever virus (also known as Phlebotomus fever and sand-fly fever). Geoffrey died of a brain tumour in a Cairo hospital on 20th August 1942 aged 25 and was buried in Heliopolis War Cemetery.

CYRIL SYMONDS

Sergeant 2235152(air gunner) RAFVR (2235152)

Killed while flying 18th December 1944 aged 19

Buried in Highmoor (St Paul) Churchyard

HIGHMOOR. Local Memorials : Highmoor Church Memorial : RGM

Cyril was born in Henley in 1925 the son of Ivy L M Symonds. A year later she married Thomas Wells and they lived at Holly Cross, Highmoor. When he left school Cyril worked at Highlands farm and later lived in one of the cottages belonging to the Henley Trust, next door to the church at Rotherfield Greys. He received his call up papers and said goodbye to his friends on 3rd January 1944 to

join the RAFVR to train as a rear-gunner. On completing his initial training he was posted as Sergeant 2235152 to an operational training unit where he was invited to join the crew of pilot Flight Sergeant Thomas George Jacobs. From the OTU the crew went on to No.3 Lancaster Finishing School at RAF Feltwell, near Thetford in Norfolk. On 18th December 1944 Avro Lancaster 1 R5846 coded A5-H took off from RAF Feltwell around 19.00 hrs on a night flying exercise. On board were Flight Sergeant Thomas George Jacobs, pilot : Sergeant Leslie Arthur Raymond, flight engineer : Flight Sergeant George Ridley Telford Taylor, navigator : Sergeant James Duffin, air bomber : Sergeant John Watson Hutton, wireless operator : Sergeant Frank Albert Oxlade, air gunner and Sergeant Cyril Symonds, air gunner. On their return to Feltwell there were several aircraft in the circuit and at 21.51 hrs they collided with Lancaster R5674 coded A5-K over Hockwold. All 14 crew of both aircraft were killed including Cyril aged 19. His body was returned to Highmoor for burial in St Paul's churchyard on Christmas Saturday 23rd December 1944. Cyril's fellow air gunner on board Frank Oxlade was from Hambleden and he was buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Hambleden.

MEN OF IPSDEN

HARRY LESLIE DEACON

2nd Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps (143228)

Died 19th April 1941 aged 19

Buried in Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Malta

IPSDEN : Ipsden Village Memorial

Harry was born in Whitchurch in 1921 the son of Reginald Harry Deacon, a farm manager of Basildon Farm and his wife Elsie Miriam. By 1939 they had moved to Woodhouse Farm, Ipsden. Nothing is known about Harry's education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps. He died on 19th April 1941 aged 19 when probably serving with No. 32 Mechanical Transport Co, and was buried in Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Malta. There was no record of action this day so Harry probably died of illness or accident.

JOHN LANE WILLIAMS LANE

Lieutenant Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve HMS Avenger

Killed in action 14th November 1942 aged 34

Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial

IPSDEN. Local Memorials. Ipsden Village Memorial

John was born in Bristol in 1908 the son of Samuel Allen Gardiner Williams an architect of 11 Cotham Vale, Cotham, Bristol and his wife Camilla Matilda nee Lane. The family later moved to The Warren, Well Place, Ipsden. On the outbreak of WW2 John was commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. By 1942 he had attained the rank of Lieutenant and was serving aboard HMS Avenger an escort carrier. In November 1942 having just taken part in "Operation Torch" the ship developed engine trouble. Whilst leaving North Africa to start her journey home Avenger was sunk by German submarine U-155 on 15th November 1942 at 3.29 am GMT six hours after leaving Gibraltar. The torpedo 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 the ship sunk within two minutes. Five hundred and sixteen men perished including John aged 34. There were only twelve survivors. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

BENNETT JAMES FARQUHARSON REMNANT

Lieutenant 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade (296773)

Killed in action 26th January 1945 aged 20

Buried in Sittard General Cemetery, Netherlands

IPSDEN. Local Memorials Ipsden Village Memorials.

Bennett was born on 17th November 1924 the son of Lieutenant Colonel Hon. Peter F. Remnant of Ipsden and his wife Betty nee Tanner of Ipsden House. He was educated at Eton College. On the outbreak of WW2 Bennett was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Rifle Brigade. By 1945 he had attained the rank of Lieutenant. He was killed in action on 26th January 1945 aged 20 and was originally buried in a temporary cemetery beside the chapel at Schilberg. Peter was later reburied in Sittard General Cemetery 29 km north of Schilberg, Netherlands.

ERIC CHARLES SOANES

Signalman Royal Corps of Signals (2596704)

Died 3rd June 1941 aged 20

Buried in Ipsden Churchyard

IPSDEN. Local Memorials : Ipsden Village Memorial

Eric was born in Hailey in 1920 the son of Archibald Soames, a farm carter of Prospect View, Ipsden, and his wife Ellen. Nothing is known about his early life or education. Eric enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals on the outbreak of WW2 as signalman 259704 and was posted to the 2nd A.A. Division. He died on 3rd June 1941 aged 20 and was buried in Ipsden Churchyard on 7th June 1941.

NORMAN WILLINGHAM

Sergeant (flight engineer) 35 Squadron RAFVR (922470)

Killed while flying 3rd September 1941 aged 27

Buried in Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery

IPSDEN. Local Memorial : None.

Norman was born on 12th July 1913 in Sculcoates Yorkshire. Nothing is known about his parents but he was educated at John Hampden Grammar School. High Wycombe. Norman married Iris May Ward in High Wycombe in 1938 and they went to live at 23 Gilda Close, Bathavon, Somerset. He worked as a secretary for a peace organisation. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and by September 1941 he had qualified as a flight engineer and attained the rank of sergeant and been posted to 35 Squadron based at Linton on Ouse. On the night of 2nd/3rd September 1941 Norman was the flight engineer on board Handley Page Halifax serial no. L9560 coded TL-F. The rest of the crew comprised Pilot Officer Douglas Fraser, pilot aged 19 : Sergeant R L B Beare, 2nd pilot : Pilot Officer John Cushion, observer aged 21 : Sergeant Denis Slater, wireless operator/air gunner aged 20 : Sergeant Arthur Henry Stroud, air gunner aged 22 : Sergeant E Wilkinson, air gunner. They were detailed for an attack on "Special Target B", Berlin. The Wellington took off from RAF Linton on Ouse at 20.50 on route Flamborough, Meldorf, Neumunster, Berlin. The last heard from them was their call sign as they approached the enemy coast. It now appears that they were shot down by Unteroffizier Karl Kupfer of 3/NG/73 flying a Messerschmitt Bf110 between 01.15 and 01.28 hrs over Kreuzbruch. Sergeants Beare and Wilkinson seemed to have parachuted from the aircraft and were taken POW. Norman was killed on 3rd September 1941 aged 27 along with the remainder of the crew and were buried in Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. According to CWGC records Iris May Willingham lived in Ipsden. She married William Sturges in 1946 in Aylesbury.

MEN OF KIDMORE END

EDWARD OWEN BULE

Flight Sergeant (navigator) 464 Squadron RAFVR (1602613)

Killed while flying 1st January 1945 aged 24

Buried in Heverlee War Cemetery, Belgium

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St Johns : HGS

Edward was born in Newport, Monmouthshire on 18th September 1920 the son of Fred Eric Bule a bricklayer and his wife Irene Doris. The family moved to Sonning Common in 1929, initially living in Virginia Cottage, Kennylands Road later moving to 5 Kennylands. Edward was educated at Henley Grammar School from 15th September 1932 and on leaving school he worked as a Post Office engineer. Edward enlisted in the RAFVR on 11th December 1941 at Oxford where he was recommended for training as a pilot/observer. He married Irene Doris Goodwin in Lancashire early in 1943. In February 1943 Edward was sent to Canada to continue his training, arriving at No.31 Personnel Depot, Moncton, New Brunswick on 28th February 1943. On 5th March 1943 he was posted to No.33 Air Navigation School, Mount Hope, which was based at RCAF Station, Hamilton, Ontario. While there Edward spent some time in the base hospital. On 9th July 1943 he was posted to No.31 General Reconnaissance School, Charlottetown, which was located on the south side of Prince Edward Island where most of his training was done aboard Avro Ansons. Edward qualified as a navigator and was posted back to No.31 Personnel Depot in preparation for his return to England on 19th September 1943. On 28th December he was posted to No.2 Operational Training Unit at RAF Catfoss, Yorkshire where they flew in Bristol Blenheims and occasionally Avro Ansons. Edward was promoted sergeant on 31st December 1943 and posted to No.9 OTU RAF Aldergrove, Ireland on 15th February 1944 training on the Beaufighters, Beauforts and Airspeed Oxfords. On 17th May 1944 Edward was posted to 404 Squadron RAF Thorney Island where he flew in Bristol Beaufighters. On 12th September 1944 Edward was posted to No.13 OUT RAF Bicester where Mitchells, Bostons and Mosquitos were used. On 21st November he was posted to No.2 General Support Unit RAF Swanton Morley which was set up to supply operational units in No 2 Group as they took losses. On 27th November 1944 Edward was posted to 464 Squadron RAAF based at RAF Thorney Island operating DH Mosquitos. On 30th December 1944 he was promoted to Flight Sergeant. On 1st January 1945 at 01.40 Pilot Officer Irvine Clifford Bradley RCAF took off from RAF Thorney Island aboard DH Mosquito NT231 coded SB-U with Edward as his navigator/wireless operator. Along with 17 other aircraft of 464 Squadron they were detailed for a bombing mission on enemy concentrations in the area Houffalize – Viesalm – Karlshausen – Martenlange, in the south-west region of Belgium. Their targets consisted of tanks and other motor vehicles. Initially following the mission they were classified as “failed to return”. And it later transpired that they were shot down by Oberfeldwebel Heinz Helmut Baudach flying an Me-262 jet fighter and crashed near the village of Six Planes. Edward and Irvine were killed in the resultant crash and they were originally buried in the village cemetery at Six Planes. After the

end of the war their bodies were reburied in Heverlee War Cemetery 30 kms south-west of Brussels. Edward's widow Irene had a daughter on 25th May 1945. He is commemorated on the St John's Kidmore End and Henley Grammar School Memorials.

ALLAN CLIFFORD EDWARDS

Sergeant (navigator) 75 Squadron RAFVR (1163977)

Killed while flying 11th October 1941 aged 19

Buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : HGS

Allan was born in West Ham on 31st December 1921 the son of William Thomas Edwards a grocer's manager, later of the Supply Stores, Sonning Common and his wife Annie May. He went to Henley Grammar School on 9th January 1934. In 1939 Allan was working as a builder's clerk and the family were living at 17 Purcell Road, Oxford. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and after his training he was posted to 75 Squadron which was stationed at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, as a navigator. On the night of 11th October 1941 Sergeant Raymond Fullerton Curlewis took off from Feltwell aboard Vickers Wellington 1c Z8909 coded AA- for a bombing mission to Cologne. The crew comprised of Sergeant Colin Thompson, second pilot: Sergeant Allan Edwards, navigator: Sergeant Fred Garde wireless operator: Sergeant Robert Warburton, front gunner and sergeant Timothy Murphy, rear gunner. The aircraft was shot down near the target and crashed. All of the crew were killed and they were initially buried in the British War Cemetery, 1914-18 in the Zollstock district. Their remains were later interred in the Rheinberg War Cemetery. Allan is not included on the Kidmore End Village Memorial.

JOHN GEORGE FELLOWS

Private 2nd (Airborne) Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment (4917787)

Killed in action 19th September 1944 aged 25

Commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St Johns

John was born in Walsall, Staffordshire on 8th February 1919 the son of John George Fellows a LMS railway guard, later of Tokers Green, and his wife May. When John jnr. left school he worked as a slater's labourer. His mother died in 1925 aged 25 and his father married Julia Surch in Walsall in 1931. By 1939 the family had moved to Tokers Green. On the outbreak of WW2 John jnr. enlisted as Private 4917787 2nd Airborne Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. He married Vera Dorothy Parsons at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End on 13th March 1943.

John was killed in action on 19th September 1944 during an airborne assault on Nijmegen in Holland. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial 10 kms. south-east of Nijmegen.

JOHN KENNEDY FINLAYSON

Flight Sergeant (flight engineer) 153 Squadron RAFVR (1314004)

Killed while flying 17th March 1945 aged 23

Buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Germany

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St Johns

John was born in Sonning Common on 31st October 1921 the son of William Finlayson a ship's purser of Kidmore End and his wife Mary Elizabeth. He was baptised at John the Baptist Church on 9th April 1922. By the time the National register was compiled in 1939 the family had moved to "Riverside" Mapledurham and John was working as an aircraft fitter. He married Mary Bond on 5th February 1944 at St John the Baptist church by which time he was already a flight engineer in the Royal Air Force with 153 squadron at Scampton in Lincolnshire. On 16th March 1945 at 17.20 hrs. Avro Lancaster PB642 coded P4-W took off from Scampton along with nine other aircraft of the squadron bound for a raid on Nuremburg. On board were Pilot Officer Peter John Parsons, pilot : Flight Sergeant John Kennedy Finlayson, flight engineer : Sergeant Sydney Derrick Wager, navigator : Flight Sergeant Morgan Swap RNZAF, wireless operator : Sergeant Albert Reginald Quinton, air bomber : Sergeant Edward Finch, air gunner : Sergeant William Keenleyside, air gunner. At 22.00 local time the aircraft was intercepted and shot down by German night fighters. It exploded in mid-air and the wreckage was spread over a large area, also leaving a large crater in a forest near Brietenau. All on board were killed and they were buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Germany, about 45 kms. south of Munich. Their average age was 22 and it had been their first mission.

LESLIE WILLIAM FULLER

Private 10th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (5350310)

Killed in action 12th November 1943 aged 22

Buried in Minturno War Cemetery, Italy

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St Johns

Leslie was born in Reading on 8th February 1919 the son of Percy William Fuller a sign writer later of Tokers Green and his wife Edith Emily. When he left school he trained to be a plumber. Leslie married Betty Whitelock at St John the Baptist on 27th September 1941. He was called up and joined the army as Private 5350310 10th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. Leslie was killed in action on 12th

November 1943 aged 22 and buried in Minturno War Cemetery, 78 kms. north of Naples in Italy.

CECIL LEONARD FRANK GALE

Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy HMS Laforey (P/KX 151036)

Killed in action 9th September 1943 aged 19

Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St Johns

Cecil was born in Newbury on 19th April 1923 the son of Ernest Archie Gale a crane driver, later of Sonning Common, and his wife Elfreda Emily Pretoria. He was baptised at St John's on 27th November 1936 along with his brother Valentine Ernest William Gale who had been born on 14th February 1922. Cecil joined the Royal Navy and by September 1943 had attained the rank of Stoker 1st Class and was serving aboard the destroyer HMS Laforey. On 9th September 1943 the ship participated in the allied landings at Salerno. They were hit by shells from the shore batteries and the engine room was damaged. One man was killed (presumably Cecil) and two more were injured. The ship remained on patrol. It would seem reasonable to assume that Cecil was buried at sea. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

MAURICE LOWDEN GAUNTLETT

Pilot Officer (air gunner) 99 Squadron RAFVR (78748)

Killed while flying 7th November 1940 aged 34

Buried in East Ilsley (St Mary) Churchyard

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John : East Ilsley

Maurice was born in Ham, near Hungerford on 13th March 1906 the son of Sidney Herbert Gauntlett a farm steward of "The Laurels", Ham, and his wife Mary Ann. At the time of the census before Maurice was born (1901) the family lived at Sheep House Farm, Harpsden and at Church Farm, East Ilsley. Maurice was educated at Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, Wiltshire and then he went on to Newbury Grammar School. On leaving school he worked as a motor salesman. He was also a keen sportsman playing for Swindon and Ramsbury Cricket Clubs. His father Sidney died in 1928 aged 64 and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, East Ilsley. Maurice joined the RAFVR shortly after the outbreak of WW2 and trained as an air gunner. He was commissioned pilot officer on 12th April 1940 and posted to 99 Squadron Bomber Command which was based at RAF Newmarket flying the Vickers Wellington. On 6th November 1940 Vickers Wellington 1c R3289 coded LN-took off from Newmarket on a raid to the Ruhr. On board were Flight Lieutenant

Ronald Jones, pilot : Flying Officer Alwyn Stevens, observer : Sergeant Cornelius Canning, wireless operator : Sergeant Herbert Westley, air gunner : Pilot Officer Maurice Gauntlett, air gunner : Sergeant James Fraser. On their return journey they were shot down by a German night fighter at 01.30 hrs. 7th November 1940 just 150 yards from the shore at Reed Pond, Cliff Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk. All those on board were killed. Although Maurice's mother was living at "Woodstone" Kidmore End it was her wish that he was buried at East Ilsley, St Mary's churchyard, along with his father

RHYS RICHARD JONES

Flight Sergeant (pilot) 250 Squadron RAFVR (1336951)

Killed while flying 2nd June 1944 aged 23

Buried in Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Italy.

KIDMORE END, Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John : HGS

Rhys was born in Neath, South Wales on 19th December 1919 the son of G R Jones of Neath and his wife Olwen, later of Millfield, Wood Lane, Sonning Common, where she was a schoolteacher. Rhys was educated at Henley Grammar School commencing 23rd March 1933. On leaving school he worked for the GPO as an engineering secretary. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and by 1944 had attained the rank of flight sergeant and gained his wings, was posted to 250 Squadron based at Guidonia, Italy. On 2nd June 1944 Rhys took off from Guidonia aboard Curtiss Kittyhawk IV serial no. FX744 on an armed reconnaissance of "route D". He called up to report that his engine was failing and that he had jettisoned his bombs. The aircraft was losing height and he was ordered to bale out. Instead Rhys decided to force land but the aircraft crashed and caught fire. He died in the fire on 2nd June 1944 aged 24 and was buried in Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy.

ROBERT BREAREY LORIMER

2nd Lieutenant Royal Artillery (200522)

Killed in action 21st April 1943 aged 23

Buried in Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John

Robert was born in Liverpool on 10th January 1920 the son of Robert Crosbie Lorimer later a pig farmer of Old Yews, Kidmore End, and his wife Freda. He was educated at Dragon School, Oxford and when he left there he worked as a clerk for the Asiatic Petrol Company. On the outbreak of WW2 Robert was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. By 1943 he had been posted to the 22nd Field

Regiment. On 23rd March 1943 the regiment was part of the 4th Infantry Division that landed in North Africa and in April fought in the battle for Oued Zarga which followed on to Madjez Plain where as he was locating the gun positions he was shot through the head and killed on 21st April 1943 aged 23. He was buried in Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia. It would appear that Robert's father died 25th September 1944 aged 58, according to his probate, on the GWR line at Fox's Wood, near Keynsham, Bristol. Address given as 83 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham.

GLENCAIRN SHOLTO OGILVIE

Flight Lieutenant (pilot) 99 Squadron Royal Air Force (70507)

Killed while flying 18th December 1940 aged 29

Buried in Aldringham (St Andrew) Churchyard, Suffolk

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John

Glencairn was born on 12th July 1911 in Chelsea, the son of Sholto Stuart Ogilvie a barrister of 29 Carlyle Square, Chelsea and his wife Gladys Mina Henrietta. The family later moved to Kidmore House, Kidmore End. Glencairn was educated at Rugby School and whilst there obtained his aviators certificate on 16th September 1928 flying a Blackburn Bluebird 80 HP at the Suffolk and Eastern Counties Aero Club, Ipswich. He joined the RAF on 23rd September and was sent to Central Flying School at Brough to be checked out. Glencairn was commissioned Pilot Officer on probation on 24th September 1929 and placed on the Reserve of Officers.. His initial commission was confirmed as permanent on 18th March 1930 and he was promoted Flying Officer on 31st March 1931. On the outbreak of WW2 Glencairn was promoted to Flight Lieutenant and in 1940 was posted to 99 squadron based at Newmarket flying Vickers Wellingtons. On the night of 18th December 1940 at 21.28 hrs Vickers Wellington R1333 coded LF-B "Bertie" was taking-off from Newmarket on a bombing raid to Ludwigshafen. It failed to become properly airborne and crashed in to Devils Dyke on the edge of Newmarket. Pilot Officer Jens Hansen was in charge of the flare path that night. On seeing the crash he jumps into a van and heads for the crash site, he enters the burning aircraft which still has its full bomb load, and manages to bring Sergeant Cliff Hendy the wireless operator to safety, he then returns to the aircraft and saves Sergeant George Lea one of the air gunners. The remaining four crew members Flight Lieutenant Glencairn Ogilvie RAF, pilot : Pilot Officer Arthur Patnell Pritchard RNZAF co-pilot : Sergeant Rupert James Bowden RAFVR, observer and sergeant William Herbert RAFVR, air gunner, perished. Pilot Officer Jens Hansen was awarded the George Cross for his actions that night. Glencairn Ogilvie was buried in Aldringham (St Andrew) Churchyard, Suffolk.

CHARLES EDWARD PAYNE

Driver Royal Army Service Corps (T/10672333)

Died of illness 24th February 1947 aged 30

Buried in Kidmore End (St John the Baptist) Churchyard

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John

John was born in Gallowstree Common on 25th January 1917, the son of James Edward Payne, a metal smelter of Gallowstree Common and his wife Ellen Elizabeth. He was baptised on 3rd June 1917 at St John the Baptist church. When Charles left school he trained as a bricklayer. He married Dorothy Edith Fernie at Highmoor in March 1939 the banns having been read at St John the Baptist. They had two children, Susan in 1942 and David born after his father's demise in 1948. On the outbreak of WW2 Charles enlisted as Driver T/10672333 Royal Army Service Corps. Whilst on service he contracted TB and was invalided out. He died of the illness on 24th February 1948 and was buried in St John the Baptist churchyard, Kidmore End.

STANLEY PRYKE

Private 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5383313)

Killed in action between 10th May and 1st June 1940 aged 24

Buried in Mont Bernanchon Churchyard, France

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John

Stanley was born in Reading on 22nd June 1915 the son of Oliver Steed Pryke, a baker and his wife Edith Natalia. The family later moved to "Hazelmere" Woodlands Road, Sonning Common. In 1939 Stanley was a Territorial soldier and so at the outbreak of WW2 it was a natural progression that he became Private 5383313 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks. Light Infantry. He was killed in action aged 24 between 10th May and 1st June 1940 when the BEF were fighting a fierce rear-guard action on the banks of the Aire-La-Bassee canal, just north of the village of Mont Bernanchon, in the Pas De Calais. This action was part of the attempt to hold up the advance of the Germans in order to protect the withdrawal of the allies to Dunkirk for evacuation. Stanley was buried in the village churchyard at Mont Bernanchon

CHARLES GEOFFREY RICHARDS

2nd Lieutenant Wiltshire Regiment seconded to No 11 Commando (126476)

Killed in action 9th June 1941 aged 28

Buried in Sidon War Cemetery, Beirut

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : St John's Church

Charles was born in Bombay, India on 13th August 1912 the son of the Reverend Charles Louis Richards, Clerk in Holy Orders, and his wife Alice Winifred. The family returned to England on 4th April 1915 and by the outbreak of WW2 Reverend Richards was the incumbent at Pimperne, Blandford, Dorset where the family lived in the local rectory. Charles meanwhile was living at "Hughenden" Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, working as a quantity surveyor. He was also on the Officer Cadet Reserve. On the outbreak of WW2 Charles was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Wiltshire Regiment. He was then seconded to No.11 Commando. In June 1941 Charles unit were to be part of the raid on Litany River a courageous raid in an attempt to capture Qasmiye bridge which was in the hands of the Vichy French in Palestine. They boarded the destroyer HMS Glengyle on June 8th in Port Said and sailed for Palestine. They arrived at the mouth of the River Litani. On 9th June the men were lowered into landing craft and arrived at the beach between 04.20 and 04.50. Charles was killed in action during this raid aged 28 and was buried in Sidon War Cemetery, Lebanon.

CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERICK SMITH

Leading Aircraftsman Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (1602627)

Killed while flying 19th June 1943 aged 17

Buried in Dunnville Riverside Cemetery, Ontario, Canada

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Shiplake Memorial

William (in CWGC as William Charles) was born on 18th May 1926 the son of John Titus Smith, a motor agent of "Holmhurst", Sutton Common Road, Sutton, Surrey and his wife Charlotte Maud Marcia, nee Saunders. At the time of the "register" in 1939 the family lived at Burnbank, New Road, Lower Shiplake and later moved to Old Yews, Kidmore End. William joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and in February 1943 as LAC 1602627 he was sent to No.6 Service Flying Training School, Royal Canadian Air Force, Dunnville, Ontario, Canada, where he arrived on or around 25th February 1943. By mid June he had completed the basic part of the course and gone solo. On 25th February 1943 he was flying an RCAF Havard serial no. 2963 and while "beating up" Lake Erie he crashed in the lake and died. William was buried on 2nd March 1943 in Riverside Cemetery, Dunnville, Ontario, Canada.

SIDNEY JAMES SODEN

Private 7th Battalion Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry (14615099)

Killed in action between 15th & 17th February 1944 aged 36

Commemorated on Cassino Memorial, Italy

KIDMORE END. Local Memorials : Kidmore End St John

Sidney was born in Gallowstree Common on 15th April 1907 the son of Thomas Richard Soden a jobbing gardener of Well Cottage, Gallowstree Common and his wife Lizzie. He was baptised at St John the Baptist on 26th May 1907. When Sidney left school he worked as a builder's labourer and married Mary Victoria Squires on 6th November 1943 at St John the Baptist. Sidney was already in the army by this time as Private 14615099 7th Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. In February 1944 the battalion were in Italy being hammered by the Germans on the Anzio Bridgehead, south of Rome. They were virtually surrounded but refused to withdraw. The action lasted about five days and when they were relieved only 60 of the original 1000 men remained. Sidney was one of those killed between 15th & 17th February 1944 aged 36. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Cassino Memorial which is located in the Province of Frosinone 139 kms. south of Rome.

MEN OF MAPLEDURHAM

LIONEL ROY BUTLER

Sergeant (pilot) 85 Squadron RAFVR (742521)

Killed while flying 31st May 1940 aged 19

Cremated Cambridge Crematorium

MAPLEDURHAM : Local Memorials Mapledurham Church Gate

Lionel was born on 2nd August 1920 the son of Harry Lionel Butler an agricultural auctioneer of 15 Geoffreyson Road, Caversham Heights and his wife Selina Margaret. Nothing is known as yet about his early life or education but in 1939 he was listed as a Post Office owner. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and trained to be a pilot. On gaining his wings he was posted as Sergeant 742521 to 85 Squadron at RAF Debden 3 miles south east of Saffron Waldon, Essex. On 31st May 1940 Lionel took off from Debden on board Hawker Hurricane Mk 1 serial no. N2536 coded VY-L to practise air combat tactics. He stalled the aircraft during a practise dog fight and spun into the ground 2 miles north of Debden. The aircraft was crashed to the ground and was destroyed by fire. Lionel was killed aged 19 and his body was cremated at Cambridge Crematorium. There has been a suggestion that he blacked out during a tight stall turn. Pilot Officer Peter Leslie Gossage died on the same day when his Hurricane P3584 stalled off a turn and crashed to the ground during a practise dogfight. One cannot help but wonder if there was contact between the two aircraft.

JOHN KENNEDY FINLAYSON

Flight Sergeant (flight engineer) 153 Squadron RAFVR (1314004)

Killed while flying 17th March 1945 aged 23

Buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Germany

MAPLEDURHAM Local Memorials : Mapledurham C G : Kidmore End St John

John was born in Sonning Common on 31st October 1921 the son of William Finlayson a ship's purser of Kidmore End and his wife Mary Elizabeth. He was baptised at John the Baptist Church on 9th April 1922. By the time the National register was compiled in 1939 the family had moved to "Riverside" Mapledurham and John was working as an aircraft fitter. He married Mary Bond on 5th February 1944 at St John the Baptist church by which time he was already a flight engineer in the Royal Air Force with 153 squadron at Scampton in Lincolnshire. On 16th March 1945 at 17.20 hrs. Avro Lancaster PB642 coded P4-W took off from Scampton along with nine other aircraft of the squadron bound for a raid on Nuremburg. On board were Pilot Officer Peter John Parsons, pilot : Flight Sergeant John Kennedy Finlayson, flight engineer : Sergeant Sydney Derrick Wager, navigator : Flight Sergeant Morgan Swap RNZAF, wireless operator : Sergeant Albert Reginald Quinton, air bomber : Sergeant Edward Finch, air gunner : Sergeant William Keenleyside, air gunner. At 22.00 local time the aircraft was intercepted and shot down by German night fighters. It exploded in mid-air and the wreckage was spread over a large area, also leaving a large crater in a forest near Brietenau. All on board were killed and they were buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Germany, about 45 kms. south of Munich. Their average age was 22 and it had been their first mission.

MICHAEL JOHN GLOVER

Flying Officer (pilot) 165 (Ceylon) Squadron RAFVR (125431)

Killed while flying 17th January 1943 age unknown

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial

MAPLEDURHAM. Local Memorials : Mapledurham Church Gate

It seems quite likely that Michael was the son of Arthur Harding Glover, a private secretary who spent a lot of his time working abroad. Arthur married Cora Hall in Kolar Gold Field, India on 14th November 1920. Michael John Glover was born in 1923 but as no birth registration has been found in GRO it would seem reasonable to assume that he was born abroad. Cora and Michael travelled back and forth from India and Federal Malay States between 1923 and 1930. On one of the ship's manifests Cora states that her permanent residence is in the Federal Malay States. On the outbreak of WW2 Michael enlisted in the RAFVR and after gaining his

“wings” he was posted as Flying Officer 125431 to 165 (Ceylon) Squadron which was based from November 1942 until March 1943 at RAF Tangmere. On 17th January 1943 Michael was flying Supermarine Spitfire Vb serial no. BM240 coded SK-U for an offensive sweep over northern France. After the mission his aircraft crashed in the sea 5 miles north west of Le Havre and Michael was killed. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

PETER LUND

Gunner 51st Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery (1155744)

Died 1st June 1945 aged 21

Buried in Sage War Cemetery, Germany

MAPLEDURHAM. Local Memorials : Mapledurham Church Gate

Peter was born in Havant, Hampshire in 1924 the son of Cyril John Lund, the manager of an insurance company of 180 Woodcote Road, Caversham and his wife Muriel Catherine. Nothing is known yet about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Gunner 115744 Royal Artillery and was posted to 51st Heavy Battery. He died on 1st June 1945 aged 21 and was buried in Sage War Cemetery, 56 kms west of Bremen in Germany.

MICHAEL ARTHUR MILLIER

Fusilier 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment (14592526)

Killed in action 13th May 1944 aged 20

Buried in Cassino War Cemetery, Italy.

MAPLEDURHAM. Local Memorials : Mapledurham Church Gate

Michael was born in Croydon in 1924, the son of William H Millier a licensed victualler of Crays Pond House, Crays Pond, Oxon. and his wife Elsie E. (nee Still). Nothing is yet known about Michael's early life or education but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Fusilier 14592526 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) He was killed in action on 13th May 1944 aged 20 during the last days of Battle for Monte Cassino and was buried in the Sage War Cemetery in Italy.

GEOFFREY WILLIAM NEWELL

Leading Aircraftman 111 OTU RAFVR 1198368

Died 12th January 1943 aged 36

Buried in Nassau War Cemetery, Bahamas

MAPLEDURHAM. Local Memorials : Mapledurham Church Gate

Geoffrey was born in Cookham Dean, Berkshire on 13th August 1907 the son of Horace George Newell a chauffeur of School Lane, Cookham Dean, Berks. and his wife Beatrice. Nothing is known about Geoffrey's education or early life but he married Teresa Elizabeth Stalley in Kensington 1929. By 1939 they are living at Rose Farm House, Mapledurham, Geoffrey was working as a chauffeur for Mrs Caroline Travers, a lady of private means and her daughter Margaret. His wife Teresa was their cook. Late September 1940 Geoffrey enlisted in the RAFVR at RAF Cardington and by 1943 he was LAC 1198368 and he had been posted to 111 OTU (operational training unit) RAF Nassau, Bahamas. He died on 12th January 1943 aged 36 (cause as yet unknown) and was buried in Nassau War Cemetery. Geoffrey's widow married Bertram Newbold in 1945.

CHARLIE STREAMER

Private 4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (5341713)

Died 27th June 1941 aged 23

Buried in Mapledurham (St Margaret) Churchyard

MAPLEDURHAM. Local Memorials : Mapledurham Church Gate

Charlie was born in 1917, possibly Maidens Green, near Bracknell, the son of George Thomas Streamer a cowman later of Mapledurham and his wife Edith. Nothing as yet is known about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 5341713 4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. Charlie died on 27th June 1941 aged 23 and was buried in Mapledurham (St Margaret) Churchyard.

MEN OF NETTLEBED

ALBERT JOHN BELSON

Trooper 13th/18th Royal Hussars (14263661)

Killed in action 9th September 1944 aged 20

Buried in Geel War Cemetery, Belgium

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

Albert was born in 1923 the son of Albert Belson a gardener of 6 Council Cottages, Catslip, Nettlebed and his wife Lucy. Nothing is known about his education or early life but on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Trooper 14263661 13th/18th Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps. Albert took part in the D-Day Landings and the

subsequent battles through Arnhem and Antwerp. He was killed in action on 9th September 1944 aged 20 in the Geel area of Belgium during the advance to Holland. He was buried in Geel War Cemetery, Belgium.

VALENTINE BROWN

Private 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5384104)

Killed in action 21st May 1940 aged 20

Buried in Bruyelle War Cemetery, Belgium

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

Valentine was born Benjamin Valentine Brown in 1924 the son of Frederick Brown, a gardener of 6 Council Cottages, Priest Hill, Nettlebed and his wife Grace Victoria nee Hester. Nothing is known about his early life or education but on the outbreak of WW2 Valentine enlisted as Private 5384104 4th Battalion Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry. On 19th May 1940 the battalion crossed the Scarpe Canal in Belgium, this was a continuation of the River Eschaut (Scheldt) and took up new positions behind the canal around the village of Bleharies holding the line of the canal. According to the OBLI war chronicles three men were killed from D Company on 20th May, the 21st was "entirely peaceful" according to the "Chronicle". This was the last day of the battle before the withdrawal to Dunkirk. Valentine is recorded by the CWGC as having died on 21st May 1940 aged 20 and was buried in Bruyelle War Cemetery, Antoing, Belgium.

WILLIAM HUGH CLEMENTS

Sub-Lieutenant Royal Navy retired

Died 23rd June 1942 aged 23

Cremated Henley Road Crematorium, Caversham 26th June 1942

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

William was born on 23rd February 1921 the son of William C Clements and his wife Florence Mary. Nothing is known about his education or early life but at the time of the register in 1939 he was working as an aircraft fitter. He was commissioned sub-lieutenant in the RNVR but had to retire due to ill health. William died in the Peppard Sanitorium on 23rd June 1942 aged 23, presumably of tuberculosis. He was cremated at Caversham Crematorium on 26th June 1942 with his address being given as White Hart Hotel, Nettlebed.

MICHAEL VALENTINE PAUL FLEMING M.I.D

Captain 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (68350)

Died of wounds 1st October 1940 aged 28

Buried in Lille Southern Cemetery

NETTLEBED. Local Memorial : Nettlebed Church Gate

Michael was born on 23rd July 1913 the son of Major Valentine Fleming MP DSO of Nettlebed and his wife Evelyn. He was educated at Eton and on leaving became a stockbroker. Michael married Letitia Borthwick on 28th July 1934 and they had four children. He joined the Territorial Army before the outbreak of WW2 and was the officer in command of the Nettlebed Territorials. Following the outbreak of WW2 the 4th Ox. and Bucks went to France in mid-January 1940 and from January 18th to May 14th they were based in Attiches south of Lille. Following the German invasion of Belgium on 10th May the 4th Battalion were mobilised and advanced into Belgium. They initially took up defensive positions in the Soignies Forest near Brussels, but when the news of the German breakthrough came through they were ordered to withdraw. Thus began the major exodus to Dunkirk. The 4th major last stand was at Cassel and it was following the withdrawal from there that Michael was wounded in the left thigh by a severe shell splinter, being unable to keep up with the retreating column he was taken POW. He was initially treated at a POW camp in Zuydcoote and then taken to a hospital in Lille, which had been the 17/21 British General Hospital. Although confined to bed unable to walk Michael appeared to be improving, alas he then deteriorated and it was obvious that he needed to be operated on. He died during the operation on 1st October 1940 aged 28 and was buried in the Lille Southern Cemetery.

SAMUEL ERNEST GREEN

Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382814)

Died of wounds 1st June 1940 aged 21

Buried in Etaples Military Cemetery

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

Samuel was born in Nettlebed on 18th December 1918 the son of the late Albert George Edward Green of 4 Council Cottages, Catslip, Nettlebed and his wife Blanche Maud Alice nee Mayhew. His father had died of wounds fighting in France 3 months before Samuel was born. Nothing is known about his education or early life but by the time of the outbreak of WW2 he was already a Lance Corporal 5382814 4th Battalion Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry. Samuel went with Captain Michael Fleming to France in mid-January 1940 and died of wounds received during

the withdrawal to Dunkirk, in Etaples Military Hospital aged 21. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery.

WILLIAM CHARLES LLOYD

Corporal 4th Battalion Ox. & Bucks Light Infantry (5382771)

Died of wounds 30th May 1940 aged 21

Buried Lille Southern Cemetery, France

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

William was born in Nettlebed in 1919 the son of Francis Lloyd a builder's labourer of Priest Hill, Nettlebed and his wife Daisy Rebecca. Nothing is known about his education or early life but he enlisted in 4th Ox. and Bucks Light Infantry as Private 5382771 before the outbreak of WW2. William went to France with the battalion in mid-January 1940 along with Captain Fleming and was promoted corporal. He died of wounds on 30th May 1940 aged 21 while on the withdrawal to Dunkirk and was buried in Lille Southern Cemetery

RICHARD FRANK SALTER

Aircraftsman 1st Class 62 Squadron RAFVR (1155359)

Died 18th September 1944 aged 23

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

Richard was born in Kensington in 1921 the son of Frederick Gurney Salter, a civil servant later of Little Hill, Nettlebed and his wife Eleanor May. Nothing is known about his early life or education, but it is known from family sources that it had been Richard's intention to go to Agricultural College, but along came WW2 and instead he enlisted in the RAFVR. He was posted to 62 Squadron as AC1 1155359. The squadron went to Singapore in August 1939 and moved to Northern Malaya in February 1941. Singapore fell to the Japanese in February 1942 and Richard was taken as a POW some time during this period and he was sent to work on the infamous jungle railways. During this time he went blind through malnutrition. On the 18th September 1944 he was on board the SS Juno Maru bound for Sumatra to work on yet another railway line being built in Pakan Baru and Muaro. The ship was sunk by British submarine HMS Tradewind. Richard died aged 23 along with 1377 Dutch, 64 British and Australian and 8 U.S. prisoners of war. Also on board were 4000 Javanese slave labourers. At the time this was the world's greatest sea disaster with 5620 dead. 680 survivors were rescued only to be put to work in conditions similar to the Burma Railway. Richard has no known grave and is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. 71 RAF and RAFVR men are recorded

on the memorial as having died on this day. He is also remembered on the "Junyo Maru" Memorial in the National Arboretum.

GEORGE SMITH

Aircraftsman 1st Class 548938 HMS Courageous RAFVR (548938)

Killed in action 17th September 1939 aged 19

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate : HGS

George was born in Nettlebed in 1920 the son of Sidney Smith a club steward of Club Cottage, White Hart Hotel, Nettlebed and his wife Martha Sophia. He was educated at Henley Grammar School and before the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAF. In August 1939 he was posted to the Aircraft Carrier HMS Courageous as AC1 548938 and the ship went to her war station at Portland, Dorset. Courageous left Portland on the evening of 3rd September 1939 for anti-submarine patrol in the western approaches, escorted by four destroyers. On 17th April 1939 they were on patrol off the coast of Ireland. Unbeknown to them they had been stalked for the previous two hours by German submarine U-29. The ship turned into the wind to launch her aircraft which immediately put her square across the bow of U-29. The submarine immediately launched three torpedoes, two of which struck the port side of Courageous before the aircraft had been launched. The ship capsized and sank within 20 minutes with the resultant loss of 519 of her crew. George was among those lost aged 19. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

PATRICK RICHARD SIDNEY SPICER

Lieutenant Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve HMS Wo Kwang

Killed in action 5th March 1942 aged 31

Plymouth Naval Memorial

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Gate

Patrick was born on 2nd April 1908 in Purley, Surrey, the son of Basil Edward Spicer a flour miller, later of Woodchester, Crocker End, Nettlebed and his wife Olive. He was baptised on 17th May 1908 at St Mark's Church, Purley. Nothing is known about his education or early life but on 15th November 1928 he left the Port of London on board the SS Kalyan bound for the Malay States to work as an assistant on a rubber plantation. Patrick returned to England and married Elizabeth Margery Cory Lee in Hartsmere, Suffolk in 1937. Patrick returned to the Malay States and Elizabeth followed him on 23rd October 1937 aboard the SS Gneisenau from Southampton. At this time Patrick was a rubber planter at Gapis Estate Kuala Lumpur. He was commissioned as Sub-Lieutenant in the Straits Settlement Royal Naval Volunteer

Reserve on 12th February 1938. Patrick was mobilised on the outbreak of WW2 and promoted to Lieutenant. In February 1942 when Palembang fell to the Japanese he was on board HMS Wo Kwang, a tug hired by the Royal Navy to use as a mine-sweeper, heading from Tjilatjap towards Australia. On 5th March 1942 the ship was sunk by Japanese warships with the loss of all hands, which included Patrick aged 31. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial

JOHN HUGH CRESWICKE VENABLES

Captain 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards (156049)

Died 2nd December 1943 aged 24

Buried in Tripoli War Cemetery

NETTLEBED. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Memorial

John was born in Newton Abbott on 19th April 1919 the son of Dr John Venables, a physician later of Fairway Cottage, Huntercombe, Nettlebed and his wife Helen. Nothing is known about his early life but when he left school he went to Oxford University to study medicine. On the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned in the Coldstream Guards. By September 1943 he had attained the rank of Captain and was serving in Tripoli. On 2nd September 1943 John died of meningitis aged 24 and was buried in Tripoli War Cemetery.

MEN OF NUFFIELD

HUGO JAMES ROSS BARKER

Pilot Officer (pilot) RAFVR (88424)

Killed while flying 25th November 1940 aged 26

Buried in Nuffield (Holy Trinity) Churchyard

NUFFIELD. Local Memorials: None

Hugo (known as James or Jimmy) was born in London on 24th March 1914, the son of Harold Ross Barker, a gentleman of private means of 11 Southwick Place, Hyde Park, London, and his wife Ellen nee Powell. The family later moved to Huntercombe Manor House, Nuffield. Oxon. Hugo was educated at Locker's Park Preparatory School, Hemel Hempstead, before going on to Eton in 1927. He went up to Christchurch College, Oxford in 1933 where he became president of the College Boat Club and junior treasurer of the Junior Common Room, he was also a member of Oxford University Boat Club. Hugo took a 2nd class degree in PPE

(philosophy, politics and economics) in 1936. On leaving Oxford he was employed by Cadbury Brothers at Bournville and in September 1938 Hugo went to Radley College to teach and organise physical training, boxing etc. He also taught geography and coached on the river and the rugby field. Hugo also persuaded the Council that Radley should have a new gymnasium. This was achieved and is named in his memory. Before the outbreak of WW2 Hugo joined the RAFVR and was called up in May 1940 and was commissioned Pilot Officer 88424. It is possible that he did his flying training at RAF Cranwell. On 25th November 1940 Hugo took off from RAF Fullbeck, a reserve landing ground for RAF Cranwell, aboard Airspeed Oxford R5954 of No.2 Flying Training School at 19.00 hrs along with Pilot Officer (flying instructor) Ronald Victor Galt. Shortly after take off he corrected a swing to starboard too steeply at low level, the port wing hit a tree and the aircraft crashed. Hugo was killed outright and Pilot Officer Galt was severely injured and died three days later. Hugo was buried at Nuffield (Holy Trinity) Church on 30th November 1940 aged 26. He is also commemorated on the Christchurch College Memorial, Oxford and the Radley College Memorial.

MEN OF ROTHERFIELD GREYS

WILLIAM ANTHONY GEORGE ATKINS

Sergeant (flight engineer) 7 Squadron RAFVR (574300)

Killed while flying 13th July 1942 aged 19

Buried in Rotherfield Greys Churchyard

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials RG.

William was born in Chippenham, Wiltshire in 1923 the son of William George Atkins, a chauffeur and his wife Nora Janette. The family later moved to Greys Court Cottages, Rotherfield Peppard. Nothing is known about his early life or education but on the outbreak of WW2 "Tony" joined the RAFVR and was training as a flight engineer. He was posted as sergeant 574300 to 7 Squadron who were based at Oakington, near Cambridge flying Short Stirling four engine heavy bombers. On 13th July 1942 Short Stirling 1 serial no. N6075 coded SR-W3 took off from Oakington on a navigational exercise. On board were Sergeant Roderick Urquhart Morrison, pilot RAFVR : Flight Sergeant John Richard Griffin RCAF, observer : Flight Sergeant James Frederick Hirst RCAF, wireless operator/air gunner : Flight Sergeant Thorstein Enevold Helgesen RCAF, wireless operator/air gunner : Flight Sergeant Leo Joseph Regimbal RCAF, air gunner : Flight Sergeant John Ellis

Williams RAF, flight engineer : William Anthony George Atkins RAFVR, flight engineer under training : Flight Sergeant Edgar Dolphin, passenger. It would appear that Sergeant Morrison brought Flight Sergeant Dolphin, a ground crew member, along for the ride. The aircraft was seen to fly low a few times over Flight Sergeant Dolphin's house in Biddulph then turn and fly back towards Cambridge, but flying in cloud and still too low Sergeant Morrison failed to clear the nearby hill and crashed the aircraft at Merrytown Low, near Leek, in Staffordshire. All 8 on board including William Atkins aged 19 were killed. William's body was returned to Rotherfield Greys and buried in the local churchyard. There is a memorial to the crew on Merrytown Low, in the Peak District, Staffordshire.

HUBERT BLAKE HODSON

Lieutenant 9th Queen's Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps (134985)

Killed in action 28th January 1942 aged 22

Buried in Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Greys Memorial

Hubert was born in Marylebone on 8th June 1919 the son of Sir Charles Hodson MC KC later of Rotherfield Greys and his wife Lady Louisa Hodson nee Blake. He was educated at Winchester College and on the outbreak of WW2 was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps. On 28th January the regiment as part of the Royal Armoured Corps were in North Africa, fighting in the Western Desert. Hubert was killed in action on this day aged 22 and was buried in Benghazi War Cemetery in Libya.

RODNEY WARNER BARTHOLOMEW LLOYD M.C

Lieutenant Rifle Brigade and 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (256102)

Killed in action 2nd February 1945 aged 22

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Greys Memorial

Rodney was born in Rotherfield Greys on 24th August 1922 the son of Reverend Robert Howard Lloyd, Rector of St Nicholas, Rotherfield Greys, of The Rectory, and his wife Patricia Margaret Evelyn nee Raymond. Rodney was educated at Eton and awarded a Classics Scholarship at Christ Church, Oxford in 1941. While at Oxford he was captain of the joint Christ Church, Brasenose and Pembroke boat which went Head of the River in May 1942. On 9th February 1943 he was gazetted Lieutenant to the Rifle Brigade and was attached to 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. On 30th October 1944 while leading No.3 Platoon in the defensive positions near De Deurne, he directed the fire throughout, despite heavy losses,

with the utmost coolness and skill and set a fine example to the men under his command. For this action Rodney was awarded the Military Cross. On 22nd February 1945 while leading "A" Company in an attack on the wooded area south of Goch in Germany, south west of Nijmegen, Rodney was killed in action by shrapnel and was buried in Reichwald Forest War Cemetery aged 22. He is also commemorated on the Eton and Christ Church College Memorials.

GEOFFREY ERNEST MAKINS M.C

Major 72510 1st Royal Dragoons, Royal Armoured Corps (72510)

Died of wounds 4th September 1944 aged 28

Buried in Rotherfield Greys (St Nicholas) Churchyard

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Greys Church

Geoffrey was born on 19th October 1915 in East Preston, Sussex, the son of Brigadier General Sir Ernest Makins KBE CB DSO later of Rotherfield Greys and his wife Lady Maria Florence nee Mellor. He was educated at West Downs Preparatory School before going to Winchester College in 1924. Geoffrey went up to Christ Church College, Oxford in 1934 where he read history in which he graduated with a 3rd in 1938. On leaving Oxford he was commissioned into the 1st Royal Dragoons, the regiment in which his father was Colonel 1931-1946. The regiment was mechanised shortly after the outbreak of WW2 and transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps in 1940. Geoffrey was promoted Lieutenant and fought in the Middle East where he was awarded the Military Cross on 9th September 1942 in recognition of gallant and distinguished service while he was out there between November 1941 and April 1942. He was wounded twice, returned to England and was selected for the Staff College. When he had completed the course Geoffrey was promoted Major and spent a short time as a general staff officer at HQ Canadian Army. On July 4th 1944 he re-joined the 1st Royal Dragoons at Choulain, Calvados, Normandy and took command of A Squadron. On Tuesday 11th July 1944 during the attack on Hottot Geoffrey received a serious stomach wound from mortar fire and was evacuated to England. He died as a result of his wounds at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham on 4th September 1944 aged 28. Geoffrey's body was returned to Rotherfield Greys where he was buried in the churchyard at St Nicholas. He is also commemorated on the Winchester and Christ Church College Memorials.

PHILIP EVERT McILVAIN MELLOR

Lieutenant 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps (103458)

Killed in action 3rd February 1943 aged 40

Commemorated on Medjez-El-Bab Memorial

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials : None

Philip was born on 8th February 1903 the son of Sir Frank Mellor, Barrister at Law of 53 Victoria Road, Kensington, London and his wife Lady Elizabeth Markoe nee Camac. Later of Woodvale, Rotherfield Greys. He was baptised in Kensington on 14th March 1903. Philip was educated at Westminster School before going up to St John's College, Cambridge in 1921, while there he got his "blue" at association football against Oxford in 1925. On leaving Cambridge Philip went to the Sudan and became a cotton planter. Despite having lost the sight in his right eye, on the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as a guardsman in the Scots Guards. Philip was selected for officer training and went to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was subsequently granted an emergency commission as 2nd Lieutenant with the Leicestershire Regiment in May 1940. Later the same year he volunteered for special service with the airborne forces and joined No.2 (Parachute) Commando as Lieutenant. This was later designated 11 SAS Battalion and then 1st Parachute Battalion in 1941. Although Philip only had one eye he repeatedly proved that he was an outstanding and brave paratrooper officer during the campaign in North Africa. On 12th November 1942 as part of "operation torch" the 3rd Parachute Battalion jumped on to and seized the vital airfield at Bone between Algiers and Tunis, arriving barely before German paratroopers deployed for the same target. As a result of at least four acts of bravery his commanding officer Lt. Col. Alistair Pearson recommended Philip for the DSO. An award of the Military Cross was confirmed in January 1943 by Gen. Anderson C in C 1st British Army. Sadly Philip would never collect the medal as he was killed in action during the assault to capture Djebel Mansour from German forces on 3rd February 1943 aged 40. Later Major Tony Hibbert of No.2 Commando and 11 SAS recorded that "*Philip Mellor died a death which everyone in a way envied, he stood there with a leg blown off, only one eye, wounded about seventeen times and still firing his gun to cover his comrades.*" His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Medjez-El-Bab Memorial in Tunisia. He is also remembered on the Westminster School and St John's College, Cambridge Memorials.

CYRIL SYMONDS

Sergeant (air gunner) RAFVR (2235152)

Killed while flying 18th December 1944 aged 19

Buried in Highmoor (St Paul) Churchyard

ROTHERFIELD GREYS. Local Memorials : RGM : Highmoor Church Memorial

Cyril was born in Henley in 1925 the son of Ivy L M Symonds. A year later she married Thomas Wells and they lived at Holly Cross, Highmoor. When he left school Cyril worked at Highlands farm and later lived in one of the cottages belonging to the Henley Trust, next door to the church at Rotherfield Greys. He received his call up papers and said goodbye to his friends on 3rd January 1944 to join the RAFVR to train as a rear-gunner. On completing his initial training he was posted as Sergeant 2235152 to an operational training unit where he was invited to join the crew of pilot Flight Sergeant Thomas George Jacobs. From the OTU the crew went on to No.3 Lancaster Finishing School at RAF Feltwell, near Thetford in Norfolk. On 18th December 1944 Avro Lancaster 1 R5846 coded A5-H took off from RAF Feltwell around 19.00 hrs on a night flying exercise. On board were Flight Sergeant Thomas George Jacobs, pilot : Sergeant Leslie Arthur Raymond, flight engineer : Flight Sergeant George Ridley Telford Taylor, navigator : Sergeant James Duffin, air bomber : Sergeant John Watson Hutton, wireless operator : Sergeant Frank Albert Oxlade, air gunner and Sergeant Cyril Symonds, air gunner. On their return to Feltwell there were several aircraft in the circuit and at 21.51 hrs they collided with Lancaster R5674 coded A5-K over Hockwold. All 14 crew of both aircraft were killed including Cyril aged 19. His body was returned to Highmoor for burial in St Paul's churchyard on Christmas Saturday 23rd December 1944. Cyril's fellow air gunner on board Frank Oxlade was from Hambleden and he was buried in St Mary's New Churchyard, Hambleden.

MEN OF ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD

RICHARD ST. CHAD ARKWRIGHT

Captain Royal Marines, HMS Cornwall

Died 7th October 1939 aged 30

Buried Colombo (Kanatte) General Cemetery

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Richard was born in Binfield , Berkshire on 19th June 1909 the son of Reverend Hubert Seymour Arkwright, clerk in Holy orders and his wife Evelyn, later of Peppard House, Peppard. He was educated at Malvern College, House 9 from 1923 until 1927. While there Richard won the Gale Entomology Prize and was a School Prefect. On leaving Malvern he joined the Royal Marines and by 1st September 1928 was a 2nd Lieutenant on probation and by 1st September 1932 had attained the rank of Lieutenant. On 5th October 1939 Richard, who by now had been promoted to Captain, was part of the Royal Marine contingent aboard HMS Cornwall, a county class heavy cruiser which was assigned to Force 1 to hunt for German commerce raiders in the Indian Ocean between Calcutta and Singapore. On 6th October the ship docked in Colombo, Graving Dock. On 7th October Richard was taken to the Franzler Nursing home to be operated on for appendicitis. Sadly he died during the operation from heart failure and congestion of the lungs aged 30. A funeral party left the ship on the following day, 8th October at 9.15 and Richard was buried in Colombo (Kanatte) General Cemetery. HMS Cornwall's colours were set to half mast. Richard is also remembered on the Malvern College Memorial.

CHARLES JAMES BUTLER

Craftsman Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (7589059)

Died 25th March 1945 aged 38

Buried in Venray War Cemetery

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials RPC

Charles was born in Peppard in 1907 the son of Walter James Butler a farmer's assistant of Manor Farm, Rotherfield Peppard and his wife Edith May. He was baptised at All Saints Church on 25th April 1907. Charles enlisted in the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers on the outbreak of WW2 as craftsman 7589059. He died on 25th March 1945 aged 38, the circumstances of his death are not known as yet, and he was buried in Venray War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands.

CYRIL AUBREY CLAYTON

Lance Sergeant 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment (5346877)

Killed in action 4th October 1944 aged 24

Buried in Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials RPC

Cyril was born at Kingwood Common in 1920 the son of Albert Clayton a bricklayer of Kingwood and his wife Sarah. He was baptised at All Saints Church on 4th July 1920. Cyril enlisted in the army on the outbreak of WW2 as Private 5346877 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment. By October 1944 he had attained the rank of lance

sergeant and the battalion were pushing through Nijmegen in the Netherlands. On 4th October they attacked the German lines north of Bommel and expanded the bridgehead up to the Wetering Canal. Cyril was killed during this action aged 24 and was buried in the Oosterbeek War Cemetery.

PHILIP MEYER DAVIS

Flight Lieutenant (pilot) 24 Squadron RAFVR (76388)

Killed while flying 30th October 1942 aged 37

Buried Brookwood Cemetery 23 A 12

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Philip was born on 14th April 1905 in the USA the son of Philip and May Meyer of San Mateo, California, USA. His parents died when he was young and he was adopted by his aunt, Lady Henrietta Davis of Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. Philip came to England in 1918 as a student and also spent time travelling in Europe. In 1930 he was fined for speeding and gave his address as Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London. In 1939 he was living at Primrose Cottage, Peppard Common, working as a solicitor's articled clerk. On 23rd November 1939 Philip was commissioned as a pilot officer on probation RAFVR and when his appointment was confirmed he was posted to 24 Squadron a communications and transport squadron operating from RAF Hendon with a variety of aircraft. Part of their brief was transporting VIPs, including Churchill on numerous occasions. On the 30th October 1942 Lockheed Hudson 3 serial no. V8983 of 24 squadron was returning from a flight from Hendon to Belfast ferrying senior officers backward and forwards. On the return flight the aircraft crashed in Baldwins Wood, 2 miles south east of RAF Halton.* Some local men were quickly on the scene and managed to get two men from the wreckage, unfortunately they died before medical assistance arrived. The crew comprised of Flying Officer Raymond Cook, pilot : Flight Lieutenant Philip Meyer Davis : Sergeant Walter John Morbin : navigator and Sergeant Arthur George Hudd, wireless operator. Also on board were Squadron Leader John Forbes Andre Day of 24 squadron, Lieutenant Commander Frank Alan Winson Ramsay DSO RN and Charles Lumby an Air Ministry technical chemist who has a "Farnborough" background. All on board were killed in the crash except Charles Lumby who died later the same day in Princess Mary's Hospital, RAF Halton. Philip Meyer Davis and Squadron Leader Day were buried next door to each other in Brookwood Cemetery. One has to wonder if this was their final destination or probably more likely that they were trying for an emergency landing.

GODFREY DAVID READ FONES

Aircraftsman 2nd Class RAFVR (2315861)

Died 23rd August 1947 aged 19

Buried in All Saints New Churchyard, Rotherfield Peppard

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : None

Godfrey was born in Hertfordshire in 1928 the son of Edward William Fones an oil company representative and his wife Mabel Winifred. The family later moved to 95 Henley Road, Caversham. All that is known about Godfrey is that he joined the RAFVR as AC2 2315861 and died on 23rd August 1947 aged 19 (September 1947 Watford 4B 201) and was buried in All Saints, Peppard, new churchyard. Godfrey's brother Edward and his wife Winifred lived at 100 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common at the time.

KENNETH DOUGLAS GODDARD

Flying Officer (wireless operator) 15 Squadron RAFVR (139402)

Killed while flying 25th May 1944 aged 24

Buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Kenneth was born in Brentford on 13th February 1920 the son of Edgar Douglas Goddard, later a County Council clerk of Newfield Road, Sonning Common and his wife Ethelwyn Ursula. In 1939 Kenneth was still at home with his parents and recorded as a dairy farmer. Shortly after the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and after training he was posted to 15 Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk as Flying Officer 139402, wireless operator. In 1944 the squadron flew the Avro Lancaster and on the night of 25th May 1944 at 00.03 hrs Lancaster III serial no. ND955 coded LS-W took off from Mildenhall bound for a raid on Aachen, Germany. The crew were Flying Officer William Dennett McKay RAAF, pilot : Sergeant Dermott Frederick Arthur Peach RAFVR, flight engineer : Flying Officer Jack Turner RAFVR, navigator : Flight Sergeant William Charles Chandler RAAF, bomb aimer : Flying Officer Kenneth Douglas Goddard RAFVR, wireless operator/air gunner : Flight Sergeant Frederick Daniel Maddock RCAF, air gunner : Sergeant Robert John Hughes RAFVR, air gunner. The aircraft crashed at Someren (Noord Brabant) 11 kms south east of Helmond, Netherlands, and all of the occupants were killed including Kenneth aged 24. They were buried together in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery. There is a memorial to the crash by the side of the road in Someren, Netherlands.

DOUGLAS TIMOTHY GRANT

Lieutenant 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (258260)

Killed in action 9th December 1944 aged 23

Buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Netherlands

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC : HGS

Douglas was born in Brentford in 1921 the son of William George Grant a road transport worker, later of Ramadan, Peppard Road, Sonning Common and his wife Gladys Lilian. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 14th September 1933. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 1128512 in the Royal Artillery. He was later commissioned as Lieutenant 258260 and posted to the 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Douglas was killed in action on 9th December 1944 aged 23 at Elst in the Netherlands and buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, near Nijmegen, Netherlands.

LESLIE CHARLES GREEN

Lieutenant Royal Engineers 135 Excavator Coy (63673)

Killed in action 29th May 1940 aged 25

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC : HGS

Leslie was born in 1914 in Henley the son of Sydney William Green, a farmer of Swiss Farm, Henley and his wife Mary Elizabeth. The family later moved to Highlands Farm. Leslie was baptised on 17th January 1915 at St Marys Church, Henley. He started at Henley Grammar School in January 1924. At the outbreak of WW2 Leslie was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant 63673 Royal Engineers and by 1940 he was in France and had been promoted Lieutenant and posted to 135 Excavator Company. Leslie was killed in action on 29th May 1940 aged 25 during the withdrawal to Dunkirk. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

STANLEY REGINALD HAMBLIN

Aircraftsman 1st Class RAFVR (1425802)

Died 19th April 1944 aged 22

Buried in Christchurch Cemetery, Dorset

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Stanley was born in Wantage in 1922 the son of Ernest A Hamblin a general labourer later of Sunnybank, Peppard Road, Sonning Common and his wife Gertrude Emily. Nothing is known at this time about his early life or education but

soon after the start of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR as Aircraftsman 1st Class 1435802. In 1944 he was station at RAF Christchurch in Dorset. The 405th Fighter Group USAF move in to RAF Christchurch on 4th April 1944, comprising No's 509/510/511 Squadrons operating Republic P47 Thunderbolts. Stanley died on 19th April 1944 aged 22 and was buried in Christchurch Cemetery.

ANTHONY CLAUDE HERMON-HODGE

Sub-Lieutenant RNVR HMS Grove

Killed in action 12th June 1942 aged 21

Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Anthony was born in Plymouth, Devon on 1st August 1920 the son of Rear Admiral Hon. Claude Preston Hermon-Hodge DSC of Wyfold Court and his wife Gwendoline Rose. Nothing as yet is known about his education or early life but in 1941 he was commissioned Temporary Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. On 12th June 1942 Anthony was serving on board the destroyer HMS Grove when she was torpedoed by German submarine U-77 off Sollum, Egypt. 108 ratings and two officers, one of which being Anthony aged 21, lost their lives. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

HENRY CHARLES MACNAMARA

Lieutenant 221889 Royal Artillery (221889)

Died 16th July 1944 aged 55

Buried in Stanley Military Cemetery

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Henry was born in Malta in 1889 the son of Hugh Winkworth Macnamara RN fleet surgeon and his wife Charlotte Maria, later of Pond House, Peppard. Nothing is known yet about his early life or education but after leaving college he qualified as a solicitor. Henry served in the Royal Artillery with the rank of Lieutenant during WW1. He was then called to the bar in 1931 as a barrister. During WW2 he was commissioned as Lieutenant 221889 Royal Artillery as a barrister. When the Japanese invaded Hong Kong Henry was interred and died of typhus on 16th July 1944 aged 55. He was buried in Stanley Military Cemetery, Hong Kong.

DERECK NICHOLLS

Sergeant (air gunner) RAFVR (1852333)

Killed while flying 26th May 1944 aged 19

Buried in Newark upon Trent Cemetery

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Dereck was born in 1925 the foster son of Mrs J E Osborne of Sonning Common. Nothing is known as yet about his education or early life. Shortly after the outbreak of WW2 Dereck enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and by May 1944 he was sergeant 1852333 air gunner at No. 5 Lancaster Finishing School RAF Syerston, Nottinghamshire. On 26th May 1944 Avro Lancaster L7578 took off from RAF Syerston at 18.50 hrs for a combined exercise in night flying, navigation and bombing. On board were Sergeant George Benjamin Sanderson RCAF, pilot : Sergeant James Graham Middlemas RAFVR, flight engineer : Sergeant Albert Dennis Clark RAFVR, navigator : Pilot Officer Archibald Thomas Noble RAAF, bomb aimer : Sergeant Bernard Broe RAFVR, wireless operator/air gunner : Flight Sergeant Dennis Wright RCAF, air gunner and Sergeant Dereck Nicholls, air gunner. Shortly after take-off the aircraft was seen over Thurgarton at 8000 feet in a descent obviously in difficulty. It then dived to the ground and crashed at 22.15 hrs at Glebe Farm, Gonalston, Nottingham. All of the crew perished on impact. The cause of the crash was never officially released although there was a report that one of the crew's parachute harness became tangled with the controls. They were subsequently buried in adjacent graves in Newark upon Trent Cemetery. A few years after the end of the war the family of sergeant James Middlemas erected a memorial stone near to the crash site.

JOSEPH MATTHEW RICKARD

Pilot Officer (observer) 44 Squadron RAFVR (133213)

Killed while flying 24th August 1942 aged 30

Buried in Gosselies Communal Cemetery, Belgium

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Joseph was born in 1912 in Liskeard, Cornwall, the son of Frederick Joseph Rickard a grocer of Higher Lux, Cornwall and his wife Mary Ursula. Nothing is known as yet about his early life or education but in 1940 he married Audrey Evelyn Waits in Essex. They later moved to "Bolberry", Peppard Common. On the outbreak of WW2 Joseph joined the RAFVR and after his training he was posted as an observer to 44 Squadron. In 1944 44 squadron were at RAF Waddington being the first squadron to be fully equipped with the Avro Lancaster. On the night of 24th August 1942 Avro Lancaster W4105 coded KM-K took off from Waddington on a mission

to Frankfurt. On board were Pilot Officer Denis Franklin Nicholson RAFVR : Pilot Officer Leys Middleton Beaumont RCAF : Pilot Officer Gordon Cameron McDonald RCAF : Flight Sergeant Robert Gerald Page RAFVR : Flight Sergeant Frank Hagger RAF (Auxiliary Air Force) Sergeant James Vincent Holland RAFVR and Pilot Officer Joseph Matthews Rickard RAFVR, observer. The aircraft was almost certainly brought down by Luftwaffe pilot Unteroffizier Edouard Kleinert of 5/NJGI which he claimed as his first victory. The plane crashed over Feluy in Belgium and all of the occupants were killed. They were buried side by side in Gosselies Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium. Audrey Evelyn Rickard married Flight Lieutenant George Henry Mair at All Saints Peppard on 22nd December 1945

PHILIP RAYMOND SWAN

Sergeant (pilot) 53 OTU RAFVR (1387580)

Killed while flying 5th July 1942 aged 22

Buried in Rotherfield Peppard (All Saints) New Churchyard

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC : HGS

Philip was born in Sonning Common on 30th September 1919, the son of Sidney George Swan, a motor mechanic of Peppard Road, Sonning Common and his wife Annie. He was baptised at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End on 18th January 1920. Philip started at Henley Grammar School on 14th September 1931, was a member of Henley Rowing Club and later joined the Old Henleinsians. He enlisted in the Metropolitan Police in 1939 and in May 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was sent to Phoenix, Arizona to learn to fly and get his "wings". On his return to England Philip was sent as Sergeant pilot 1387580 to No.53 Operational Training Unit which was based at RAF Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan, fifteen miles west of Cardiff. He started Course No.20 on 9th June 1942 flying a Spitfire Mk IIa. Phillip was killed on 5th July 1942 aged 22 while flying Spitfire serial no. P7504 when he collided in mid-air over Cowbridge with another Spitfire P8592 flown by Sergeant 413117 Russell Stanley Pearce Royal New Zealand Air Force aged 20. Philip's body was returned to Sonning Common and he was buried in the churchyard at Rotherfield Peppard (All Saints) at 2.30 pm on Friday 10th July 1942. Sergeant Russell Pearce was buried in Llantwit Major Cemetery. In 2005 the wreckage of Spitfire P7504 was excavated by the North Gwent Aviation Group on Maerdy Farm, Bonvilston, about four miles east of Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan.

EDWARD SYLVESTER

Private 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (5344712)

Killed in action 18th March 1943 aged 28

Buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery ,Burma

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Edward was born in Mexborough, South Yorkshire on 18th September 1914 the son of Joseph Edward Sylvester, a coal miner of 28 Oliver Street, Mexborough, and his wife Lily. Nothing is known as yet about his education or early life but some time after leaving school he came down to work at Peppard Sanitorium as a house porter. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 5344712 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. Edward was killed in action on 18th March 1943 aged 28 whilst fighting in Burma. He was buried in a local cemetery and later his body was reburied in Taukkyan War Cemetery 35 kms north of Yangon (Rangoon) Burma.

FREDERICK WILLIAM TOLHURST

Ordinary Seaman P/SSX Royal Navy HMS Glowworm (23194)

Killed in action 8th April 1940 aged 20

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Frederick was born in Winslow, Buckinghamshire on 3rd November 1920 the son of Fred Tolhurst a chauffeur, later of Peppard, and his wife Kathleen. On the outbreak of WW2 Frederick enlisted in the Royal Navy as ordinary seaman P/SSX 23194 and after his initial training he was posted to the destroyer HMS Glowworm. On 8th April 1940 despite being alone and "outgunned" the ship took on the German heavy cruiser "Admiral von Hipper" and her escorts. In spite of the tremendous odds "Glowworm" managed to score hits on her mighty opponent firing off all eight of the torpedoes that she carried and in the last desperate act collided with the "Hipper" before she sank. The German cruiser picked up 40 survivors but the rest of the crew including Frederick aged 19 perished. His body was never recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

RYK IGEN VAN DER BYL

Captain Veteran Guards of Canada

Died 10th December 1941 aged 58

Buried in Calgary (Burnsland) Cemetery, Canada

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : None

Ryk was born in South Africa on 30th June 1883 the son of Pieter Voltelin Van der Byl and his wife Adelaide Ann. He had two sisters, Katherine and Zilla, plus a brother Pieter. Nothing is known about his early life or education but on the outbreak of WW1 he was commissioned Lieutenant 68th Canadian Infantry Regiment (Earl Grey's Own Rifles). By this time his mother had come to England and was living at 31 St Cuthbert's Street, Bedford. Ryk then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps on 14th November 1916 serving until 1919 and attaining the rank of captain. During WW2 he enlisted in the Veteran Guards of Canada the equivalent of our Home Guard. Ryk died of pneumonia on 10th December 1941 aged 58 and was buried in Calgary (Burnsland) Cemetery. His sister Katherine and her husband Reginald Heberden lived at Gorse Bank, Peppard and he was the local ARP warden.

GEORGE ERNEST WILLIAM WAITE

Driver Royal Army Service Corps (T/222011)

Died 9th June 1945 aged 35

Buried in Labuan War Cemetery, Borneo

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

George was born in Kingwood Common on 5th May 1910 the son of Ernest Waite, a builder's painter of Kingwood Common and his wife Carrie Louise. He was baptised at All Saints on 12th June 1910. Nothing is known as yet about his early life or education but when he left school he worked as a private chauffeur. On the outbreak of WW2 George enlisted as Private T/222011 RAMC and served in Borneo. He died on 9th June 1945 aged 35 and was buried in Labuan War Cemetery, located on a small island in Brunei Bay, off north west coast of Borneo.

ALFRED FRANCIS WELLS

Captain Royal Berkshire Regiment (34946)

Died 31st May 1940 aged 33

Buried in Houthulst Churchyard, Diksmuide, Belgium

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

Alfred was born in Caversham in 1906 the son of Cecil Francis Wells a hop merchant, of Highlands, Peppard, and his wife Sarah Durant Wells. The family later moved to Cherry Tree Cottage, Kingwood Common. Nothing is known about his education or early life but in 1937 he married Rosemary Jennifer Hedges. On the outbreak of WW2 Alfred was commissioned in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He died on 31st May 1940 aged 33 during the allied withdrawal to Dunkirk and was buried in Houthulst Churchyard, just south of Diksmuide in Belgium.

JAMES HUGH CAPLESTON WOOLDRIDGE

Lieutenant Colonel 18th Royal Garwhal Rifles (A1843)

Killed in action 12th January 1942 aged 43

Buried in Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD. Local Memorials : RPC

James was born on 10th May 1898 the son of Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) William Hugh Wooldridge, India Staff Corps, Quetta, Bengal, India, and his wife Alice. He was baptised in Quetta on 9th June 1898. James was educated in Bigshotte Rayles School, Wokingham and was later commissioned into the army, 2nd Lieutenant (unattached) on 26th January 1916. On 21st March 1916 he was posted to the 1/39th Garwhal Rifles, Indian Army and promoted Lieutenant 26th January 1917. He served through the remainder of WW1 including in Iraq and then made the army his career, being promoted captain in 1920. James married Lesley Maxwell Churchill on 27th June 1929 at All Saints, Peppard and they initially lived in London and at 7 St Andrews Road, Henley. It seems that they spent most of their time in India. Their daughter Priscilla was born in Lansdowne, India in 1931 and son Leonard in 1934. James was promoted Major on 26th January 1934 and Lieutenant Colonel in 1941. By 1942 he was commanding 5/18th Battalion Garwhal Rifles. He was killed in action on 12th January 1942 (some references say 15th) aged 43 when the company were ambushed by the Japanese when returning to Simpang Jeram from morning patrol. James was buried in Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore.

MEN OF SHIPLAKE

DAVID STUART BARING

Sub Lieutenant Royal Naval Reserve HMS Mournie

Killed in action 15th June 1944 aged 21

Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake Church : Shiplake Memorial Hall

David was born in Hampshire on 16th December 1922 the son of Dudley William Baring, a member of the London Stock Exchange, later of Lower Woodlands, Shiplake and his wife Cecelia Mary. David was educated at Pangbourne Nautical College. On the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned Sub Lieutenant Royal Naval Reserve and was posted to the Frigate HMS Mournie. On 15th June 1944 the ship was on patrol in the English Channel when it was torpedoed by German

submarine U-767 and David was one of those lost. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial

FREEMAN FREDERICK THOMAS BARNADO

Lieutenant Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards (156025)

Killed in action 25th October 1942 aged 24

Buried in El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake Church : Shiplake Memorial Hall

Freeman was born in Bombay, India on 16th May 1918 the son of Dr Frederick Adolphus Fleming Barnardo MD of Shiplake House, Shiplake and his wife Violet Kathleen Anne. He was educated at Eton College and Magdalene College, Cambridge. Freeman was a good cricketer and played for Eton, Cambridge and at least one first class match for Middlesex. On the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards and later promoted Lieutenant. On 25th October 1942 he was killed in action ten miles west of El Alamein aged 24. Freeman was buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery.

PETER SPENCER PENROSE BASTIAN

Pilot Officer (air gunner) RAFVR 429 Squadron RCAF (126739)

Killed while flying 26th March 1943 aged 22

Buried in The Hague (Westduin) General Cemetery, Holland

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake Church : Shiplake Memorial Hall

Peter was born in Falmouth, Devon in 1920 the son of Captain William Bastian a surgeon in the Royal Navy, later of Burbank Cottage, Shiplake, and his wife Lilian. On the outbreak of WW2 Peter joined the RAFVR and by 1943 had attained the rank of pilot officer and had been posted to 429 (RCAF) squadron stationed at RAF East Moor, Yorkshire. He was now qualified as a wireless operator/air gunner. At 19.32 hrs. on 26th March 1943 Vickers Wellington X serial no. MS487 coded AL-C took off on a bombing mission to Duisburg in Germany. The crew comprised Flying Officer George Fox, pilot : Sergeant Albert Skelly, observer : Sergeant G Murray, bomb aimer : Pilot Officer Peter Bastian, wireless operator/air gunner and Sergeant J McMurry, air gunner. On their homeward journey they were hit by flak (anti-aircraft fire) which damaged the port engine, fuel tanks and flying controls. They crashed at 23.30 hrs. on an estate known as De Raaphorst 3kms south east of Wassenaar, south Holland. F/O Fox, Sgt. Skelley and P/O Bastian were killed in the crash. Sergeant Murray was taken POW and Sergeant McMurry evaded capture and arrived back in England on 28th June 1943. The three men who died were buried in Westduin General Cemetery, The Hague.

JOHN ANDREW CARDEW DUNCAN

Lieutenant Grenadier Guards 1st Battalion King's Company (295070)

Died of wounds 30th March 1945 aged 20

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Germany

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake Cross : Shiplake Memorial Hall

John was born on 30th November 1924 in Rawalpindi, India, the son of Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Cardew Duncan CIE, MVO, OBE 9th Gurkha and later Commandant of the Jodhpur State Forces, Indian Army and his wife Brenda Marion. John was educated at Eton College and in 1940 he went to Trinity College School in Port Hope, Canada. While there he entered into all aspects of school life with enthusiasm. In his final year in the fifth form he was a member of the choir and a brilliant soccer player. Though only 17, because of the development of the war he felt he must return to England. John came back and returned to Eton College in 1942 and in February 1943 was nominated for an Officer Cadet Training Unit. Following this he was commissioned Second Lieutenant with the Grenadier Guards stationed at Windsor Barracks training new recruits. John was posted to the 1st Battalion King's Company and in early 1944 was promoted Lieutenant. In September 1944 he joined the regiment abroad and served in action as platoon commander. On Good Friday 30th March 1945 his battalion had crossed the River Rhine at 2 am. and by first light had pushed well ahead. At Aalten, Holland they met stiff opposition and his company were sent around the town to engage the enemy from the flank. With his platoon leading they began an attack in strength. In the midst of heavy German machine gun fire John moved forward to draw back one of his machine gunners who was in an exposed position. On his return he was hit by a mortar shell and badly wounded. He was immediately rushed to an advanced dressing station but died of his wounds twelve hours later aged just 20. John was buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

JOHN FRANCIS GOOCH

Sergeant Federal Malay States Volunteer Force

Killed in action 15th February 1942 aged 37

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake : Henley Grammar School

John was born in Shiplake in 1905 the son of Robert Henry Gooch a grocer and tea dealer of the Lashbrook Hotel, Lower Shiplake and his wife Annie Adelaide, who evidently owned the hotel. He was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Shiplake on 17th February 1910. John was educated at Henley Grammar School. He married Hildegard Franz-Toggler in Manchester in 1934 and some time later

they went to live in Singapore. As war clouds gathered men from all over Europe joined the volunteer forces. John joined the Federal Malay States Volunteer Force and by 1942 had reached the rank of sergeant in the Armoured Car Regiment. He was killed in action on 15th February 1942 aged 37. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial

JOHN FITZ HARDING

Private 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (14645357)

Killed in action 3rd June 1944 aged 22

Buried in Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, Italy

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake : Henley Grammar School

John was born in Shiplake in 1922 the son of Charles Fitz Harding a market gardener of "Overton", Lower Shiplake and his wife Hilda Fanny. He was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Shiplake on 28th May 1922. John was educated at Henley Grammar School and at the outbreak of WW2 enlisted as Private 14645357 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry. In February 1944 the battalion were fighting on the Anzio beachhead. In May the allied breakout began and they advanced on Rome. John was killed in action on 3rd June 1944 aged 22. Rome was finally taken on the following day. John was buried in the Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, which is situated 70 kms. south of Rome. Bodies were brought in from initial burials in the surrounding countryside for reburial.

ERNEST THOMAS GEORGE HARRIS

Flying Officer (navigator) 107 Squadron RAFVR 107 (165387)

Killed while flying 10th March 1945 aged 21

Buried in Hanover War Cemetery

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake

Ernest was born in Shiplake towards the latter end of 1923, the son of Ernest Edward Harris a motor driver of "Riversdale" Lower Shiplake, and his wife Elizabeth Amy. He was baptised at St Peter and St Paul, Shiplake on 9th December 1923. The family later moved to Binfield Heath as their family doctor advised that Ernest needed a less damp environment for the sake of his health. Ernest's headmaster advised his family that there was a fully financed opportunity for him to go to the newly opened Ryecote School (Ryecotewood), in Thame, where he could learn a trade. As his father was only a driver for a local building firm this was an excellent opportunity. Ernest was offered one of the first eight boarding places starting in 1938. Initially they were boarded in the old workhouse but when that was requisitioned for billeting in 1939 they were moved to 30 Upper High Street. Ernest

remained at Rycote for four years and learned his trade as a cabinet maker. There had been talk of him going on to Loughborough College but instead he decided to join the RAFVR. Ernest enlisted in Oxford sometime in 1942 as AC1 1604508. He was selected for aircrew training in 1944 by which time he was a Leading Aircraftsman. Ernest did the first of his training at RAF Cranwell and then was sent to Canada where he qualified as a navigator. On his return he was posted to 107 squadron which was based at Great Massingham in Norfolk and granted a commission as Flying Officer on 2nd December 1944 by which time the squadron were based at AL.75 (advanced landing ground) at Cambrai-Epinoy in France equipped with DH Mosquitos. On the evening of 10th March 1945 following a briefing at 17.00 hrs. DH98 Mosquito FB6 fighter bomber serial no. HR254 coded OM-L, took off from Cambrai. On board were pilot Flying Officer Robert O'Sullivan RCAF and navigator Flying Officer Ernie Harris. Their mission (4) was to destroy transportation and harass movement on route Magdeburg - Brunswick - Hildesheim - Hameln - Lohne and Brunswick – Lehrte. The aircraft was reported missing due to prevailing bad weather over all target areas. It was later discovered that the aircraft had crashed near Luthorst, 18kms east of Holzminden and both men were killed. They were originally buried by the Germans in Luthorst German Cemetery but later transferred to Hanover War Cemetery. Ernest was aged 21.

RALPH ARMINE IGNATIUS HARRISON

Wing Commander (pilot) 100 Squadron RAFVR (36029)

Killed while flying 12th June 1943 aged 42

Buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : None

Ralph was born in Hampshire on 2nd October 1912 the son of Cecil Eustace Harrison, late of Shiplake Court and his wife Alice nee Woodhouse. His sister Phillippa Jane was born the same day. They were also the grandchildren of Mr R H C Harrison of Shiplake Court. Ralph married Nora Patricia Caraena Pringle in 1936 and later lived at 133 High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire. Ralph was commissioned in the RAFVR and gained his pilot's license. He attained the rank of wing commander and in 1943 was posted as a staff officer to GHQ. On the night of 11th June 1943 Ralph was flying as P2 (second pilot) on board 100 squadron Avro Lancaster III ED786 coded HW-P. The aircraft took off from RAF Grimsby, Lincolnshire at 22.27 hrs. on a bombing raid to Dusseldorf, also on board were Squadron Leader James Ross Manahan, pilot : Flying Officer Leonard John Collins, navigator : Sergeant James Henry Mitchell, wireless operator/air gunner : Sergeant Robert Elston Longster, flight engineer : Sergeant Wilfred Gordon Watts, air gunner : Sergeant Frederick Harry Martin, air gunner : Pilot Officer George McVitty, bomb

aimer. The aircraft was shot down by a German night fighter of 1/NJG 1 piloted by Fw. Kohlar and crashed at 00.40 hrs.in to the Oosterschelde off Schelphoek (Zeeland), Holland. Six of the crew including Ralph were buried in Bergen-op-Zoom Cemetery, Noord Brabant, Netherlands. The pilot squadron leader Manahan and flight engineer Longster have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

ROBERT HIRAM HASKINS

Sergeant 5th Battalion The Buffs,Royal East Kent Regiment (6295894)

Killed in action 5th November 1944 aged 30

Buried in Santerno Valley War Cemetery, Italy

SHIPLAKE, Local Memorials : None

Robert was born on 5th November 1914 the son of Edward Hiram Haskins a railway shunter of 109 Milton Road, Croydon and his wife Ethel Daisy Haskins. He was baptised at St James, Croydon Common on 3rd February 1915. Robert was educated at Sydenham Road School and on leaving he worked as a woodworking machinist. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as Private 6295894 The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Robert married Dorothy Marjory Casey in Henley in 1943 by this time he had attained the rank of sergeant and had been posted to the 5th Battalion of the regiment. He was killed in action on 5th November 1944 while his battalion were fighting as part of the British 78th Division in the Apennines and was buried in Santerno Valley War Cemetery in Italy

LEONARD JOSEPH JOHN MACKEY

Private Non Combatant Corps (97002025)

Died 19th April 1942 aged 26

Buried Whitchurch Hill (St John) Churchyard

SHIPLAKE, Local Memorials : Shiplake : Whitchurch

Leonard was born in Hackney the son of Joseph John Mackey a watch payer later of 8 Bridle Road, Whitchurch Hill and his wife Florence. At the time of the 1939 Register Leonard was working as a crane driver and lodging at 5 Paget Road, Ilford. Soon after he joined the Non-Combatant Corps as Private 97002025. He died in Fusehill Emergency Hospital, Carlisle on 19th April 1942 aged 26 of peritonitis, following appendicitis. Leonard's body was taken to Whitchurch Hill (St John the Baptist) and buried there on 25th April 1942. His connection to Shiplake has not yet been established.

FREDERICK CHALLENGER OVERALL

Aircraftsman 2nd Class (air gunner) 148 Squadron Royal Air Force (632442)

Killed while flying 28th November 1939 aged 23

Buried in Harwell Cemetery

SHIPLAKE : Local Memorials : None

Frederick was born in 1916 in Hurley, Berkshire the son of Evelyn Mary Overall. She married Charles Piper a shepherd in 1919 and they lived at 31 Broadmoor, Crowthorne. Frederick joined the RAF before the outbreak of WW2 as AC1 632442. He qualified as a wireless operator and was posted to 148 squadron as a wireless operator/air gunner and promoted to AC2. On the night of 28th November 1939 Avro Anson N5084 coded BS-P took off from Harwell on a night training flight. On board were Pilot Officer Thomas William Storey, pilot aged 29 : Sergeant Thomas Robert Moss, observer aged 29 : Sergeant Gerald Roland Cecil Talbot, observer aged 22 : AC1 Arthur John Whittaker 23, wireless operator/air gunner : AC2 Frederick Challenger Overall aged 23, wireless operator/air gunner. The aircraft flew into high ground at Simonsbath, Exmoor National Park, 15 miles south-west of Minehead, Somerset. All five crew were killed. The wreckage was not found until 40 hours after the crash. Frederick's body was returned to Harwell for burial in Harwell Cemetery. According to CWGC his mother had moved to Shiplake by this time.

THE HON. ANTHONY FRANCIS PHILLIMORE

Captain 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (37238)

Killed in action 23rd May 1940 aged 33

Buried in Athies Communal Cemetery Extension

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake

Anthony was born on 2nd February 1907 the son of Godfrey Walter Phillimore, 2nd Baron Phillimore MC of Shiplake House and his wife Lady Dorothy Barbara Phillimore nee Haig. Anthony married Anne Julia Pereira in 1934. He was commissioned into the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers and by 1940 had attained the rank of captain on the General Staff. In 1940 the regiment was covering the rear-guard action of the allies towards Dunkirk and Anthony was killed on 23rd May 1940 aged 33. He was buried in Athies Communal Cemetery 5 miles east of Arras.

ALBERT FRANK WEST POLDEN

Flight Lieutenant (navigator) 189 Squadron RAFVR (138135)

Killed in action 7th May 1945 aged 32

Buried in Becklingen War Cemetery, Soltau, Niedersac

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : None

Albert was born on 3rd December 1912 the son of Samuel Jacob Polden a farmer of "The Mill" Appledore, Kent and his wife Freda. When he left school he trained as an elementary school teacher. Albert married Phyllis E Marner of Little Croft, Shiplake at St Peter & St Paul, Shiplake on 11th June 1938 and they lived at 25 The Mills, Appledore, Kent. On the outbreak of WW2 he joined the RAFVR and trained as a navigator. By 1945 Albert had attained the rank of flight lieutenant and posted to 189 squadron based at RAF Fulbeck in Lincolnshire. On the night of 7th March 1945 Avro Lancaster NG308 coded CA-G took off at 18.04hrs from Fulbeck on a mission to bomb the oil production facilities at Hamburg, Germany. On board were Flight Lieutenant J T Ormiston, pilot : Sergeant J T Russell, flight engineer : Flight Lieutenant Albert Polden, navigator : Flight Sergeant D E Barker, bomb aimer : Flight Sergeant B V Levesley, wireless operator/air gunner, Sergeant W C Brown, air gunner, and Sergeant W Prince, air Gunner. The aircraft was one of 234 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitos of 5 Group taking part in the raid. The aircraft was shot down over Germany and all of the crew managed to bale-out. Six of them were immediately captured by the Germans but Albert was shot dead while attempting to evade capture. He was buried in Becklingen War Cemetery, Soltau, Niedersachsen, Germany. CWGC record Albert as son of Samuel Jacob Polden, Husband of Frieda Polden of Lower Shiplake. He is remembered on the Appledore, Kent War Memorial

CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERICK SMITH

Leading Aircraftsman RAFVR (1602627)

Killed while flying 19th June 1943 aged 17

Buried in Dunnville Riverside Cemetery, Ontario, Canada

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : Shiplake Church and Memorial Hall

William was born on 18th May 1926 the son of John Titus Smith, a motor engineer of "Holmhurst", Sutton Common Road, Sutton, Surrey, later of Burnbank, New Road, Lower Shiplake, (at the time of the 1939 Register), and his wife Charlotte Maud Marcia nee Saunders. The family later moved to Old Yews, Kidmore End. Charles joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and in February 1943 as William Charles LAC 1602627 giving his date of birth as 18th May 1926. He was sent to No.6 Service Flying Training School, Royal Canadian Air Force, Dunnville, Ontario, Canada, where he arrived on or around 25th February 1943. By mid June

he had completed the basic part of the course and gone solo. On 19th June 1943 he was flying an RCAF Havard serial no. 2963 and while “beating up” Lake Erie he crashed in the lake and died. William was buried on Tuesday 22nd June 1943 in Riverside Cemetery, Dunnville, Ontario, Canada, with full military honours

CECIL WILLIAM (BILL) WHITELEY

Captain Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Died 1st October 1946 aged 30

Buried in Nigeria

SHIPLAKE. Local Memorials : None

Cecil was born in 1916 the son of Mr & Mrs E A Whiteley of Well House Shiplake. He attained the rank of Captain in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry during WW2 and died of typhoid in Nigeria on 1st October 1946 aged 30. He was buried in Nigeria

MEN OF STOKE ROW

JAMES HARRY BIRD

Lance Corporal Royal Marines HM Landing Craft 653 (CH/X108318)

Killed in action 9th June 1944 aged 19

Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial

STOKE ROW. Local Memorials : Stoke Row .

James was born in Stoke Row in 1925 the son of Charles Bird, a bricklayer of 9 Council Houses, Stoke Row and his wife Edith May. During WW2 James joined the Royal Marines and attained the rank of lance corporal. In June 1944 he took part in the “Battle of Normandy”. He was killed in action on 9th June 1944 aged 19 whilst aboard assault mechanised landing craft (LCM) 653. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

PETER ARTHUR MERRICK BURRELL

Sergeant (observer) 40 Squadron RAFVR (580941)

Killed while flying 23rd May 1940 aged 19

Buried in Miraumont Communal Cemetery, France

STOKE ROW : Local Memorials : None

Peter was born London on 14th June 1920 the son of Walter Ernest Burrell a clerk of 24 Aldbourne Road, Hammersmith and his wife Ada Catherine, a school teacher.

Later they moved to Primrose Cottage, Stoke Row. Nothing is known yet about Peter's early life and education but he enlisted in the RAF prior to the start of WW2 as AC1 580941. By May 1940 he had qualified as an observer and attained the rank of Sergeant. Peter was posted to 40 Squadron who at the time were based at RAF Wyton, near St Ives, Cambridgeshire. On 23rd May 1940 at 10.10 Bristol Blenheim IV serial no. L8834 coded BL-V took off to attack enemy troop columns in the Arras-Boulogne area. The crew comprised of Flying Officer R H Jacoby, pilot – Sergeant Peter Arthur Merrick Burrell, observer and LAC Peter Rex Whittle, wireless operator/air gunner. The aircraft was shot down, probably by flak (anti-aircraft fire) over Miraumont 13 km NNE of Albert, Somme Dept. France. Peter and LAC Whittle were killed in the resultant crash and Flying Officer Jacoby was taken POW and eventually sent to Camp Stalag Luft III. The two Peters were buried in Miraumont Communal Cemetery

PETER LEVINGE CLAYTON

Pilot Officer (pilot) 149 Squadron RAFVR (121334)

Killed while flying 6th June 1942 aged 20

Buried in Adegheem Canadian War Cemetery, Belgium

STOKE ROW. Local Memorials : Stoke Row : Epsom College.

Peter was born in Broadview, Saskatchewan, Canada on 18th May 1922 the son of Charles Levine Clayton, a farmer of Broadview and his wife Esta Edith Clayton. They had married in Chelsea on 22nd February 1920 and obviously gone to Canada for a short while before returning to England. On 15th March 1924 the family left their home at Springfield Avenue, South Norwood, London, aboard a ship from Liverpool bound for St Johns, New Brunswick, Canada once again, according to the ships manifest to set up home in Canada. It does not appear to have worked out and Esta and Peter returned to England leaving Charles in Canada. They lived at Oakwood, Nether Street, Finchley and Peter was educated at Epsom College. On the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RAFVR and by 1942 he had got his "wings" and attained the rank of Flying Officer (121334). He was posted to 149 (East India) Squadron RAF Lakenheath and on the night of 5th June 1942 took off at 23.15 hrs. aboard Short Stirling W7508 coded OJ-D on a bombing raid to Essen. On board were Flying Officer Peter Levine Clayton, pilot : Sergeant James Hutchison Mouat, pilot : Sergeant Michael Joseph Kelleher, Flight Engineer : Pilot Officer David Morgan Price Jones, Observer : Sergeant D J Poynter, Bomb Aimer : Sergeant Thomas Alfred George, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner : Sergeant John Frederick Gwyther, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner Sergeant Benjamin Frederick Goldsmith, Air Gunner. Their aircraft was shot down by German night fighter pilot Oblt. Walter Barte of 4/NJGI at 02.27 hrs and crashed Ecluse 15km south-west of Tienen-

Tirlemont (Brabant). Sergeant Poynter was taken POW, Sergeant Goldsmith evaded capture and the rest of the crew perished. They were buried next to each other in Adegem Cemetery. Peter's mother was living at New Cottage, Stoke Row at the time of his death. Sergeant Goldsmith made it back to England and was subsequently killed when Short Stirling R9167 coded OJ-N was shot down on a raid to Krefeld on 2nd October 1942 at Venlo in Holland where the crew were initially buried. They were later reburied in Jonkerbos Cemetery in Holland.

GEOFFREY FREDERICK LAING HOPKINSON

Flying Officer (pilot) 296 Squadron RAFVR (118560)

Killed while flying 8th July 1943 aged 21

Buried in Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia

STOKE ROW. Local Memorials : Stoke Row

Geoffrey was born in Kensington on 8th July 1922 the son of Captain Cecil Hopkinson RASC and his wife Esme Leila (nee Laing), later of "The Quarries" Stoke Row (now known as Chiltern House) This appears to have been the home of Esme's mother. On the outbreak of WW2 Geoffrey joined the RAFVR and after gaining his "wings" he was posted to 296 Squadron as Flying Officer 118560. In July 1943 thirty two Armstrong Whitworth Albemarle twin engine transport aircraft of the squadron were posted to Froha, Algeria to take part in "Operation Husky", the invasion of Sicily. On 8th July 1943 Geoffrey was piloting A.W. Albemarle P1552 also on board were Flying Officer Oscar Coates, co-pilot : Flight Sergeant George Hutchins, wireless operator/air gunner and Sergeant John Charley, air gunner. While awaiting to take off from Goubnine airfield, 30 km south west of Monastir, they were hit by Albemarle P1552 which was on a "go around" and their aircraft was destroyed by fire. Geoffrey aged 21 and the crew were all killed and buried in Enfidaville War Cemetery in Tunisia.

BASIL LAMBOURNE

Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy HMS Gloucester (D/KX 105429)

Killed in action 22nd May 1941 aged 23

Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial

STOKE ROW. Local Memorials : Stoke Row

Basil was born on 28th November 1917 the son of George Arthur Lambourne, a master baker of Stoke Row Common and his wife Annie. When he left school he worked as an engineer's assistant. Basil enlisted in the Royal Navy on the outbreak of WW2 and by May 1941 had attained the rank of stoker 1st class. He was posted to the cruiser HMS Gloucester and was killed during "operation Merkur, the German

airborne attack on the island of Crete. The ship was bombed by German Ju-87 Stukas and sank at 5.15 pm with the loss of 45 officers and 648 crew members, including Basil aged 23. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

GEOFFREY PITT

Private 1/4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment (5504578)

Died 16th May 1944 aged 24

Buried Stoke Row (St John) Churchyard

STOKE ROW. Local Memorial : None

Geoffrey was born in Stoke Row on 29th August 1919 the son of Sidney George Pitt, a painter and decorator of Roland Cottages, Stoke Row and his wife Gertrude May. When he left school Geoffrey worked as a gardener. He married Violet Esme Elizabeth Barnett late in 1939. Geoffrey enlisted in the army on the outbreak of WW2 as Private 5504578 1/4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Geoffrey died on 16th May 1944 aged 24 and was buried in Stoke Row (St John) Churchyard.

RUDOLF SCHOLZ

Sergeant 311 (Czech) Squadron RAFVR (788602)

Killed while flying 10th April 1945 aged 21

Buried in Stoke Row (St John) Churchyard

STOKE ROW. Local Memorial :

Rudolf was born on 10th February 1924 in Litvinov, a town in the far west of Czechoslovakia on the border with Germany. He was the son of Karl and Berta Scholz who left Czechoslovakia on 14th March 1939 and came to England via Poland. Rudolf joined the RAFVR in July 1943 and after completing his training he was posted to 311 (Czech) Squadron which at the time were based at RAF Tain, north of Inverness in Scotland, as part of Coastal Command on Atlantic patrol. On 10th April 1945 at approx. 04.00 hrs. Consolidated Liberator GR Mk VI serial no. EV955 coded PP-D took off from RAF Tain along with 3 other aircraft on anti U-Boat patrol. On board were pilot Flight Lieutenant Josef Simet : Flight Sergeant Zdenek Palme : Flight Sergeant Arnost Hayek : Flight Sergeant Otto Kennedy : Sergeant Josef Vanis : Sergeant Rudolf Scholz plus apparently three others. It was a dark morning with poor visibility with 50% cloud cover. The aircraft did not gain sufficient altitude and at 4.07 crashed among the sand dunes about 1500 yards beyond the end of the runway. At Tain. The crew named were all killed including Rudolf aged 21. His body was returned to Stoke Row and he is buried in the churchyard at St John's.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MEMORIAL

FRANK GRENVILLE ASHCROFT

Trooper Royal Horse Guards (305290)

Killed in action 24th September 1942 aged 22

Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Frank was born in Manchester in 1920 the son of Frank Ashcroft, a Licensed Victualler, later of 2 Park View Drive, Twyford, and his wife Mary. Frank junior was educated at Henley Grammar School from 18th September 1930. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Horse Guards. In September 1942 the Horse Guards were part of the 10th Armoured Brigade and were acting as a Reconnaissance Regiment for the Battle of El Alamein. Frank was killed in action on 24th September 1942, aged 22. He was buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery in Israel.

RONALD JOSEPH AUSTIN

Sergeant 82 Squadron RAFVR (908623)

Died while flying. 27th May 1941 Malta aged 28

Commemorated on the Malta Memorial

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Cookley Green.

Ronald was born on 12th September 1913 at Cookley, the son of George Austin, a carter, of Cookley, Swyncombe, and his wife Beatrice Emma. He was baptised at Swyncombe on 19th October 1913. Ronald started at the Henley Grammar School in September 1925 aged 12. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was posted to 82 Squadron based at Bodney in Norfolk. The Squadron flew the Bristol Blenheim IV. In May 1941, 82 Squadron lost two Blenheims off Malta, V6460 and 6427; both were destroyed by their own bomb blasts whilst on anti-shipping strikes, and crashed in the sea off Malta. On V6460 two crewmen were killed and one taken prisoner, and with V6427 three of the aircrew were killed. Ronald is one of the five members of 82 Squadron commemorated on the Malta Memorial on that day so it is quite reasonable to conclude that he was a member of the aircrew of one of these aircraft.

ARTHUR JOHN AYLING

Lieutenant Royal Army Ordnance Corps (202861)

Drowned 11th June 1943 aged 25

Buried Henley Fairmile Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH

Arthur was born in Henley in 1917, the son of William George Ayling, a mechanical engineer of 10 Church Street, Henley and his wife Ethel. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 19th September 1929 until 1932 and then went on to

Exmouth Grammar School from 1932 to 1935. On leaving school Arthur worked for Messrs Friend & Horton, electrical engineers in Exeter until in 1937 he joined the Post Office Engineering Department, also in Exeter. In 1940 he joined the army and became an NCO Instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals, subsequently adding to his experience by working for Stuart Turner Ltd in Henley. In October 1941 Arthur was commissioned Lieutenant in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and went to Africa in 1942. In September of the same year he was invalided home and after a short recuperation he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, attached to the Light Anti-Aircraft Camp at Stiffkey, Norfolk. While stationed there he accidentally drowned on 11th June 1943. He was 26. His body was returned to Henley and he was buried in Henley Fairmile Cemetery.

RONALD JOHN MORTON BATTY

Sergeant (air gunner) 75 Squadron, Royal Air Force/New Zealand unit (549542)

Killed while flying 21st July 1944 aged 27

Buried Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH.

Ronald was born in Henley in 1917, the son of John Batty, a Brewer's Agent of 38 Hart Street, Henley and his wife Margaret Ann. In 1918 the family moved to The Armistice Hotel, a temperance hotel at 31-33 Hart Street. He was educated at Burghfield House Preparatory School and then Henley Grammar School, and after a course in farming he joined the Royal Air Force in 1938. The squadron to which he was attached formed part of the Advanced Air Striking Force which flew to France the day before the outbreak of WW2, and Sgt. Batty was amongst the last parties to be evacuated from Brest after a hazardous journey across France from Rheims after Dunkirk. On his return to this country he saw service with the Ground Camouflage and Decoy Service and after taking up air gunnery he was posted to 75 Squadron, a New Zealand unit operating Avro Lancasters, based at RAF Mepal in Cambridgeshire. On the night of 20th July 1944 at 23.30hrs, Ronald took off in Lancaster ME691 (AA-R) flown by Pilot Officer Harold Whittington. The aircraft was one of 147 Lancasters and 22 Mosquitos that were to take part in a raid on Hamburg Oil Refinery in the Ruhr. At 01.33hrs on 21st July 1944 the Lancaster was brought down and crashed near the Veghel-Uden road in the south east of the Netherlands. All of the crew with the exception of the flight engineer, Sgt. D.W.Gore (who was taken prisoner), were killed. The crew comprised Pilot Officer H.Whittington (pilot), Flying Officer P.E.Tompkins (wireless operator/air gunner), Flight Lieutenant J.Stevens (navigator), Flight Lieutenant A.Crawford Fletcher RNZAF (air gunner), Flight Sgt.A.A.Simpson RNZAF (air bomber) and of course Sgt. Ronald John Morton Batty (air gunner). They were all buried in Uden War Cemetery, 33kms north of Eindhoven.

WILLIAM ALFRED REGINALD BRYANT

2nd Lieutenant Gordon Highlanders (207032)

Killed in action 22nd November 1944 aged 30

Buried in the Reichwald Forest War Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

William (Toby) was born in Fordingbridge, Hampshire on 27th May 1914, the son of Harry George Bryant, a commercial clerk of Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge and his wife Florence Catherine. He was baptised on 5th July 1914 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Fordingbridge. William became a master at Henley Grammar School, and later commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders. He married Irene Neuman in 1940. In 1944 he was seconded to the 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and was killed in action on 22nd November 1944, aged 30, whilst his battalion was attacking Niederheid in the northern Rhine area of Westphalia.

EDWARD OWEN BULE

Flight Sergeant (navigator) 464 Squadron RAFVR (1602613)

Killed while flying 1st January 1945 aged 24

Buried Six Planes village cemetery Belgium, later moved to Heverlee War Cemetery 30km south west of Brussels.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Kidmore End.

Edward was born in Newport, Monmouthshire on 18th September 1920, the son of Fred Eric Bule, a foreman bricklayer, and his wife Irene Doris. The family moved to Sonning Common in 1929, initially living in Virginia Cottage, Kennylands Road and then in 1931 they moved to 5 Kennylands Road. Edward was educated at Henley Grammar School from 15th September 1932 and on leaving school he went to work as a Post Office engineer. He joined the Royal Air Force Reserve on 11th December 1941 at Oxford and was recommended for training as a Pilot/Observer. The first months of his training are difficult to trace, but we know he married Irene Doris Goodwin in 1943 in Lancashire. On 18th February 1943 Edward was sent to Canada to complete his training, by now having transferred to being a navigator. He qualified on 9th July 1943 and his first posting was to 464 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force on 27th November 1944. They were based at RAF Thorney Island, Hampshire and were operating the De Havilland Mosquito FB V1 fighter bomber aircraft. Edward was promoted to Flight Sergeant on 30th December 1944. On 1st January 1945 at 01.40 Pilot Officer Irvine Bradley, who was on attachment from the Royal Canadian Air Force, took off from RAF Thorney Island in DH Mosquito NT231, coded SB-U, with Edward as his navigator/wireless operator. There were seventeen other aircraft of 464 Squadron on the mission and they were detailed to bomb enemy concentrations in the area of Houffalize – Vielsalm-Karlshausen – Martenlange, in the south west of Belgium. Their targets consisted of tanks and other motor vehicles. The details of their demise were classified at the time as "failed to return". It now appears that they were shot down by Oberfeldwebel Heinz Helmut Baudach, flying an Me-262 jet fighter, and crashed near the village of Six

Planes, in the Municipality of Belgium, the Province of Luxembourg. Edward and Irvine were both killed and originally buried in the village cemetery at 'Six Planes'. After the end of the war both of their bodies were transferred to the Heverlee War Cemetery, 30kms to the southwest of Brussels. Edward's widow Irene had a daughter Anne on 25th May 1945.

PATRICK CLISBY CHURCH

Leading Aircraftsman, RAFVR (1030299)

Died 16th July 1943 aged 31

Buried POW Camp burial site, later moved to Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Patrick was born in Twyford in 1911, the son of John William Church of London Road, Twyford and his wife Alice. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from January 1922. John married Beryl Lovegrove in 1938. At the outbreak of the WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and by 1943 was a Leading Aircraftsman. At some stage it would appear that Patrick was taken prisoner by the Japanese and forced to work on the notorious Burma-Siam Railway. He died on 16th July 1943 at the age of 31, and was buried in a POW Camp burial site. He was later transferred to Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

MARY DEWE

Civilian death. German bombing raid in London in the Blitz aged 25

Died 10th September 1940, aged 25

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Not on School Memorial

Mary was born in Henley in 1915, the daughter of Frederick William Dewe, a flour miller of Hinton, Fairmile, Henley and his wife Charlotte. In September 1928 the Henley Grammar School underwent a reorganisation, part of which was to admit female students. Mary was one of the first of these, being registered in September 1928. Her father Frederick died in 1939, aged 71. Mary died as a result of a German bombing raid during the Blitz in London on 10th September 1940, aged 25.

ALLAN CLIFFORD EDWARDS

Sergeant (pilot) 75 Squadron, RAFVR (1163977)

Killed while flying 31st December 1944 aged 22

Buried at first in the British War Cemetery 1914-1918 in the Zollstock District. After 1945 the crew remains were moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Kidmore End.

Allan was born in Essex in 1922 the son of William Edwards, a grocers manager, and his wife Annie. The family later moved to the Supply Stores, Sonning Common, and Allan started at Henley Grammar School on 9th January 1934. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and after training he was

posted to 75 Squadron which was stationed at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, and flew Vickers Wellingtons. On the night of 11th October 1941 Allan and his crew took off from Feltwell in Vickers Wellington Z8909 coded AA- on a bombing raid to Cologne in Germany. Their aircraft crashed near the target and the crew were all killed, Sergeant Edwards included. He and five other crew members were first buried in the British War Cemetery 1914-1918 in the Zollstock District, but after 1945 their remains were taken to the Rheinberg War Cemetery at Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany. Edward's widow married Tom Clements in 1949.

MAURICE HALL FALCONAR

Lieutenant, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (65143)

Killed in action 23rd December 1941 aged 29

Buried Stanley Military Cemetery, Hong Kong

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : None

Maurice was born in Paddington in 1912, the son of Dr William Ernest Falconar of Rupert House, Henley and his wife Elizabeth Annie. Maurice attended Henley Grammar School from September 1924 until 10th April 1929. At the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment. By the middle of December 1941 he had been promoted to a full Lieutenant and posted to the 1st Battalion who were in Hong Kong. Maurice was killed in action on 23rd December 1941 aged 29, fighting around the town of Stanley, which finally fell to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. He was buried in Stanley Military Cemetery, Hong Kong.

JOHN FRANCIS GOOCH

Sergeant, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, Armoured Car Regiment.

Killed in action 15th February 1942 Singapore aged 36

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Shiplake :

John was born in Shiplake in 1905, the son of Robert Henry Gooch, a grocer and tea dealer, of the Lashbrook Hotel, Lower Shiplake and his wife Annie Adelaide. He was baptised at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shiplake on 17th February 1910. John was educated at Henley Grammar School. He married Hildegard Franz-Toggler in Manchester in 1934 and sometime later they went to live in Singapore. As war clouds gathered in Europe men from all walks of life joined the Volunteer Forces. John joined the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force and by 1942 he had reached the rank of Sergeant in the Armoured Car Regiment. He was killed in action on 15th February 1942. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial.

DOUGLAS TIMOTHY GRANT

Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (258260)

Killed in action 9th December 1944 Elst aged 23

Buried Jonkerbos War Cemetery near Nijmegen, Holland

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Peppard

Douglas was born in Brentford in 1921 the son of William George Grant, a transport driver and his wife Gladys Lilian, late of Hamadays, Peppard Road, Sonning Common. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 14th September 1933. At the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. By 1944 he had been promoted to full Lieutenant and was fighting in Holland. Douglas was killed in action at Elst on 9th December 1944, aged 23.

LESLIE CHARLES GREEN

Lieutenant 135 Excavator Coy. Royal Engineers (63673)

Killed in action 29th May 1940 Dunkirk aged 25

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH : Rotherfield Peppard.

Leslie was born in Henley in 1914, the son of Sydney William Green, a farmer of Swiss Farm and his wife Mary Elizabeth. Leslie was baptised on 17th January 1915 at St. Mary's Church, Henley. He started at Henley Grammar School in January 1924. At the outbreak of the WW2, Leslie was commissioned into the Royal Engineers as a Second Lieutenant. By 1940 he was in France and had been promoted to Lieutenant and posted to 135 Excavator Coy. He was killed in the rear-guard action to Dunkirk on 29th May 1940 aged 25. His body was never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

RONALD LESLIE GREENING

Leading Airman, Royal Navy/Fleet Air Arm (FX 80581)

Died at sea 17th January 1941 aged 20

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH.

Ronald was born in Henley in 1920, the son of Edgar Alfred Greening, a cabinet maker of 15 King's Road, Henley and his wife May Caroline. He was baptised at St Mary's Church on 8th August 1920. Ronald was educated at Henley Grammar School from 14th September 1931. Soon after the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Navy. By 1941 Ronald was a Leading Airman and his flight training base was HMS Goshawk in Trinidad. In January 1941 the Blue Star line passenger and refrigerated cargo ship 'Almeda Star' left the port of Liverpool with a crew of 166 and 194 passengers bound for River Plate, South America. The ship was torpedoed by German submarine U-96 about 250mls off the Island of Lewis in the Hebrides and sank with all hands. The 194 passengers comprised of RNVR officers, Royal Navy ratings, Fleet Air Arm airmen and mechanics – Ronald being

one of those, aged 20. No bodies were recovered for burial and he is commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

JOHN FITZ HARDING

Private. 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (14645357)

Killed in action 3rd June 1944 aged 22

Buried in the Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, 70kms south of Rome

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Shiplake.

John was born in Shiplake in 1922 the son of Charles Fitz Harding, a market gardener of Overton, Lower Shiplake, Oxfordshire and his wife Hilda Fanny. He was baptised at St Peter & St Paul, Shiplake on 28th May 1922. John was educated at Henley Grammar School. At the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted as a Private in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. In February 1944 the 1st Battalion were fighting on the Anzio beach head in Italy. Eventually on 22nd May the allied break out began and they advanced on Rome. John was killed in action on 3rd June 1944 aged 22. Rome was finally taken the following day, 4th June 1944.

RHYS RICHARD JONES

Flight Sergeant, 250 Squadron, RAFVR (1336951)

Killed in action 2nd June 1944 aged 24

Buried Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, San Donato, Italy

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Kidmore End.

Rhys was born in Neath, South Wales in 1920, the son of G.R. Jones, later of Givens Avenue, Wood Lane, Sonning Common. Rhys started at Henley Grammar School on 23rd May 1933. At the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was posted to 250 Squadron as a Flight Sergeant. In 1944 the Squadron was based in Guidonia, Italy, flying Curtiss Kittyhawk IV aircraft. On 2nd June 1944 Rhys was flying Curtiss Kittyhawk IV serial no.FX744 on an armed recce of route 'D' when he called to say that his engine was failing and that he had jettisoned his bombs. The aircraft was losing height and he was ordered to bale out. Instead Rhys decided to force land, which he did but the aircraft crashed and caught fire - Rhys was killed in the fire. He was 24 years of age.

GEORGE GORDON JUDD

Flying Officer (pilot) 15 Squadron, RAFVR (119300)

Died 31st July 1943 aged 21

Commemorated on the RAF Runnymede Memorial.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Checkendon Church

George was born on 15th April 1922, the son of Reginald Gordon Judd, a motor engineer, later of Heatherlea, Beacon Hill Road, Hindhead, Surrey, and his wife Eleanor Francis. The family later moved to Checkendon. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 9th January 1934, and on leaving school George joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. After gaining his pilots wings George was posted to 15 Squadron. In 1943 the squadron was based at RAF Mildenhall,

and were flying Short Stirling IIIs. On the night of 30th July 1943 George and his crew took off from Mildenhall in Short Stirling serial no. EF427, coded LS-Am for a raid over Ramscheid in Germany. At 01.29hrs on 31st July 1943 they were shot down by flak (anti-aircraft fire) and crashed in a field roughly 4kms north of Mannheim. George was killed in the crash aged 21, as were Sgt.Dennis Brown, 21, Sgt.Sydney Long, 26, and Sgt.William Wells. Pilot Officer K.A. Banks, Sgt. D.Fry and Sgt.L.Richards were all taken as P.O.W. George's body was never identified for burial and he and the other crew members who died are commemorated on the RAF Runnymede Memorial.

HARRY ALAN PAYZE

Flight Sergeant (pilot) 152 Squadron RAFVR (355513)

Died while flying 13th April 1943 aged 26

Buried in Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : HT. Grandparents' grave HT churchyard.

Harry was born in Chelsea in 1917 the son of Arthur Payze and his wife Margaret. Arthur had lived at 68 St Marks Road, Henley with his parents Percy and Mary before his marriage and after had moved to Cookham, Berkshire and then Henley. Harry was educated at Henley Grammar School and at the outbreak of WW2 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. By 1943 he had qualified for his 'wings' and was posted to 152 Squadron as a Flight Sergeant. In March 1943 the squadron became a fighter bomber squadron and were based at Souk-el-Khemis in North Africa flying Spitfire VBs. There were a number of airfields around Souk-el-Khemis known only by their code name. 152 Squadron were based at 'Paddington' and Harry was in 'B' flight. During April 1943 Harry flew a sortie on 4th in Spitfire VB ES309 take off 17.45 on 'dusk patrol base' returning at 19.00; on 9th he flew in Spitfire JG868 take off 11.50 on 'Escort to Bac R. Menez Area' returning at 11.40; 11th in Spitfire ES309 take off 08.40 Bombing Transport North of Menez, return 9.30; Spitfire JG752 take off 16.30 Scramble Patrol Menez Landed Souk-el-Arba 18.05; 12th April Spitfire EE777 take off 17.00 'Escort Bombers south of Tunis' return 18.00. On 13th April 1943 Harry took off from Souk-el-Khemis at 16.39 on board Spitfire 5B EE777 (Blue 2) one of six aircraft of 'B' Flight along with six Spitfires from 'A' Flight on bomber escort duty along with 18 North American B-25 Mitchells of 445 Squadron USAF on a raid on Oudna Landing Ground. It would appear that at approx.17.10 they were jumped by a group of Messerschmitt Bf-109s and Focke Wulf 190s. Harry's aircraft was shot down but it is not clear whether he was shot down by USAF B-25s or enemy fighter aircraft. He was killed on 13th April 1943 aged 26 and was buried in Enfidaville War Cemetery in Tunisia

LEONARD HILARY BORLASE PEARCE

Flight Sergeant (pilot) 46 Squadron, RAFVR (741920)

Killed while flying 18th August 1940 aged 27

Buried in St John the Baptist churchyard, Kirkby Wharfe, Yorkshire

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH. HGS

Leonard was born in Kent on 31st March 1914, the son of Thomas Pearce, a Captain in the Royal Navy, and his wife Annie Christina. The family later moved to Henley and lived at Lamorna, Greys Road. Leonard was educated at Henley Grammar School from September 1923 until July 1925. From there he went to Imperial Services College and was a well-known member of Henley Rowing Club. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and soon qualified for his pilots wings and was promoted to Flight Sergeant. Leonard joined 32 Squadron in 1940 and destroyed a Dornier Do 17 on 15th August 1940. On 18th August he was shot down in Hawker Hurricane R4106 in combat over Canterbury and managed to successfully bale out, being only slightly wounded. Leonard was then posted to 46 Squadron based at Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire. On the night of 9th April 1941 he was returning from an operational patrol in Hawker Hurricane Mk.1 V7610 coded V-OM. He was coming in to land at Sherburn in Elmet airfield when the aircraft stalled and crashed near Barkston Ash. Leonard died in the crash. He was 27 years old. He was buried in St John the Baptist Churchyard, Kirby Wharfe, Yorks.

JOHN SEPTIMUS PYNE

Sergeant (air gunner) RAFVR 460 Squadron RAAF (1852477)

Killed while flying 9th April 1944 aged 19

Buried in Cambridge City Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

John was born in Reading in 1925 the son of Horace William Pyne and his wife Louise Ann. The family later moved to Henley and John attended the Henley Grammar School. On leaving school he entered the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and in 1944 was posted to 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, stationed at Binbrook in Lincolnshire. On 9th April 1944 the squadron were destined for a mine laying operation in Danzig Bay in the Baltic. The aircraft on which John was an air gunner was an Avro Lancaster, serial no. ME727, coded AR-X2. It did not make it off the ground, crashing on take off. All of the crew were killed. Pilot Officer W.McKenzie, RAAF, the pilot, Flight Sergeant W.Weekes RAAF, navigator, Flight Sgt.B.Simpson RAAF, bomb aimer, Flight Sgt. R.Mansfield RAAF, wireless operator, Sgt.S.B. Barber RAF flight engineer, Sgt.J.L.Crouch RAF air gunner, and Sgt.John S.Pyne RAF air gunner. The crew were buried in the Cambridge City Cemetery.

CECIL BADEN READ

Private, Royal Army Service Corps (S/14535214)

Died 3rd January 1946 aged 45

Buried in Munster Heath Cemetery, 70kms north of Dortmund, Germany

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH. HTC.

Cecil was born on 13th November 1900 at Taplow near Maidenhead, the son of John Cook Read and his wife Ellen Annie. At the time of the census in 1901 the family were living at 'The Plough' Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, where John was the publican. By the time of the next census in 1911 the family were at the Phyllis Court Club, Henley, where John was the head boatman. Cecil started at Henley Grammar School in April 1913 and remained there until December 1916. On leaving there he too worked for a time at Phyllis Court Club and then for Mr Rudolph Consterdine at the YMCA both in Folkestone and in France. Cecil remained with them for seven years and then joined Messrs Simmons & Sons at their Henley offices. He remained with them for 17 years being in charge of their tithe department. It was during this time Cecil married Hester Katherine Mott, a teacher, the daughter of Frederick James Mott a postman. The marriage took place on 14th July 1934 at Holy Trinity Church, Henley. They later had two children, Martyn and Gillian and lived at 'The Fields' Cromwell Road, Henley. From the outset of WW2 Cecil had served with the St John's Ambulance Brigade and was a member of the ARP Auxiliary Reserve, being a member of the Henley First Aid Post. He was also an accomplished pianist and his abilities in this direction were always in demand. Cecil was also the Hon. Sec. of Holy Trinity Church PCC. He was called up in February 1943 at the age of 42, joining the Royal Army Service Corps as a Private. By 1946 he had been promoted to sergeant and had been posted to No.6 FDS, British Army of the Rhine at Minden in Germany. On the night of 3rd January 1946 Cecil went to bed as usual. As it was a very chilly night, he and the sergeant that he shared a room with decided to light the gas fire. It seems that the normal procedure was to turn off the fire before they went to sleep as the gas main was turned off over-night. However, the fire was not switched off and when the main was turned back on in the morning their room filled with gas. A batman went to the room at 7.40am, found Cecil and his colleague unconscious and raised the alarm. Despite being given artificial respiration Cecil died shortly afterwards. The other sergeant recovered. Cecil was buried in Munster Heath Cemetery, in Germany.

ERIC FREDERICK SARGEANT

Lance Sergeant Royal Engineers (2008698)

Died of wounds 7th August 1944, aged 24

Buried in St. Charles de Percy War Cemetery, 44kms south west of Caen

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Eric was born in 1920 in Remenham the son of Gerard Alfred Street Sargeant, a builder, of Remenham Hill and his wife Beatrice Clara. He was baptised at St Nicholas Church, Remenham on 8th February 1920. Eric was educated at Henley Grammar School from 21st January 1930 where he proved to be a useful athlete, and later became a member of the Henley Rowing Club and played rugby for the Old Henleians. On leaving school Eric assisted his father in his business of building and decorating. In 1940 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. By August 1944 Eric had been promoted to Lance Sergeant, and following on from the Normandy Landings, the British were making a major thrust from Caumont l'Eventé towards Vire in Normandy, to drive a wedge between the German 7th Army and

Panzer Group West. He was wounded during this action and died of his wounds on 7th August 1944 aged 24 and was buried in St Charles de Percy War Cemetery.

GEORGE SMITH

Aircraftsman 1st Class RAFVR (548938)

Died 17th September 1939 aged 19

Commemorated on RAF Memorial, Runnymede

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Nettlebed Church Memorial

George was born in Nettlebed in 1920, the son of Sidney Smith a club steward, of Nettlebed and his wife Martha Sophia. He was educated at Henley Grammar School from 15th September 1932, and shortly after leaving joined the Royal Air Force. In 1939 George was posted as Aircraftsman 1st Class to HMS Courageous, an Aircraft Carrier, which at the time housed two squadrons of Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers. On September 15th 1939 the 'Courageous' was on anti-submarine patrol in the Western Approaches of the English Channel along with a destroyer escort screen. On 17th September at 19.40hrs the German Submarine U-29 fired three torpedoes from less than 3000yds at HMS Courageous, two of which hit home. The ship sank within 15mins with the loss of 519 lives - George was one of those. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede.

PHILIP RAYMOND SWAN

Sergeant (pilot) 53 OTU RAFVR (1387580)

Died 5th July 1942 aged 23

Buried All Saints New Churchyard, Peppard

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : Rotherfield Peppard Church

Philip was born in Sonning Common on 30th September 1919, the son of Sidney George Swan, a motor mechanic of Peppard Road, Sonning Common and his wife Annie. He was baptised at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End on 18th January 1920. Philip started at Henley Grammar School on September 13th 1931. He was a member of the Old Henleinsians and of Henley Rowing Club. Philip joined the Metropolitan Police in April 1939. In May 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and gained his 'wings' in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. On his return to England he was posted as Sergeant (pilot) to No.53 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Llandow, in the Vale of Glamorgan, 15mls west of the city of Cardiff. Philip started on OTU Course No.20 on 9th June 1942, flying a Spitfire Mk.IIA. He was killed on 5th July 1942 when the aircraft he was flying (serial no. P7504) collided in mid-air with another Spitfire serial no. P8592, near the village of Cowbridge, about seven miles west of Cardiff. Philip's body was returned home and his funeral took place at All Saints Church, Peppard on Friday 10th July 1942 at 2.30pm following which he was buried in the Churchyard there.

In 2005 the wreckage of Spitfire P7504 was excavated by the North Gwent Aviation Group on Maerdy Farm, Bonvilston, about four miles east of Cowbridge.

GORDON LESLIE TOFIELD

Flying Officer (pilot) 61 Squadron RAFVR (65555)

Killed while flying 2nd June 1942 aged 22

Buried Nord Freidhof Cemetery Dusseldorf, later moved to Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH, HT church + grandparents' grave in Holy Trinity churchyard.

Gordon was born in Henley in 1920 the son of Herbert Leslie Victor Tofield a fitter/service engineer of 'The Lodge' Badgemore, and his wife Elsie Violet. He was baptised in St Mary's Church on 27th June 1920. The family later moved to 6 Hamilton Road. Gordon was educated at Henley Grammar School from 9th January 1934 by which time the family had moved again, this time to 1 Western Avenue. On leaving school Gordon worked for the Post Office. On the outbreak of WW2 he volunteered for the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and subsequently qualified as a pilot. He gained his commission as Flying Officer 65555 and was posted from his O.U.T. to 61 Squadron. They initially flew Handley Page Hampdens, a twin engined medium bomber, then converted to the Avro Manchester and finally to the four engine Avro Lancaster in 1942. The squadron were based at RAF Syerston in Nottinghamshire. On the night of 1st June 1942 at 22.50hrs Gordon took off aboard Lancaster serial no. R5544 coded QR-Z for a bombing raid on Essen in Germany. His crew consisted of sergeant Ronald Larter (2nd pilot); flight sergeant Leslie Partridge (observer); flying officer W.R.Williams; sergeant John Titterton (wireless op/air gunner); pilot officer Samuel Walsh (air gunner) and sergeant Roy Buglar (air gunner). The aircraft crashd near Dusseldorf in the early hours of 2nd June 1942 and all on board with the exception of flying officer Williams, perished; Williams was taken POW. Initially buried in Nord Friedhof Cemetery, the crew were later reburied in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery located near to the Dutch border in Germany.

THOMAS WADDINGTON

Squadron Leader (pilot) 233 Squadron Royal Air Force (39623)

Died 11th September 1942 aged 26

Buried Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH : HGS

Thomas was born in Surrey in 1916 the son of Thomas Henry Waddington, a chauffeur, and his wife Margaret Ann. The family later moved to 3 Kings Road, Henley. Thomas started at Henley Grammar School in September 1928. His father Thomas Henry died in 1939 aged 68. Thomas junior joined the Royal Air Force and by 1942 had gained his 'wings' and was posted to 233 Squadron in Gibraltar with the rank of Squadron Leader. There his Squadron operated the Lockheed Hudson on maritime patrol. CWGC lists that he died on 11th September 1942 aged 26 and that he was RAF (RADO. This implies that he had finished a four year tour of duty and joined the Reserve of Air Force Officers who generally acted as instructors. The nature of his death has not been found. The Henley Standard report at the time says that he lost his life as the result of air operations. No record of an aircraft

accident around that time has yet been found, but three other airmen of 233 died and were buried on the same day. They were Pilot Officer Gordon Kenyon, observer; Pilot Officer Henry Johnson, wireless operator/air gunner; and Flight Sergeant Thomas McMurty Moore, also wireless operator/air gunner. These men and Thomas were all buried in the Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery.

RICHARD (Dick) WHEELER

Civilian death.

Killed during a German air raid on Islington. 27th June 1944 aged 44

Buried St Margaret's Church, Harpsden

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : HGS

Richard was born in Henley in 1900, the son of Harriett Wheeler, of 5 Kings Road, Henley. He was baptised on 19th May 1900 at St Mary's Church. Richard started at Henley Grammar School in September 1916 as a Pupil Teacher. He married Harriett Green, the daughter of Mr S. W. Green of Highlands Farm in 1929 and they had one daughter, and lived at 18 Western Road, Henley. Richard was the organist at Harpsden Church for a number of years, a member of the Henley Bowling Club and the Salisbury Club. He later worked as a school teacher in London. Richard was killed during a German air raid on Islington on 27th June 1944 when at 12noon a German V-1 Doodlebug landed near Highbury Railway Station. His funeral took place at St Margaret's Church, Harpsden. He was 44 years old.

RONALD JOHN RAYMOND WHEELER

Private, 255 Field Coy, Royal Engineers (2122539)

Killed in action 24th April 1943 aged 35

Buried in Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH. HT Church.

Ronald was born in Henley in 1908 the son of William Wheeler a painter of 30 Gravel Hill, Henley and his wife Ada. He was baptised on 19th April 1908 at St Mary's Church. Ronald was educated at Henley Grammar School from September 1920 at which time the family were living at 5 King's Road, Henley. Ronald married Violet Frances Hewett in 1933 and they lived at 13 South Avenue, subsequently having three children – Myrtle, Wendy and Ronnie. Ronald joined the army as a private in 255 Field Coy, Royal Engineers. By 1943 he had been promoted to sergeant and was serving in Tunisia. Ronald was killed in action on 24th April 1943 aged 35, while trying to rescue some of his men from a blazing truck which had been set on fire by enemy shells.

FRANCIS JOHN WILLOUGHBY

Sergeant (pilot) 42 Squadron Coastal Command, Royal Air Force (565351)

Killed while flying 21st June 1940 aged 26

Buried Bergen (Mollendal) Church cemetery

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : HGS

Francis was born in 1914 the son of George Willoughby, a school attendance officer of Council Cottages, Highmoor and his wife Lizzie. He was educated at Henley Grammar School, starting aged 11yrs and 6mths in September 1925 and leaving on 19th December 1930. He married Enid Mary Payne in Chalfont St.Giles in 1938 and their son Francis was born in 1939. Francis snr. joined the Royal Air Force and went to No.1 School of Technical Training at Halton. He gained his wings and was posted Sergeant Pilot, 42 Squadron Coastal Command, based at RAF Wick in Scotland in 1940. On Friday 21st June 1940 at 14.25hrs, eight Bristol Beaumont torpedo bombers took off from Wick for an attack on the German battleship 'Scharnhorst' which was moored at the time at Trondheim in Norway. Francis was piloting Beaufort L4486 and his crew comprised pilot officer Herbert J. Seagram, LAC John White and LAC Colin A. Malcolm. From reports from other aircraft in the group they were attacked on their way to the target by German Me-109s of II/JG77 and L4486 was shot down over Bergen. (The only report of an attack on the Scharnhorst that day is an unsuccessful one by six Gloster Gladiators.) The only body recovered was that of Francis. The rest of the crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. (Brother of John)

JOHN CHARLES WILLOUGHBY

Straits Settlement Volunteer Force

Died 12th September 1944 aged 29

Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials HGS

John was born in Henley in 1915 the son of George Willoughby, a School Attendance Officer of Council Cottages, Highmoor and his wife Lizzie. John was educated at Henley Grammar School. In 1937 he left by boat from London for Singapore. When WW2 broke out, John, like many others of the business community joined the Straits Settlement Volunteer Force. He died on 12th September 1944 aged 29. His body was never identified and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. (Brother of Francis)

ARTHUR GEORGE FREDERICK WILSON

Corporal, RAFVR (1430176)

Died 13th April 1946 aged 25

Buried in the Karachi War Cemetery.

HENLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Local Memorials : TH. HT Church : HGS

Arthur was born in Henley in 1921 the son of Arthur George Cropley Wilson a shop keeper of 73 St Marks Road, Henley and his wife Kate. He was educated at Henley

Grammar School from 7th May 1931 and while there he took a keen interest in photography. After leaving school he worked for some time in London as a photographer. Arthur married Constance M Carter in Maidenhead in 1940. She was the daughter of a former Henley station master. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1941 and was employed on photographic ground duties, serving both in France and Belgium. Their first child Valerie was born in 1942 and their son Roderick in 1945. Arthur was promoted to corporal and sailed for India on 2nd February 1946. He died on 13th April 1946 after a short illness aged 25

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