

Ashford

Post Office

Tannery Lane
Ashford

Second World War

1939 – 1945

CANDLER, ALAN FRANCIS. Signalman, 6299850.

1st Air Formation Signals, Royal Corps of Signals.

Died 20 April 1943. Aged 20.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Ernest Francis and Nellie Candler of Ashford, Kent.

Attended Ashford Grammar School 1934-1939, where he is commemorated in the school Book of Remembrance.

Buried Le Petit Lac Cemetery, Algeria. Grave Ref: Plot E. Row E. Grave 38.

Originally enlisted in The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), probably as a Territorial and when employed by the General Post Office, Alan had been based at the Ashford, Kent Post Office, prior to the Second World War. Possibly Alan had served as a despatch rider (Don R) as his death was resultant of a motor cycle accident in Algeria, North Africa.

Addenda. A service was held in the Millennium Chapel of Peace at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 9 May 2004, to complete the dedication of a crescent of nine copper beech trees planted as a tribute to all those who served as Air Formation Signallers. In the congregation were members of the Air Formation Signals Association, 19th Signal Regiment Association and serving members of the Royal Corps of Signals, representing 21st Signal Regiment and the Cyprus Communications Unit.

DIAMOND, PERCY EDWARD GEORGE. Guardsman, 2613212.

3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 6 October 1944. Aged 38.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of John T. and Emily F. Diamond.

Husband of Annie Irene Diamond of Biddenden, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Santerno Valley War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. B. 17.

Prior to enlisting in the army Percy had been employed by the General Post Office, at which time he was based at the Tenterden, Kent, Post Office, and was a pre war member of the Grenadier Guards.

PATON, CYRIL. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 904673.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 214 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 9 May 1941. Aged 22.

Son of Thomas and Edith Maude Paton of South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.

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

Buried Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 32. C. 2.

Cyril was based at the Ashford, Kent General Post Office.

Cyril was a crew member of Wellington bomber R1226 BU-L which was flown by 30 year old Squadron Leader (Pilot), Frank L. H. Eddison, D.F.C. The aircraft took off at 2210 hours from R.A.F. Stradishall, Suffolk on 8 May 1941 as part of a mixed bomber force flying to Hamburg, Germany. The aircraft crashed at Anna Paulowna near Den Helder, Noord, Holland, killing all the Wellingtons six crew who are interred together at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery. Squadron Leader Eddison was due to be posted to another Squadron as a Flight Commander on completion of this sortie. Stradishall was the home between 1938 and 1970, to several R.A.F. squadrons, and there is now an impressive memorial to those lost who served at R.A.F. Stradishall, the memorial was dedicated and unveiled in May 1994 at the former airfield, which is now H. M. Prison, Highpoint.

