

Bonnington

Second World War

1939 – 1945

All of those who died during the two world wars, from the adjoining Kent parishes of Aldington, Bonnington and Hurst, already have far more details than has been entered below, running into several pages on each man, (but varying in number), in a book which has been in the process of being written since February 1999, by the transcriber. All money from which is being donated to a project for the erection of an external war memorial, allowing all of those from the three parishes to at long last be commemorated. For ease of access, the following brief commemorations are set out in alphabetical order, and not on the memorial plaques.

HELP PLEASE. IF ANYONE IS AWARE OF ANYBODY EVEN TENOUSLY CONNECTED WITH ANY OF THE THREE PARISHES AS ABOVE, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN OR RESULTANT OF EITHER WORLD WAR, PLEASE CONTACT US. IT MIGHT MEAN THAT THE CASUALTY CONCERNED COULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMEMORATION BOOK, BUT OF FAR MORE IMPORTANCE, BE ON A NEW COMBINED PARISHES CIVIC WAR MEMORIAL.

LOST MAN

DRAIN, JOHN ARTHUR. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1394720.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Monday 21 December 1941. Aged 20.
Born at Erpingham, Sandy Lane, Beddington, Mitcham, Surrey 3 June 1922.
Son of Arthur Edward and Kathleen Drain (née West) of Bonnington, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Geraardsbergen Communal Cemetery, Oost Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: Collective grave 6-9.
Commemorated on the Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial, where the Drain family resided prior to moving to Bonnington. For lots more information appertaining to the crash, and recovery of John's aircraft, please see the website of the Belgian Air History Association at www.baha.be
Making mention of same here, also allows the transcriber to publicly acknowledge, all of the additional help and valuable specialist assistance freely given by the Belgian Air History Association. In particular Wim Govaerts for his kindness and patience with me, and providing several additional photographs and extra information.