

Bybrook Cemetery

Cemetery Lane, Ashford

Second World War 1939 – 1945

Armed service and civilian burials, and civilian memorial plaque

Nineteen Ashford civilians are commemorated on a memorial plaque located in Ashford (Bybrook) Cemetery, that was unveiled on 11 November 1999 by The Rt Hon Countess Mountbatten of Burma C.B.E. C.D. We have located at least another 75 Ashford civilian deaths attributable to the Second World War, unfortunately including several who are not named on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, **who should be**.

ADES, ESTHER.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 60.

Wife of H. A. Ades.

Esther who died at her home 15 Hardinge Road, Ashford, Kent.

Esther was amongst the victims of a German 'hit-and-run' attack on the town of Ashford, Kent which was particularly heavy, on 24 of May 1943. A number of the civilian casualties commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, lost their lives during the raid. Although German documentation accessed shows that the 'prime target' on that date was in fact clearly the railway works and goods yards, but numerous other bombs fell at other locations in the town and surrounding area. Stanhays Agricultural Engineers Works in Godington Road, Haywards Garage in New Street and Snashalls Bakery were all hit with resulting loss of life. In addition to these premises numerous private dwellings and the 'prime target' were also bombed, but arguably what could easily have been a tragedy of even more magnitude was when the Victoria Road County Junior School, next to the railway station received a direct hit and was virtually totally demolished, despite which thanks to the well practiced evacuation plan having been implemented, not a single death amongst the staff and pupils occurred. The transcriber of these brief commemorations recalls his former Head Master, Mr Thomas (Tom) Gilbert recalling the above raid about ten years after the event at a morning assembly at his Ashford Secondary School. Cleverly, Mr Gilbert had managed to draw parallels about the devastation the raid had caused there, and the tragedy of the casualty roll from the raid, and compared it to a biblical story, but the memory which lingers most is when he told of the exasperation on the part of some of his charges when they asked him about what make and type of aircraft the enemy were strafing the area with in addition to the bombs.

ADES, MARY.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 33.
Wife of Harry Leonard Phillip Ades.
Died at 17 Hardinge Road, Ashford, Kent.

ADES, VICTOR JOHN.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 3.
Son of Harry Leonard Phillip and Mary Ades.
Died at 17 Hardinge Road, Ashford, Kent.

AMMON, ROBERT WILLIAM. Leading Aircraftman, 903870.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 2 October 1940. Aged 36.
Son of Frederick T Ammon and Kate Ammon of Ashford, Kent.
Husband of Doris Lilian Ammon of Kennington, Ashford, Kent.
Commemorated on Kennington, Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial.
Grave Ref: Section 3. Grave 97.

ANDERSEN, RAYMOND CANUTE.

Died 3 February 1943. Aged 15.
Son of Alfred and Nellie Louisa Andersen.
Raymond died at his home 72 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, his mother sadly died with him, but she is commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial as Nellie Louisa Baxter. A former pupil at the Ashford, Kent, North County Modern (Boys) School from 1939 until his demise, where he is remembered as Raymond Niels Andersen.

ANDERSEN, NELLIE LOUISA.

Died February 1943 Aged 47.
Wife of Alfred Anderson and mother of Raymond Canute Anderson.
Nellie died at her home 72 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, her son Raymond Andersen died with her (please see entry above), and is also commemorated on the war memorial. Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial as Nellie Louisa Baxter.

BARNES, FREDERICK ERNEST. Driver, T/211616.

Royal Army Service Corps.
Died 28 October 1946. Aged 35.
Husband of Kathleen Fanny Barnes of Tenterden, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 2. Grave 231.

BARTON, CECIL LESLIE. Driver, 14232247.

259 Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 21 July 1943. Aged 20.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of James and Maria Barton of Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 12.
Originally enlisted in the General Service Corps.

BEALE, SEAMAN.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 40.

Husband of Gladys Beale of 191 New Town, Ashford, Kent.

Seaman died at the Southern Railway Works, Ashford, Kent.

Also commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery.

Seaman probably served during the Great War years in the army, as Private, L/11202, 5th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

BIRT, ESTHER RUTH MARY.

Died 17 July 1940. Aged 33.

Daughter of Mr and Mrs B. T. Bourne of Godington Road, Ashford, Kent.

Wife of R Birt of 63 New Town, Ashford, Kent.

Esther died at her home 63 New Town, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, Ashford, Kent, with Esther's surname spelt BURT, but on the Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial as BIRT.

BOOTLE, JAMES WILLIAM. Private, 13018625.

Auxiliary Militia, Pioneer Corps.

Died 15 October 1940.

Born East London. Resided North London.

Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 41.

CHAMBERLAIN, ADELINE.

Died 3 February 1943. Aged 39.

Daughter of the late G. and A. Clement of New Cross, London.

Wife of William James Chamberlain of 74 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, who died in the same incident as did their young daughter Wendy who is commemorated below.

Adeline died at her home 74 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

CHAMBERLAIN, WENDY ANN.

Died 3 February 1943. Aged 3.

Daughter of William James and Adeline Chamberlain of 74 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, who are commemorated above and below this brief commemoration.

Commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

CHAMBERLAIN, WILLIAM JAMES.

Died 3 February 1943. Aged 34

Son of the late W and B Chamberlain of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Husband of Adeline Chamberlain.

William died at his home 74 Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, with his wife and daughter, (please see last two commemorations above).

Commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

COAKLEY, MARTIN PATRICK. Warrant Officer, 590502.
Royal Air Force.
Died 5 December 1943. Aged 29.
Son of Cornelius and Nellie Coakley of Romford, Essex.
Grave Ref: Section 37. Grave 67.

CONDON, JUSTIN CALLAGHAN. Gunner, 983956.
553 Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 18 March 1942. Aged 25.
Born Brecknockshire. Resided Monmouthshire.
Son of John H Condon and Elizabeth Alice Condon of Tredegar,
Monmouthshire, Wales.
Grave Ref: Section 36. Grave 00.
Formed as the 15 Coast Artillery Group in October 1940, Justin's regiment
became the 553 Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery in June 1941. It remained in
the United Kingdom until being disbanded in April 1944.

DAVIS, CLEDWYN. Private, 7260256.
Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the Royal Engineers
Died 2 October 1940.
Born Glamorganshire, Wales. Resided Bedfordshire.
Grave Ref: Section 21. Grave 25.

ELLIS, WILLIAM ALFRED. Gunner, 846257.
64 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 10 January 1945.
Born and resided Cornwall.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 52.
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.
William may have died of wounds received in Italy, as his regiment served in
the from September 1943, before taking part in the Western Europe
Campaign, commencing a month after William's demise.

GOODY, JOHN EDWARD. Sapper, 14510112.
Royal Engineers.
Died 29 October 1945. Aged 21.
Born Essex. Resided Southend-on-Sea, Essex.
Son of Annie Goody and the stepson of Joshua Mawdsley of Sandon, Essex.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 62.

GRAY, SARAH MARIA.
Died 22 December 1942. Aged 65
Resided at "Ballalona," Carlisle Road, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.
Widow of Charles Edward Gray.
Sarah died at 4 Fleet Villas, Grosvenor Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.
Commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war
memorial, also commemorated on the Kennington, Ashford, Kent civic war
memorial

HALL, DOUGLAS ROBERT WILLIAM. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1895735.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 9 March 1944. Aged 29.
Son of Robert William and Annie Moore Hall.
Husband of Alice Annie Hall of South Ashford.
Also commemorated in Christchurch Church South Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 42.

HARDEN, PERCY JOSEPH. Private, 97003963.

Non Combatant Corps.

Died 6 April 1941. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Joseph and Elsie Margaret Harden of Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: Section 21. Grave 07.

Percy had attended Ashford Grammar School 1930-1938, where he is commemorated in the Second World War, Book of Remembrance. Also commemorated on the Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial.

In view of the raft of misconceptions that still abound regarding the Non Combatants Corps of the Second World War, a very brief and abridged explanation seems called for to help (or hinder) researchers and/or relatives of N.C.C. members. During the Second World War the corps consisted of 14 Companies with a total of 6,766 personnel passing through its ranks, of their number 465 volunteered to work in Bomb Disposal Units. After the corps reformation in August 1940, it became an accepted (but unofficial) policy to post men away from their home areas, to ensure that they were deprived the luxury of 'home comforts' in much the same way that those serving as combatants were. Although consisting of Conscientious Objectors, the corps had men from several religious and non-religious persuasions, as opposed to a long held misconception which still persists to this day, that all were of a particular denomination or faith. Of the 23 members of the corps who died on, or of war related service, all died within the United Kingdom, despite which members of the corps also served abroad, which is counter to yet another of the erroneous 'facts' bandied about by *experts* in that all service was in the United Kingdom. As with their forerunners during the Great War, a lot of the Non Combatants Corps members were subjected to abuse in various forms, but unlike the men of the Great War, they were not labelled as being in the "Non Courage Corps," progress indeed. It has not thus far (February 2003) been possible to ascertain Percy's reason for membership of his corps, which would have involved attending tribunals etcetera but suspect that it was on religious grounds, he died in hospital at Liverpool, Lancashire.

HEYMAN, JOHN FREDERICK. Sergeant (Pilot), 1358984.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 20 Operational Training Unit, D Flight.

Died 5 August 1942. Aged 26.

Son of William Frederick and Annie Hilda Heyman of Ashford, Kent.

Husband of Christine Heyman of Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: Section 4. Grave 57.

John attended Ashford Grammar School 1931-1935, where his death is recorded as being the result of an aircraft accident at Elgin. At 2315 hours on 4 August 1942, John was the pilot of Wellington bomber T2966 -C which took

off from R.A.F. Elgin, Scotland to take part on a night exercise. On returning to the airfield at approximately 0230 hours on 5 August, John's aircraft overshot the airfield and came down in Quarry Wood on the western edge of Elgin. All five injured crew members were taken to Dr. Gray's Hospital, where John died of his burns. Although the other four crew recovered from the crash, but on his recovery from the crash, and just prior to the completion of his aircrew training, 21 year old Flight Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), Beverly D. Crane, R.C.A.F., of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, lost his life on 29 September 1942. Beverly is at rest in Lossiemouth Burial Ground. Following the loss of John's Wellington and the investigation into same, it was deduced that the failure of the aircraft's port engine was a contributory factor into the crash. R.A.F. Elgin, was/is often referred to as Bogs O'Mayne, and was situated three miles to the south west of Elgin, it was built as a satellite to R.A.F. Lossiemouth, and was completed in early June 1940. As an early wartime airfield it had no hard runways, but otherwise had all of the facilities and dispersed sites of similar later stations in other parts of the United Kingdom. Twenty circular hard-standings were spaced around the perimeter track, with some connected to it, whilst others were simply circles on the grass. Upon its completion, due to the threat of invasion, the airfield was obstructed by the Royal Engineers to prevent enemy landings taking place. As John's unit based at R.A.F. Lossiemouth expanded, it was cleared and became available for use on 30 June 1940.

HOGBEN, JESSIE.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 33.

Wife of Charles Hogben of Repton Cottages, Chart Road, Ashford, Kent.

Jessie died at 11 Hardinge Road, Ashford, Kent, with her young daughter who is the next casualty commemorated below.

Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

HOGBEN, MARY ROSE.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 5

Daughter of Charles and Jessie Hogben of Repton Cottages, Chart Road, Ashford, Kent.

Mary died with her mother as commemorated above.

Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

HULL, GEORGE FREDERICK. Private, 13069186.

Pioneer Corps.

Died 11 January 1944. Aged 26.

Born and resided South Shields.

Husband of Minnie Hull of Drighlington, Yorkshire.

Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 22.

HURST, JAMES. Private, 6208316.
1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.
Died 5 May 1941. Aged 29.
Born Eire. Resided Hertfordshire.
Son of James and Mary Ann Hurst of Edenderry, County Offaly, Irish Republic.
Grave Ref: Section 36. Grave 98.
James Served using the surname FLYNN.

IGGLESDEN, REGINALD SWATMAN. Captain, 59266.
South Staffordshire Regiment.
Died 11 October 1944. Aged 55.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Sir Charles Igglesden D.L., J.P., F.S.A., F.J.I., and Lady Igglesden (née Swatman).
Husband of Muriel Dorothy Ethel Igglesden of Liverpool, Lancashire.
Grave Ref: Section 42. Grave 91.
Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Reginald served as a Captain in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and in the Labour Corps during the Great War.
Arguably of all the ladies and gentlemen who are not commemorated on the Ashford, Kent, civic war memorial, who should be, Reginald is the person that his non-commemoration is for at least three reasons at least, the most difficult to comprehend. Having served in the British Army in both world wars, and when taking into account his age at the time of his demise he had probably been a volunteer for the latter conflict. His father had been a prime mover, and committee member involved in the obtaining of funding etcetera, for the construction of the towns civic war memorial at the cessation of the Great War. As if to compound the oversight of Reginald's non-commemoration and remembrance, unlike the vast majority of the Boroughs fallen who "lie in some foreign field," he is at rest in ASHFORD, KENT. Reginald and **ALL** those who are classified as 'non-commemorations,' should unquestionably have their names added alongside their fellow Ashfordians that paid the ultimate price of sacrifice, and who have quite properly been both honoured and remembered by their inclusion on the memorial. Although the town of Ashford is in fact not the worst in Kent for war memorial omissions appertaining to both world wars, it is something that should be redressed as a matter of urgency.

IRONS, CHARLES DOUGLAS. Petty Officer, C/SX 52.
Royal Navy.
Died 12 July 1947. Aged 56.
Born Isle of Sheppy, Kent 16 February 1891
Son of Charles and Louisa Priscilla Irons.
Husband of Edith Winifred Irons of Ashford.
Grave Ref: Section 8. Grave 24.
It would unfortunately take up far too much space if the complete record of movements etcetera were entered at this commemoration to him relating to Charles naval career. Charles enlisted at Chatham on his eighteenth birthday for a 12 year engagement, his original number, rank and posting being 236788 Boy 2nd Class, H.M.S. Ganges. Following his H.M.S. Ganges training

Charles went to H.M.S. Impregnable where he was upgraded to Boy 1st Class. He became an Ordinary Signaller whilst onboard H.M.S. Cornwallis, and later a Signaller. Serving onboard H.M.S. Tyne Charles became a Leading Signaller, and whilst aboard H.M.S. Lord Nelson was promoted to Yeoman of Signals. Quite early in his Royal Navy career, Charles passed his Educational requirements for Petty Officer R.N., and was awarded his Education Certificate for same on 3 February 1912. On the day of completion of his initial 12 year engagement (16 February 1921) Charles re-enlisted in the Royal Navy. During his many years of service he was the recipient of several Good Conduct Badges and was also awarded the Naval Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Although a post war death, Charles is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Although cause of death has not yet been ascertained to find out Charles's cause of death, or if it was war related, it seemed right to briefly commemorate him here.

JOHNSON, JOHN AMBROSE.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 37

Son of Harriet Youd (formerly Johnson) of 244 Desborough Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, and of the late George Johnson.

Husband of Mabel Elizabeth Johnson of 8 East Hill, Ashford, Kent.

Also commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, Ashford, Kent.

John served as a member of the Home Guard, and was injured at Stanhays Agricultural Engineers Works, Godington Road, Ashford, Kent, and succumbed to his injuries later the same day whilst a patient at Ashford Hospital, Kent.

LAKER, ADA MARIA.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 88.

Resided at 10 Star Road, Ashford, Kent.

Ada died at her home 10 Star Road, Ashford, Kent. Possibly Ada was a relative (mother)? of Clara Jones, another civilian casualty who also died at the same address (please see commemoration).

LAW, JOHN HENRY. Flight Sergeant (Wireless Op/Air Gunner),1811071.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 640 Squadron Royal Air Force.

Died 4 March 1945. Aged 20.

Son of Henry Frederick and Adeline Law of Ashford, Kent.

John attended the Ashford Grammar School 1935-1941, where he is erroneously commemorated in the school Second World War, Book of Remembrance as being killed in operations over Germany, but his aircraft were actually lost at Suffolk, England.

Grave Ref: Section 42. Grave 78.

Prior to enlisting, John had been the Patrol Leader of 10th Ashford (Kent) Troop, Boy Scouts. He was a crew member of Halifax bomber NP931 C8-J, which was a former aircraft on the strength of 466 Squadron, R.A.F. that was flown by 22 year old Pilot Officer, Paul B. Manton, R.A.A.F. of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Their aircraft took off from R.A.F. Leaconfield, Yorkshire at 1812 hours on 3 March 1945, as part of a mixed bomber force of 234 aircraft of which 204 were Halifax aircraft, on a mission to bomb Kamen near Dortmund, Germany. A significant result of the raid was the damage

inflicted on the synthetic oil plant and refinery at Bergkamen, which ceased production there for the remainder of the Second World War. On the return leg of the journey, Paul Manton attempted to land at R.A.F. Woodbridge, Suffolk. At about 0020 hours, the aircraft crashed into a wooded area known locally as 'The Thicks' near the village of Butley, approximately six miles to the east of Woodbridge whilst approaching the runway. Later investigation crash data show that it is thought that the loss of NP931 C8-J was probably the result of intervention by an enemy aircraft. It is perhaps of relevance that the crash occurred when the Luftwaffe mounted the daring Unternehmen Gisela attacks, which involved German night-fighters intermingling with the returning bombers, usually as they crossed the North Sea. Whilst carrying out those intruder missions, a disproportionate number of Luftwaffe aircraft and aircrew were lost. Only one crew member of the Halifax, Sergeant E. J. V. Thompson, who had been injured in the crash survived, six of the crew are interred in their respective home towns and Paul Manton was laid to rest in Cambridge City Cemetery. Sergeant (Air Gunner) James B. Pridding, of Holt, Norfolk, survived the initial crash but sadly succumbed to his injuries two days later and is at rest at Holt cemetery.

LAW, MARGARET ISABEL BELLA.

Died 24 March 1943. Aged 17.

Daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Law of 2 Godington Road, Ashford, Kent. Margaret died at Stanhays Agricultural Engineers Works, Godington Road, Ashford, Kent.

Also commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery.

MASTERS, BERNARD FRANCIS. Bombadier, 837049.

Royal Artillery.

Died 14 March 1941. Aged 23.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of John and Jane Teresa Mathews of Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: Section 36. Grave 97.

Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

McRITCHIE, GEOFFREY DOW SAINTER. Private, 2880232.

1st Battalion, The London Scottish (Donside) Gordon Highlanders.

Died 5 March 1941. Aged 21.

Born Banffshire, Scotland. Resided South West London.

Son of William M McRitchie and Elizabeth M McRitchie of Cricklewood, Middlesex.

Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 61.

MELLOR, RUPERT EDWARD. Flying Officer (Navigator), 181354.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 151 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 1 October 1945. Aged 30.

Son of Fred and Ellora Pamela Mellor.

Husband of Margaret Esme Mellor of Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: Section 2. Grave 93.

Rupert's squadron, having played prominent role during the 'Battle of Britain', it was decided in November 1940 to transfer the squadron to a night fighting

role, and it was moved to R.A.F. Bramcote, Warwickshire, where it also received Boulton and Paul Defiant aircraft. Night operations were commenced in February 1941 from its base at R.A.F. Wittering and a detachment at R.A.F. Coltishall. In April 1942, Mosquitos began to arrive and the squadrons remaining Hurricanes were immediately retired although it was July before the Defiant's left, leaving the squadron solely equipped with the Mosquito. From April 1943, as a result of the declining night interceptions being made, the squadron moved to R.A.F. Colerne, from where it began intruder operations. In October 1944, a move to R.A.F. Castle Camps led to it adopting the bomber support role, and these were continued from East Anglia until the end of the war. A few days later the squadron moved back to the West Country, disbanding at Weston Zoyland, Somerset on 10 October 1946.

NOAKES, ROBERT ERNEST. Gunner, 5623734.

86 (5th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment), Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 28 December 1941. Aged 24.

Born and resided East London.

Son of Arthur and Rosina Julia Noakes of Shoreditch, London, his brother Gunner Arthur George Noakes (probably twin), also aged 24 was killed in action in the Middle East 25 May 1941, whilst serving in the Royal Horse Artillery.

Buried Section 68. Grave 81.

Originally enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment.

PARKS, THOMAS. Sergeant, 1900157.

190 Railway Operating Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 4 November 1940. Aged 49.

Born and resided Eire.

Son of William Parks and Mary Parks (née Griffin).

Husband of Mary Parks (née Leonard) of Drimnagh, County Dublin, Irish Republic.

Pre war member of the Royal Engineers, it is likely that Thomas was a long serving soldier who had originally enlisted in the Royal Irish Regiment as a Private, and had served in the Great War, during which time he went to the Royal Engineers and served in a Railway Unit.

PEMBLE, ALEC JOHN. Warrant Officer, 321316.

Royal Air Force.

Died 30 January 1947. Aged 47.

Son of Mr and Mrs John Pemble.

Husband of Kathleen Pemble of Ashford, Kent.

Alec Pemble Close on Little Burton Farm Estate, Ashford is named in honour and remembrance of Alec.

Grave Ref: Section 15. Grave 1529.

The bulk of the following information regarding Alec, has kindly been furnished by Ashford, Kent Councillor, Norman Ayres, a former R.A.F. Officer, who has taken more than just a mere passing interest in the roads on the Little Burton Farm Estate that are named after armed service and civilian 'Ashfordians' who died in or resultant of war service. Alec was a Warrant

Officer (Pilot) in the Royal Flying Corps during the Great War, along with all other R.N.A.S. and R.F.C. personnel he became a member of the R.A.F. on 1 April 1918 when they merged to form the R.A.F. Three days prior to the start of the Second World War, Alec was called up to serve in the R.A.F. again, but throughout same he served as ground crew as opposed to aircrew. A resident of Wye where he was a Publican and a Garage Proprietor. Alec died whilst serving in India, which had he have been a Second World War death would have doubtless necessitated burial in that country, as opposed to being laid to rest in Ashford, Kent. Prior to service with the Royal Flying Corps in the Great War, it is possible that Alec had served as Private, 2885, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

PEPPER, PERCIVAL. Trooper, 7889203.
7th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.
Died 17 May 1943. Aged 24.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Ethel May Pepper.
Husband of Hilda Agnes Pepper of Bethersden, Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 91.
Pre war member of the Royal Armoured Corps.

PIKE, WALTER KITCHENER. Gunner, 970811.
59 (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died Wednesday 1 October 1941. Aged 26.
Son of Mr and Mrs George Pike of 169 Pennywell Street, St John's, Newfoundland.
Husband of Gladys Pike of St John's, Newfoundland.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 71.
Walter is commemorated on page 188 of the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance which is displayed on the Book of Remembrance Memorial, in the Confederation Building, St John's, Newfoundland. Also commemorated in the same building, on memorial plaque, that was erected in memory of those who served in the 59th (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment in the Second World War. In Bowring Park, St. John's, Newfoundland, is located the World War II Gunners Memorial, erected in memory of all the gunners in the Second World War. It being a 25 pounder field gun with a memorial plaque attached. A source of amusement to Walter and the other gunners of the regiment when billeted at Ashford Girls School, East Hill, was the sign adjacent to several bell pushes which said "Ring for Matron," they did, but she never made an appearance! The transcribers father who served in the 59th (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, was one of the bearers at Walter's well attended military funeral.

RICHARDSON, GEORGE RAYMOND. Corporal, 4971700.
2nd Battalion, Green Howards.
(Alexandra Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment).
Died 12 February 1947. Aged 35.
Son of Florence Richardson.
Husband of Daisey Henrietta Richardson of Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 2. Grave 30.
Originally enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters
(Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment).

ROWE, BLANCHE.
Died 4 February 1943. Aged 51.
Wife of Alfred Rowe of 1 Albert Cottages, Eynsford, Dartford, Kent.
Blanche died at Ashford Hospital, Kent.

SKENE, JOHN ALEXANDER FORBES. Driver, T/161743.
Royal Army Service Corps.
Died 26 October 1940.
Born and resided Middlesex.
Grave Ref: Section 68. Grave 51.

SLATER, ALBERT JAMES (Jimmy). Lance Corporal, 2584050.
XII Corps Signals, Royal Corps of Signals.
Died United Kingdom 9 November 1943. Aged 23.
Born and resided South West London.
Son of Frederick and Ethel Frances Slater.
Husband of Vera Slater of Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 37. Grave 50.
Pre war member of the Royal Corps of Signals.

SMITH, EDITH ANNIE.
Died 22 December 1942. Aged 60.
Wife of Arthur James Smith of 35 Grosvenor Road, Kennington, Ashford,
Kent.
Edith died at her home, she is commemorated in Bybrook Cemetery, Ashford,
Kent and on the Kennington, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

SOLE, WALTER. Aircraftman 2nd Class, 956126.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
930 (Hampshire) Balloon Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 23 November 1940. Aged 25.
Husband of Ruth Louisa Sole.
Grave Ref: Section 3. Grave 81.
Although as yet no documentary evidence has been found but it is possible
that Walter was an Ashford resident as at the time of his demise. 930 Balloon
Squadron, R.A.F. was comprised of 50 Balloons, (10 Waterborne) based at
No 12 Balloon Centre, Southampton Road, Tichfield, Fareham, Hampshire.

TABRAM, STEWART FRANK. Rifleman, 6846188.
2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 22 December 1940.
Grave Ref: Section 35. Grave 19.

VICARY, DENNIS ALEXANDER. Gunner, 895579.
143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 1 November 1943. Aged 22.
Son of William Alexander and Ellen May Vicary of Ashford, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section 5. Grave 25.
Dennis is commemorated in Ashford Grammar School, Second World War Book of Remembrance where Dennis had attended 1932-1937, also on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.
Dennis died of Tuberculosis at the Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, having contacted the disease whilst with his unit when it was based in Iceland. At the time of the 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery being posted in Iceland, it was in the 49th Division, as part of 'Alabaster Force' between October 1940 and April 1942. Initially the regiment in Iceland was comprised of 386th Battery, in support of 70th Brigade based near Reykjavik, and 388th Battery based in the North West Sector with B.H.Q. located at Borganes, and with the remaining sections located at Blondos and Reykjaskoli. During the time that the regiment was in Iceland, prior handing over its duties to American troops, two of its members died, both of whom are at rest in Fossvogur Cemetery, Reykjavik.

WOODCOCK, RAYMOND HOWARD.
Died 17 July 1940. Aged 2.
Son of Chief Petty Officer F. H. Woodcock, Royal Navy, and Mrs D. Woodcock of 14 Godinton Road, Ashford, Kent.
Raymond died at 63 Newtown, Ashford, Kent.

