

DOVER

East Kent Road Car Company

Dover

Kent

Erected in memory of those lost during the Second World War, this unusual but somewhat apt form of memorial was originally erected in the Employees' Social Club, Dover Depot of the East Kent Road Car Co Ltd. It is now in the safe keeping of the Dover, Kent Transport Museum. The Mayor of Dover, Councillor Jan Tranter and Paul Southgate, Managing Director of Stagecoach in East Kent, officially opened the East Kent Road Car tribute room at the Dover Transport Museum in 2006. With the Reverend John Lines, the Deputy Chairman of the Dover Transport Museum Society, the VIP's unveiled a plaque in the room that commemorates the men and women of the East Kent Road Car Co Ltd, and their contribution, since 1916, to the people of East Kent. Within the room there is a variety of artifacts, including the memorial plaque from the Dover bus depot that lists the eighteen male and female employees who died serving in the Armed Forces, or lost their lives due to enemy action during the years of the Second World War.

The Second World War

1939 - 1945

ARMED SERVICE DEATHS

BOURNER, ALBERT EDWARD JAMES. Flying Officer, 89074.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 48 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 7 January 1942.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 66, and on River, Dover, Kent civic war memorial. Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance. In addition to these tributes Albert is numbered amongst the very few Second World War casualties who are honoured on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. During the years leading up to the Second World War, Albert's squadron had at different times and locations been Kent based, having been reformed on 25 November 1935 at R.A. F. Bicester, Oxfordshire from a nucleus of personnel provided by 'C' Flight of No 101 Squadron. Originally planned as a bomber squadron the unit moved to R.A.F. Manston, Kent where it re-allocated to the General Reconnaissance role, and became the first unit to receive the Avro Anson in March 1936. However, in the previous January the squadron had taken on a flight of Saro Cloud amphibians from the Calshot and for six months it carried out some early Air Sea Rescue training. As an Anson unit, it took on a training role for No 16 Group and at one point was equipped with eighty aircraft. It relinquished its training role in September 1938 and reverted to being a General Reconnaissance unit on being posted to R.A.F. Eastchurch, Kent. During the early days

of the war an element of the squadron was based at R.A.F. Detling, Kent. Whilst based at R.A.F. Thorney Island, Hampshire the squadrons' aircraft flew anti shipping patrols along the Channel coast, particularly against German E-boats. In May 1940 the squadron began to receive Beauforts but owing to problems with the engines, the squadron handed over its aircraft to No 217 Squadron at R.A.F. St. Eval, Cornwall and moved to R.A.F. Hooton Park, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire where it resumed General Reconnaissance patrols over the Irish Sea. Following a detachment being sent to the Shetlands Islands, the whole squadron re-located there in July 1941, and it carried out the same duties as before over the North Sea and along the Norwegian coast. At this time the squadron was re-equipping with Hudson's, which it was to fly, in various forms until early 1944. In October 1941 the squadron was moved to R.A.F. Skitten, Caithness, Scotland. After being based at Skitten the Hudson's of No. 48 Squadron were transferred to Wick and would remain there for the next nine months. The squadron at that time consisted of approximately 24 Hudson's divided into 'A' and 'B' flights. Fulfilling their role as a General Reconnaissance squadron, the Hudson crews were mainly engaged on anti-submarine patrols, convoy patrols, shipping strikes and maritime reconnaissance in the North Sea area. Operations off the Norwegian coast were conducted at night although the long summer evenings were to afford little protection. The early months of Albert's squadrons' tenure were difficult ones compounded by the bad weather and the loss of nine Hudson's, including one carrying the commanding officer. Some of these losses were caused by Hudson's making heavy landings and invariably catching fire. The snowfall at the time being so heavy that the airmen did not bother to clear the snow, but just leveled it with a steam roller and marked a soot line down the middle of the runway for the landing aircraft to sight on. During the first three months of 1942, No. 48 Squadron, R.A.F. lost twenty crews on operations, including when Albert died during a mission to Norway, which was undertaken on the night of 6/7 January 1942.

CLARKE, ALFRED THOMAS. Pilot Officer (Flight Engineer), 175596.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 76 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 23 June 1944. Aged 20.

Son of Henry and Evelene Matilda Clarke of Dover, Kent.

Buried Dover, Kent (Charlton) Cemetery. Grave Ref: Section 3.T. Grave 14.

Flown by 25 year old Squadron Leader (Pilot), Robert G. West R.C.A.F. from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, his Halifax bomber LW620 MP-G of which Alfred was amongst the seven crew, took off from R.A.F. Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Lincolnshire at 2307 hours on 22 June 1944 as part of a mixed bomber formation of 221 aircraft, which was comprised of 111 Lancasters, 100 Halifaxes and 10 Mosquitos, the aircraft having been drawn from Nos. 1, 4 and 8 Groups Bomber Command. The bombers attacked railway yards which were situated at Laon and Rheims. A total of 8 aircraft were lost during the duration of the raids, 4 Halifaxes including Alfred's were lost from the Laon raid, and 4 Lancasters from the Rheims raid. The bombing at both targets was reported as having been successful. It is thought that during the raid Alfred's aircraft had been intercepted and engaged by an enemy night-fighter, during the course of which the Halifax had sustained serious damage, and that it would seem that Squadron Leader West had done well to fly the return leg of the raid, but while preparing to land it is thought that he had unfeathered the damaged port inner engine, but in doing so the propeller flew

off and hit the cockpit, killing him instantly. With the bomber out of control it crashed at 0321 hours on 23 June 1944 at Hotham, North Cave, Beverly, Yorkshire killing the remainder of the crew. Squadron Leader West and fellow Canadian Flight Lieutenant (Navigator) Peter S. Milliken from Sinclair, Manitoba, Canada were laid to rest in adjacent graves in Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, Yorkshire, the British crew members were buried in their home towns, Alfred in Dover, Kent.

CADMAN, RONALD WILLIAM. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), 1165794.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 61 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 1 October 1941. Aged 26.

Son of Henry William and Edith Harriet Cadman.

Husband of Winifred Cadman of South Street, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: 8. B. 34.

In view of the date of Ronald's death and place of burial, it is probably fair to assume that he died whilst a prisoner of war as no operational losses to his squadron were recorded for 1 October 1941. The site of Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery where he is at rest was selected by the British Occupation Authorities and Commission officials jointly in 1945, soon after hostilities ceased. Graves were brought to the cemetery from the Berlin area and from eastern Germany. The great majority of those buried here, approximately eighty per cent of the total, were airmen who were lost in the air raids over Berlin, and the towns in eastern Germany. The remainder of the burials were men who died as prisoners of war.

GRIGGS, GEORGE DOUGLAS. Sergeant, 6283770.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Died (probably at Petegem), Belgium 21/22 May 1940.

Born and resided Kent.

Third son of Mr and Mrs C. Griggs of The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent.

Husband of Violet Griggs (nee Watson).

Buried Esquelmes War Cemetery, Peco, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref: VI. B. 4.

Pre war member of the regiment.

Also commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque located in Mersham, Ashford, Kent parish church where George and Violet were married on Christmas Day.

George went with the battalion which was one of the first to go to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force, The 2nd Battalion arrived at the port of Cherbourg on 17 September 1939. In April 1940 it joined the 44th (Home Counties) Division and as part of same moved forward into Belgium to help to attempt stem the rapid German 'Blitzkrieg' offensive. George's battalion was heavily engaged on the river Escaut, losing thirteen officers and 170 other ranks, one of whom was George. A week after George died, on 28/29 May, the battalion was at or around Meteren, at which time the orders to withdraw failed to reach battalion headquarters, and resultant of same, the remnants of the battalion were involved in various rearguard actions during which time a large number of officers and other ranks were taken prisoner. The survivors were withdrawn to Dunkirk, and on arrival in England the 2nd Battalion was re-equipped and re-organised. Several of the fallen of the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), who fell during the 'Defence of the Escaut,' (for which the regiments first Battle of Honour of the Second World War was awarded), are at rest in Esquelmes War Cemetery. Casualties

buried in various places in the neighbourhood were brought to Esquelmes by the Belgian authorities in September 1940. When entering the cemetery gates, George is buried immediately in front of them on the opposite side, in the back row.

MORLEY, ALBERT JOHN. Private, 6291176.
5th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died 8 April 1943. Aged 30.
Born and resided Hastings, Sussex.
Son of Albert and Caroline F. Morley of Dover, Kent.
Husband of Catherine Morley of Welling, Kent.
Buried Oued Zarga War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: 1. J. 5.

PAY, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, 5503178.
1/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died 2 March 1943. Aged 26.
Born and resided Dorset.
Son of William and Ethel M. M. Pay of Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Medjez-el-Bab Memorial, Tunisia. Face 23.

REDPATH, A. O.H.M.S.

A REDPATH has proved to be probably one of (or possibly) the most difficult, and time consuming casualty of the thousands researched over the years, irrespective of which war etcetera. Although a lot of time was spent trying to obtain more details, including 'juggling' surname and the like, in addition to checking various data and publications, but all being to no avail. It has been assumed that O.H.M.S. is indicative of On His Majesties Service, but cannot at this point in time anything to show in what capacity. The sole Second World war CWGC casualty shown, is a member of the 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

CIVILIAN DEATHS DUE TO ENEMY ACTION

HOGBEN, FREDERICK JAMES.
Died 23 March 1942. Aged 55.
Husband of Annie Barbara Hogben of 25, Buckland Avenue, Dover, Kent.
Frederick died at East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

FORD, WILLIAM GEORGE.
Died 23 March 1942. Aged 29.
Resided at 82, Longfield Road, Dover, Kent.
Son of William and Elizabeth Ford of 2, Kitchener Road, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Catherine Violet Ford.
William died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

MULLANE, JOHN.

Died 7 June 1944. Aged 64.
Husband of Daisy Mullane.
John died at 41, Albany Place, Dover, Kent.

LYNCH, ROBERT MAGNUS.

C.D. Transport Service.
Died 23 March 1942. Aged 37.
Resided at 43, Elms Vale Road, Dover, Kent.
Son of John and Louisa Lynch of 7, Martells Terrace, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent.
Husband of Violet Maud Lynch.
Robert died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

SHERWOOD, WALTER SIDNEY.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 31.
Resided at 7, Underdown Road, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Ethel May Sherwood.
Walter died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

PEARSON, WILLIAM.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 56.
Husband of Mrs. Pearson of 140, Mayfield Avenue, Dover, Kent.
William died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

GRAVES, JACK.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 49.
Resided at 10, Shipmans Way, Dover, Kent.
Jack died at the Market Square, Dover, Kent.

MISCHE, FREDERICK CHARLES. Home Guard and A.R.P. Ambulance Driver.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 45.
Resided at 11, Winchelsea Street, Dover, Kent.
Husband of R. Mische.
Frederick died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

HAWKINS, MINNIE GLADYS.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 27.
Resided at 68, Oswald Road, Dover, Kent.
Daughter of Sarah Hawkins, and of the late William Hawkins.
Minnie died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

PILCHER, VICTOR WILLIAM.

Died 27 March 1942. Aged 43.
Husband of G. E. L. Pilcher of 2, Knights Way, Buckland, Dover, Kent.
Victor was injured on 23 March 1942, at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent and died whilst a patient at the Casualty Hospital, Union Road, Dover, Kent.

TAYLOR, BRIAN. Lieutenant.

Home Guard.

Died 23 March 1942. Aged 32.

Resided at Court Cottage, Kearsney, Dover, Kent.

Son of Alfred Harold and Jane Taylor of Broom Hill, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.

Brian died at the East Kent Garage, Dover, Kent.

