

# Dover

## Grammar School For Boys

Those former pupils who lost their lives in or resultant of the two world wars have two distinct forms of commemoration at the school. The school tribute to those who died in the Great War are commemorated in the form of a stunning stained glass window, which is at side of a flight of stairs leading from the entrance hall. The inscription on it reads:-

**In honoured memory of Old Boys of the school who gave their lives  
for King and Country in the Great War 1914-1919.**

In rather stark contrast to the beautiful window in memory of those of the earlier conflict, the war deaths of the Second World War are commemorated by way of a Book of Remembrance, which appears to have been lovingly and artistically created soon after the cessation of the hostilities, as it is made from the wartime type of 'economy paper.' Perhaps in the fullness of time a wealthy school benefactor might be so moved to help provide a similar stained glass window to compliment that of the Great War fallen.

### The Great War 1914 - 1919

### Roll of Honour

**BARRON, SYDNEY WILLIAM JAMES.** Lieutenant.  
53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force), Indian Army Reserve of Officers.  
Died 25 July 1918. Aged 32.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Singapore.

Only son of William and Frances Barron of 64, Dour Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: B. 4.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly served as an officer in the Baluchistan Light Infantry. The 53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force), served during the Great War in India, Aden, Egypt and Mesopotamia. Whilst in Egypt, Sydney was numbered amongst those in his regiment (and others) who contacted a virulent strain of Malaria, some of whom sadly died of the disease including him.

**BELSON, GEORGE LEWIS.** Boy Artificer, M/3799.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Fisgard.

Died 3 December 1914.

Born Gravesend, Kent 13 June 1897.

Son of George H. and Eliza Belson.

Buried Gravesend Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: 3184.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. From 1905 to 1931 H.M.S. Fisgard was a Royal Navy Artificer Apprentice training establishment based at Portsmouth, Hampshire, which in 1932 moved to Chatham, Kent. Information obtained locally in Gravesend, Kent indicated that at some time George H Belson (father of casualty) had been in the employ of H.M. Customs (Preventive Service) as a Boatman, with at least some of his service being spent at Dover, Kent. Whilst no supporting documentation has actually been sighted by us, but as our source has yet to furnish us with erroneous 'Gravesend' information, George senior **probably** had been a Dover based H.M. Customs Officer in some capacity.

**BROADBRIDGE, LIONEL ARTHUR.** Serjeant, 240883.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 7 August 1918. Aged 26.

Born Leytonstone, Essex. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Resided Woking, Surrey.

Son of Jane Broadbridge of 21, Richmond Avenue, Merton Park, London, and the late Captain Broadbridge (H.M.S. "Monarch").

Buried Beacon Cemetery, Sailly-Laurette, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II. D. 5.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Prior to enlisting in the army Lionel had been employed as a Clerk by the London County and Westminster Bank.

**BROWN, V.A.E.** The best match for this casualty appears to be the following:-

**BROWN, VICTOR.** Corporal, 23410.

2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers.

Died 1 July 1916.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 3 C, and also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. On 30 June 1916 the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers left the comparative safety of their camp at Bertrancourt and moved into the assembly positions just to the north of the Somme village of Mailly-Mallet, it being in preparation for the massed attack on the following day. Between 0800 hours and 0830 hours the battalion advanced and eventually successfully crossed the enemy line south of their formidable position called The Quadrilateral. Inevitably the Germans soon mounted a concerted counter attack, and despite stiff resistance put up by Victor's battalion in an attempt to hold on to what had been gained a withdrawal was made under the cover of darkness during the night. Victor is numbered amongst the 368 casualties which were inflicted on the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers on the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' of that total number sixty five were deaths amongst the other ranks.

**COLEY, WILLIAM JOHN.** Lieutenant.

1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

Died 15 July 1916. Aged 25.

Born Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Son of Major W. and Mrs. A. E. Coley of 91, Birkbeck Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Buried Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. E. 3.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. It is likely (not seen war diary) that William was the officer who led a single platoon of his battalion on the day he died near the Somme village of Bouzincourt where he is buried. As with all battalions engaged in the actions of the Battle of the Somme 1916, the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment had made several moves in the form of manning trenches and being relieved from same since the first day of the battle, when they fought in front of Thiepval. William's battalion had relieved the 9th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment in the front line near Ovillers on 8 July 1916, and whilst there had carried out bombing attacks which had resulted in some ground being gained. On 11 July the battalion was itself relieved by the 16th (Service) Battalion, (3rd Salford) Lancashire Fusiliers, on leaving the front line trenches William's battalion went to nearby Bouzincourt, and moved back into the front line on 11 July, and from where the unsuccessful attack referred to above was launched.

**DURBAN, ALLAN EDWIN.** Serjeant, TF/290501.

1st/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 22 August 1917. Aged 27.

Born Aylesford, Kent. Enlisted Stamford Brook, Middlesex.

Resided Kentish Town, Middlesex.

Son of Thomas Morris and Eliza Durban of 154, High Street Hythe, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-18 Memorial. Face 7, and on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

Formerly Serjeant, 2169, Middlesex Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census the Durban family was residing at 27 Priory Hill, Dover, Kent.

**EAVES, ALFRED THOMAS.** Lieutenant. (Acting Captain).

10th (Service) Battalion, (Battersea) The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 3 October 1916.

Husband of Mrs Eaves of 196 Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly Second Lieutenant, East Surrey Regiment. Gazetted December 1914. Raised in June 1915 the 10th (Service) Battalion, (Battersea) The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) underwent almost a whole year in training prior to going to the Western Front. Having left Aldershot on 5 May 1916 aboard three trains which arrived at Southampton later the same day the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R. Oakley then sailed for Le Harve, arriving the following day, from where the battalion left by train for Steenbecque, from Steenbecque the battalion marched to Outtersteene, Bailleul, Nord, later moving back to Steenbecque and took up position in the Ploegsteert area of Belgium where the battalions first casualties occurred. Most of the battalions' locations were in an area on the French/Belgium border for many months which the prime reason the battalion never

played a part in the earliest actions of the Battle of the Somme 1916. Around the middle of August 1916 a succession of moves were made by Thomas's battalion, initially to Notteboom, then via Pont-Rémy a move was made to Buigny l'Abbé where several days were spent, after which another move was undertaken to the Dernancourt, Somme area by way of Longpré les Amiens. Eventually the battalion camped about half a mile to the north of Méaulte to the south of the town of Albert on 9 September 1916. From the camp at Méaulte the battalion went to the Pommiers Redoubt on 13 September, and from there to trenches located to the north east of Delville Wood. Two days after occupying the trenches the battalion was involved in an attack undertaken in conjunction with the other three battalions which made up their (124th Infantry Brigade), they being the 21st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, and the 26th and 32nd Battalions, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Initially little resistance was experienced during the day of the attack which had got under way at zero hour 0620 hours, with a position called Switch Trench being captured by 0700 hours, and only a mere hour later part of Flers Trench also fell to the four assaulting battalions, by 0850 hours the capture of the trench complex was completed in unison with the taking of Flers Avenue, to cement their successes later enemy counter attacks were all repulsed. Confirmation of the successful outcome was given by Lieutenant Colonel R. Oakley to the rear echelon at about 1900 hours when he arrived back for treatment for his wounds, at which time he also reported that his battalion had sustained huge casualties throughout the day, and that in his opinion probably only about 50 all ranks were not casualties. Reading through documents appertaining to the battalion relating to the action involving the capture and holding on to them prior to being withdrawn on 19 September, they all bear out the battalions Commanding Officers estimate regarding casualties. In excess of 300 had been casualties and of their number almost 70 had either been killed in action or died of wounds over the three days of 15 & 17 September, regrettably and probably inevitably others succumbed to their wounds inflicted over the same two days over a long time span after being evacuated from the front line of the Somme. At the start of October the battalion moved forward to the front line again via Pommiers Redoubt to a position named Gird Lines, where the battalion was subjected to fairly continuous fire of all types which included enemy artillery from beyond the Thillois Road area. From reading the battalion history of the days events it would seem likely that Alfred had been an officer in 'D' Company, which had fared particularly badly after leaving Gird Trench to occupy the positions held by the 21st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Shortly after starting the execution of the order to relieve the Riflemen, fresh orders were issued to 'D' Company to render assistance to the four battalions of an attack that was being carried out to the front. Almost from the outset problems occurred not least of which was the difficulty in communications, including that to their own 124th Infantry Brigade Head Quarters, with messages taking a full five hours to be received by the rear echelon from the front. Rumours were rife along the lines that the whole of 'D' Company had been annihilated, which as it transpired was fortunately untrue and only a single officer death is shown, who was killed by a shell whilst consolidating a captured position under during a period of heavy enemy shelling, the officer referred to **probably** being Captain Alfred Eaves.

**ELLENDER, REGINALD ALFRED.** M.M. Private, 495231.  
53rd Stationary Hospital, (Territorial Force) Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Died 2 July 1918. Aged 31.  
Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.  
Son of Joseph William and Elisabeth Ellender of 1 Strond Street, Dover, Kent.  
Husband of Olive May Ellender of 208, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Murmansk New British Cemetery, Russian Federation. Grave Ref: A. 9.  
Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Murmansk New British Cemetery was made in 1930. The 40 burials in the cemetery were moved in from the Old British Cemetery that had been used by the No 86 General Hospital during the years 1918 and 1919, the cemetery now contains 83 burials and commemorations of the Great War. The Special Memorials commemorate officers and men known to have been buried in cemeteries elsewhere in the Murman area. Reginald had been awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the 1916 Battle of the Somme, but a few months later during the battle he was gassed at Bullecourt, which may have played a part in his demise as his Casualty Card shows cause of death as Pneumonia. Possibly the gassing had left him unable to cope with the severity of the weather encountered by the expedition on which he was a member. His unit at the time of Reginald's death was commanded by Major D.C. Williams, R.A.M.C.

**EVANS, A.W.** No clear trace, but this casualty is also commemorated on the Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**FISHWICK, MAURICE RANDALL.** Private, 266790.  
9th (Service) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.  
Died 26 October 1917.  
Enlisted Barnstable, Devon.  
Husband of Alice Mary Hawkins (formerly Fishwick of North Leigh, Colyton, Devon.  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 38, and is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**GATES, THOMAS JAMES GEORGE.** Telegraphist, London Z/7117.  
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. H.M. "P.36."  
Died 10 October 1918. Aged 20.  
Son of James Thomas Gates and Caroline Frances Gates of 58, Nightingale Road, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Haslar, Royal Naval Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave Ref: E. 33. 8.  
Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**GLEESON, AUGUSTINE.** Private, L/11429.  
10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).  
Died 7 June 1917.  
Born Brighton, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45.  
Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly Private. S/26733.  
Royal Army Service Corps. At the time of the 1901 census Augustine was living with his

37 year old widowed mother Elizabeth Gleeson, a native of Pontypool, Monmouthshire, Wales, at 10 Randolph Gardens, Salisbury Road, Dover, Kent. In addition to 8 year old Augustine and his mother, 14 year old Andrew J Gleeson, Augustine's brother was also at home, a native of Hammersmith, London he too probably served in the Great War, initially in the Army Service Corps, in which he attained the rank of Serjeant, prior to going to the Tank Corps, and in which he eventually became a Warrant Officer Class 1. Also at home was 7 year old Elizabeth, who like Augustine was born in Brighton, Sussex, and 4 year old Sydney and 3 year old Harold who were both Dovorians.

**GOLDFINCH, EDWARD THOMAS.** Private, 27376.

4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards,

Died 13 October 1917. Aged 28.

Born Alkham, Dover, Kent.

Son of Thomas Edward and Elizabeth Hammond Goldfinch of 11, Kearsney Avenue, River, Dover.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 9, and is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**GOODWIN, FREDERICK GEORGE.** Lance Corporal, 260089.

"A" Company, 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 1 June 1918. Aged 29.

Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Henry Holtum Goodwin and Clara Eliza Goodwin of Dover, Kent.

Buried Pernes British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. E. 43.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**GRAVES, FRANCIS GEORGE.** Second Lieutenant.

4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment), attached to the 16th (Service) Battalion (Chatsworth Rifles).

Died 20 September 1917.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 99, and is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**HADLOW, ALBERT LLEWELLYN.** Second Lieutenant.

70 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 6 October 1918.

Buried Haringhe, Bandaghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. A. 30.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Albert's squadron was formed at South Farnborough, Hampshire on 22 April 1916, and was later transferred to Fienvillers in France one Flight at a time such was the gravity of the situation between May and August 1916 to take up fighter patrols. At the time of death his squadron was based at Droglandt, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Number 70 Squadron was the first Royal Flying Corps Squadron to fly the Sopwith 1½-Strutter. As the Germans perfected their tactics, casualties to the squadron rose, and a year later the squadron converted to the far more capable Sopwith Camels, which was the first designed fighter

to have two forward firing machine guns. Its design gave it amazing maneuverability and aerobatic qualities.

**HARDY, PHILLIP ERNEST RADFORD.** Second Lieutenant.

2nd Royal Marine Battalion, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

Died 28 April 1917. Aged 22.

Son of William James and Emily Hardy of 9, Langport Road, Weston-super-Mare.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 1, also on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. For obvious reasons, arguably the oddest out of all the British divisions during the Great War, the Royal Naval Division was formed in September 1914 made up of Royal Marines and surplus naval reservists. The division was organized into battalions that were named after distinguished sailors in naval history, Hood, Nelson, Howe and Drake etcetera. After early action fought in the defence of Antwerp, Belgium, the Royal Naval Division went to Gallipoli where it landed in April 1915, and saw the campaign through to the end. In April the division was taken over by the War Office from the Admiralty and the following month it was moved to France; in July it was given the number 63. As the 63rd Royal Naval Division it remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the Great War. Total casualties amounted to nearly 48,000.

**HOLLAND, REGINALD SEABRIGHT.** Private, 77661.

17th (Service) Battalion, (Empire) Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 28 September 1918. Aged 19.

Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of William John and Emma E. Holland of 85, Crabble Hill, Dover, Kent.

Buried Noyelles-Sur-L'Escaut Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: II. B. 11.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**HOSKING, HERBERT JOHN ROY.** Second Lieutenant.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment attached to the 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 23 July 1916. Aged 19.

Son of James and Florence Hosking of Chilston, Kingsdown, Deal, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Panel Pier and Face 11 A.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial, and on Great War memorial plaque located in parish church Kingsdown, Kent.

**IGGLESDEN, R.A.** Is the non commissioned officer as commemorated below, but his attestation papers clearly show that he not only gave his Christian names as being ARTHUR ROBERT, but also wrote his signature as A R Igglesden. At his CWGC commemoration details he is of course shown as set out below. It should be noted that on all local Dover, Kent, Great War tributes on which his sacrifice is remembered, he is shown as being A.R. Igglesden. As did the local newspaper, the 'Dover Express.'

**IGGLESDEN, ARTHUR ROBERT.** Lance Corporal, 435252.

50th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment).

Died at Vimy Ridge, Neuville-St-Vaast, Pas de Calais, France, 10 April 1917. Aged 26.

Born Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 13 November 1891.

Enlisted Calgary, Alberta, Canada 31 May 1915.

Son of Robert W. Igglesden, and Mary E. Igglesden of "The Beacon," Chilton Avenue, Kearsney, Dover, Kent.

Buried Canadian Cemetery No 2, Vimy Ridge, Neuville-St-Vaast, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: 2. C. 21. Robert is commemorated on Also commemorated on page 261 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in the Unitarian Church, Adrian Street, Dover, Kent, Robert is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. The following is an extract from the Dover Express:- "The sympathy of all in Dover will be extended to Mr and Mrs R. Igglesden in the death of their son, Private Robert Arthur Igglesden, who was killed in action with the Canadians at the taking of Vimy Ridge on 10th April. He went to Calgary about five years ago in the business of baker and confectioner, and intended to return after a few years experience and to be taken in as partner with the firm of Igglesden and Graves at Dover. When the war broke out he joined up with his brother Henry Alfred Igglesden at Calgary who has recently been home on ten days sick leave having been wounded last November. Another brother is serving with the RFA in India." Henry Alfred Igglesden, of whom the newspaper makes brief reference, was born at Dover, Kent on 23 February 1889. He had in fact enlisted at Calgary, Alberta, Canada on 22 June 1915 the month after his brother, and not actually with him. Like his brother, he too was also a Carpenter; he had served for two years as a Territorial in the Royal Engineers. It perhaps should be added the village of Neuville-St-Vaast where Arthur is buried also has the largest German military cemetery in France. There are 36,792 Great War burials marked by crosses, with other headstones in the form of the Star of David marking the graves of Jewish soldiers. During the Second World War Adolf Hitler ordered the removal of the Jewish headstones, but his order was disobeyed. Unlike the CWGC cemeteries, the German military cemeteries often contain mass graves and at Neuville-St-Vaast a mass grave holds the remains of 8,040 soldiers.

**KEIGHTLEY, GORDON.** Sub-Lieutenant.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. R.N.A.S. (Mudros).

Died 20 May 1917.

Commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Portsmouth, Hampshire, and also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Based on the above CWGC data as above, Gordon was **probably** a member of F Squadron, 2 Wing, Royal Naval Air Service, which was formed out of B Flight at Stavros, Greece during April 1917 as a fast reaction, high mobility bomber squadron. Whilst based at Thasos the squadron was virtually destroyed in an accidental explosion on 12 May 17, which resulted in several deaths and injuries, it would seem likely that Gordon was one of those injured and had succumbed to same a week later.

**KNELL, LEONARD WILLIAM.** Ordinary Seaman, Z/9865.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. H.M.S. Victory VI.

Died 11 October 1918. Aged 18.

Son of Florence Emily and the late William Henry Knell of 5, Russell Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried St. James's, Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: M. V. 8.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Leonard had only a slim chance of being killed as the result of enemy action whilst stationed at the naval training establishment H.M.S. Victory VI, it being the correct name for the Crystal Palace, Penge, Kent (now London). Inevitably the establishment was nicknamed 'H.M.S Crystal Palace,' by sailors and the local populace, and with the passage of time it would appear that it was called same in official documentation which has been noted during various researches. Approximately 125,000 members of the Royal Navy and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve were trained at H.M.S. Victory VI during the Great War, at the cessation of hostilities it was re-opened as the first Imperial War Museum. Sir Henry Buckland took over as General Manager, and things began to look up with many of the 'Palace' former attractions being resumed, including the Thursday evening displays of fireworks by Brocks. A timber structure and the ship's bell which was originally sited on the lower terrace, at 'H.M.S Crystal Palace' was installed as a memorial to those who trained at the establishment, and in 1931 it was unveiled by H.R.H the Prince of Wales. On more than one occasion it has come as something of a surprise to people after being asked what we knew about Nelson's ship during the Great War, when being told that their relatives had been at Penge and not Portsmouth!

**MacWALTER, CHARLES CHRISTOPHER.** Second Lieutenant.

1st Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment).

Died 1 July 1916.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly Corporal, 8669, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**MAGUB, JOSEPH JARVIS.** Assistant Steward.

Mercantile Marine. S.S. "Ancona" (London).

Died 27 May 1917. Aged 16.

Son of Herbert and Ida Elizabeth Magub of 71, Barton Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London, also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Joseph's 1,207 ton ship which was built in 1888 was owned by J. Hall & Co., London, and is not to be confused with the 8,188 ton Italian liner "Ancona" that was controversially torpedoed and sunk on 7 November 1915, by an Austrian submarine south of Sardinia, while on passage from Italy to New York, USA with the loss of at least 206 lives.

**MINTER, CHARLES HERBERT.** Private, 144.

32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 19 July 1916. Aged 28.

Born in England (possibly Dover, Kent).

Son of Charles Daniel and Charlotte Emma Minter of "Manner," Sutton Street, Colac, Victoria, Australia.

Buried Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. K. 57.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Prior to enlisting in the army Charles was employed as a Labourer, he enlisted on 1 July 1915, at which time he gave his address as that of his sister Constance Mary Louisa Minter of 142, Snargate Street, Dover, Kent. Charles was posted to "A" Company, 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force in which he sailed from Adelaide, South Australia on 18 November 1915 onboard the 7,851 ton H.M.A.T. Geelong (A2), which was on loan from the P&O Steam Navigation Co, London. Unlike the majority of Australian troopships that were returned to their former owners following the Great War, the ship which had taken Charles back to Europe was lost on 1 January 1916 after she had collided with the S.S. Bonvilston in the Mediterranean and sank. The action fought where Charles died was just north of the German held village of Fromelles on the Aubers Ridge to the south of Armentieres, Nord, France, it was executed partly as a diversion to the larger battle taking place 50 miles or so to the south on the Somme, and at the same time taking a German held salient. It was and indeed still is significant as being the first occasion on which the First Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) saw action on the Western Front, regrettably it ended by being a decisive victory for the German army, during which thousands of Australian and British soldiers were killed, taken prisoner and/or wounded, without the Allies gaining any ground. The casualty returns for Charles battalion for the two day 'Battle of Fromelles' on 19 and 20 July 1916 show 17 officers and 701 men either killed, wounded or missing in action. One of the officers of Charles battalion who was amongst the wounded was Captain Blair Wark who later (at Ypres) won the Distinguished Service Order for repelling three enemy counter attacks, in October 1918 the then Major Blair Wark was awarded the Victoria Cross.

**PARKER, D.** No clear trace, but is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. **Possibly** the casualty commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and at the Grammar School is the former Dover, Kent resident briefly commemorated below, whose mother resided in the town in 1915 and probably for many years later:-

**PARKER, HENRY EDWARD.** Private, 475172.

8th Battalion, (The Black Devils) Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).

Died 26 September 1916. Aged 25.

Born London 25 October 1891. Enlisted Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 22 July 1915.

Son of the late Henry David and Emily Parker.

Commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and on page 145 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance. At the time of Henry's enlistment he gave his occupation as Book Keeper, and named his mother, Mrs Emily Parker of Connaught Cottage, Frith Road, Dover, Kent, England as his Next of

Kin. The 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion was organized at Valcartier under Camp Order 241 of 2 September 1914, and was composed of recruits from Winnipeg and from the 96th Lake Superior Regiment of the Active Militia. The battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel L.J. Lipsett, a very competent officer who later became a Major-General, and the commander of the Canadian Army's Third Division. The battalion embarked at Quebec on 1 October 1914 aboard the 18,520 ton H.M.T. Franconia arriving at Plymouth on 17 October 1914, at which time its strength was 47 officers and 1106 other ranks. From Plymouth, the battalion moved to Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire to undergo battle training, which as it unfortunately turned out was undertaken during a notably wet winter. Training completed the battalion sailed for France where it disembarked on 13 February 1915, becoming part of the 1st Canadian Division, 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade, and was later reinforced by the 18th Canadian Reserve Battalion. On 14 April 1915, the battalion moved into the Ypres Salient where it formed a part of the 2nd Brigade. At approximately 0400 hours on the morning of Saturday 24 April 1915, a blue-green-yellowish cloud was seen rolling over No Man's Land towards the battalion trenches. It was the second enemy gas attack, to which about half the battalion succumbed to the poisonous noxious fumes. The battalion on the left was obliged to retire and Lieutenant Colonel Lipsett's soldiers found themselves in real danger of being surrounded. But it stoically held on, and while supporting battalions were preparing new defenses in the rear, the men of the regiment kept up a withering fire on the enemy, drove off an attack on its front and withstood fearful enfilade fire from left and right, and this from an enemy force five times its size. Thus began a tradition of Henry's battalion of never losing a trench to the enemy, it apparently being a tradition never to be broken quite literally throughout the Great War's duration.

**READER, REGINALD EDWARD.** Rifleman, S/27441.

1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 17 May 1917. Aged 31.

Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Brighton, Sussex. Resided Dover, Kent.

Son of William Nicolas and Clara Jane Reader.

Husband of Phoebe Clara Reader (nee Sharp) of 11, Western Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XVIII. N. 23.

Formerly Private, R/30199, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Reginald is also commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located in the church of St. John the Evangelist, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex, where Reginald and his wife Phoebe had been members of the congregation when residing at Burgess Hill. Reginald is also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

**STEWART, ARTHUR WALLACE.** Lance Corporal, 26/637.

4th Battalion, 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade. (Earl of Liverpool's Own).

Died 27 October 1918.

Son of Charles and Lucy Stewart of Castle Hill Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Vertigneul Churchyard, Romeries, Nord, France. Grave Ref: 17.

Also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial.

Vertigneul Churchyard where Arthur is at rest is in a hamlet of the commune of Romeries in the Department of the Nord, both Vertigneul and Romeries were both taken by the 1st Otago Regiment, the 2nd Canterbury Regiment and the 8th Lancashire Fusiliers on 23 October 1918. Vertigneul Churchyard contains the graves of 20 Commonwealth servicemen of the Great War, 19 of them from New Zealand units. Grave 15 in the cemetery (please note Arthur's grave number), is that of Serjeant Henry James Nicholas, V.C., M.M. of the 12th Nelson Company, 1st Battalion, Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F. Although no indication is given above at his brief commemoration details that Arthur's father had pre deceased him, it seems prudent to mention that on the 1901 census a 13 year old Arthur Stewart is recorded as residing at 28 Liverpool Street, Dover, Kent, and that his 48 year old widowed mother Lucy Stewart was the Head of the house. Mention should also be made that the total number of New Zealand troops and nurses who volunteered to serve overseas in the Great War excluding those in British and other Dominion forces was in excess of 100,000, from a population of just under a million. Forty-two per cent of men of military age served in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Arthur's battalion was formed in nearly 500 tons of explosives during September 1915, and went to Egypt in March 1916 and joined the 3rd New Zealand (Rifle) Brigade, (Earl of Liverpool's Own). Destined for the Western Front, the New Zealand Division to which Arthur's brigade belonged, reached Marseilles in April 1916 and entered the line in May south-east of Armentières, Nord, France. Although at the time regarded as a "quiet sector" along the eight mile front which the New Zealand troops patrolled, despite which prior to being relieved in mid-August, 2,500 of their number had become casualties, including nearly 400 fatalities. A move was made to take part in the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' where again more casualties were inflicted on the division. Having spent just over three weeks involved in the battle, on the 3-4 October 1916 the Division withdrew from the Somme, having lost some 7,000 men, 1,560 of whom were killed in action during 23 days of fighting. Arthur's division later spent the bulk of the winter of 1916-1917 in and around Fleurbaix, near Armentières. A period of about three months duration was spent between Ploegsteert and Wulverghem, entrenched facing the strongly fortified Messines ridge, where in June 1917 the 2nd and 3rd Brigades scrambled over the top, in and out of shell holes, and up the battered slopes of the ridge immediately following the detonation of nearly 500 tons of explosives which created huge mines. Until being moved back to the Somme area in March 1918 the New Zealand Division was involved in numerous costly engagements on the Ypres Salient. Following the start of the German Spring Offensive which began on 21 March 1918, the Division was rushed to help stem a dangerous breakthrough by numerically superior forces towards the town of Amiens. After playing its part in stemming the German onslaught, the division was then engaged at the 'Hindenburg Line' where yet again the division made a valuable but costly to the fighting, during the latter stages of which rapid advances were made. On the night of 23 October 1918, the division gained Beaudignies near Le Quesnoy, the following day the high ground nearby was also taken bringing into view the mediaeval fortress of Le Quesnoy, ringed with 60-ft ramparts and full of civilians. It would seem likely that Arthur had either been amongst those who were wounded during the attack on Beaudignies, or actually killed on the day that he died, possibly as the result of enemy artillery shelling. An allied barrage of extraordinary complexity was planned so that not one round fell in the town of Le Quesnoy, led the infantry round both sides of the town

on 4 November 1918, with batteries leapfrogging forward to cover the advance nearly to the Mormal Forest. Bypassing the fortress on both sides, but taking four neighbouring villages, the infantry reached the edge of the forest at 1415 hours. A standing barrage meanwhile played on the ramparts and with the aid of scaling ladders the Rifles carried the outlying bastions and entered Le Quesnoy soon after 1600 hours. Almost 2,000 enemy prisoners, 60 field guns, and literally hundreds of machine guns were taken it being a somewhat fitting climax to two and a half years spent on the Western Front. The infantry were relieved on the eastern side of the forest at midnight on 5–6 November and the war ended five days later. For part of the Great War, Arthur's battalion was commanded by Harold Eric Barrowclough, who with the advent of the Second World War was promoted to Brigadier commanding the 6th New Zealand Brigade in the Middle East, later becoming G.O.C. of the 3rd New Zealand Division and, still later, of the New Zealand Pacific Forces. He was awarded a D.S.O. and Bar, Military Cross, and the United States Legion of Merit. He was appointed Chief Justice of New Zealand in 1953, and became a member of the Privy Council in 1954, it being the same year in which he was made a K.C.M.G.

**WARD**, R.H.P. Despite having several initials 'to help' trace the correct casualty, this former pupil has regrettably not been positively identified yet. **Probably** he is the same casualty who is commemorated on the Christ Church memorial plaque as ROBERT HENRY WARD. In view of no obvious Dover, Kent connections, the following brief commemoration should be viewed with caution by anybody carrying out more detailed research into the life and death of Robert Henry Ward. Corporal Ward as shown below being the sole Robert Henry Ward shown on the CWGC 'Dept of Honour,' he is also the only match with O/SDGW. Regrettably no family details were added to Robert's I/CWGC commemoration, which might have shown a Dover, Kent connection.

**WARD**, ROBERT HENRY RICHARD. Corporal, G/24249.

10th (Service) Battalion, (Battersea) The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 26 March 1918.

Born Hampstead, Middlesex. Enlisted Marylebone, Middlesex.

Resided Hendon, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.

Formerly Corporal, 15531, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

**WILLIAMS**, GEORGE EDWARD JAMES. Lieutenant.

2nd Field Company, Australian Engineers.

Died 25 October 1917.

Enlisted 2 June 1915 at which time George stated his trade or calling as an Engineer.

Resided Rock Valley, Lismore, New South Wales, Australia.

Son of Mrs E Williams, 5 Military Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XXII. C. 15.

George is also commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, Australia. Panel 25, and also on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly Driver, 2110, 3rd Field Company, Australian Engineers. George sailed from Sydney, New South Wales on 6 September 1915 onboard the 11,120 ton H.M.A.T. Ballarat (A7), at which

time he still had the rank of Driver, it is likely that he was transferred to the 2nd Field Company, Australian Engineers after being commissioned.

**WORSTER, ALEXANDER FREDERICK.** MC & Bar. Captain.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 23 November 1917.

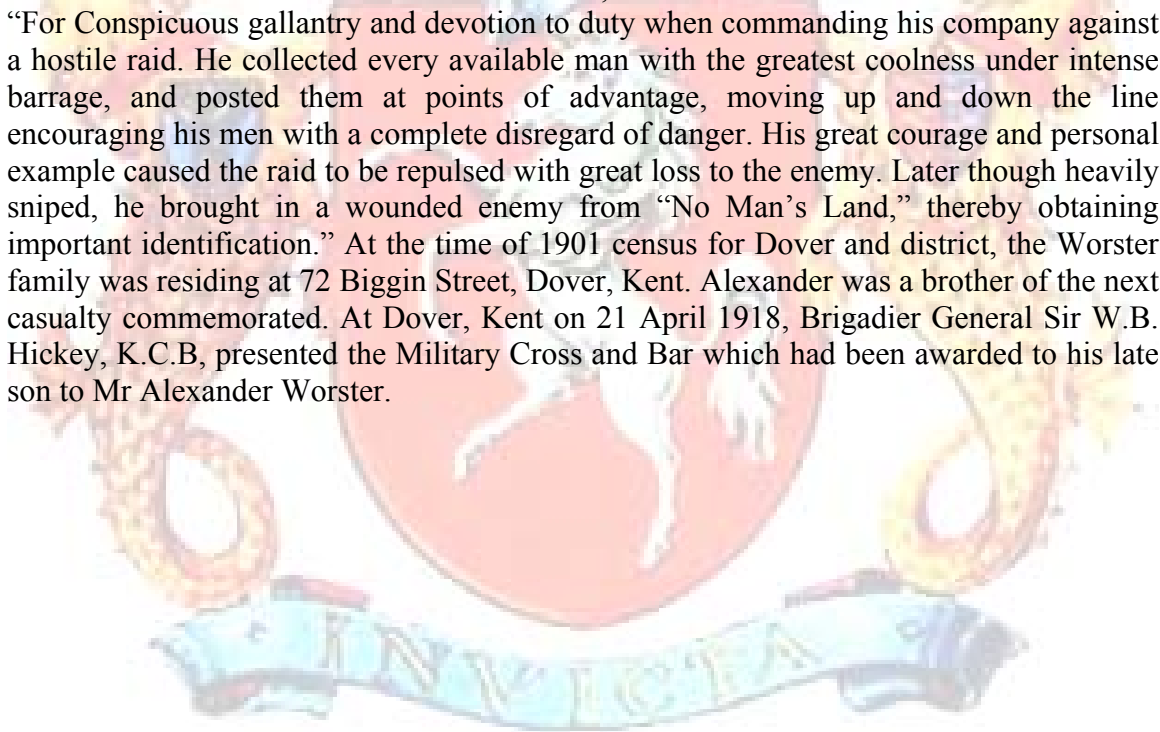
Born Hornsey, Middlesex. c1894.

Son of Alexander and Elizabeth Worster of the 'Dublin Man of War,' River, Dover, Kent.

Buried Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II.E.5.

Alexander is also commemorated on River, Dover, Kent civic war memorial which is located in the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul, also commemorated on Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Formerly Private.1830 and 240181. East Kent Yeomanry and Captain in the Corps of Hussars. Alexander was awarded both the Military Cross and a Bar whilst serving as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Despite repeated attempts to locate London Gazette data appertaining to both awards, thus far only his 'Bar' details have been found which appeared in the Supplement to the London Gazette dated 17 September 1917, which was originally Gazetted on 18 June, 1917 :- T./2nd Lt. Alexander Frederick Worster. M.C., E Kent R:-

“For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when commanding his company against a hostile raid. He collected every available man with the greatest coolness under intense barrage, and posted them at points of advantage, moving up and down the line encouraging his men with a complete disregard of danger. His great courage and personal example caused the raid to be repulsed with great loss to the enemy. Later though heavily sniped, he brought in a wounded enemy from “No Man’s Land,” thereby obtaining important identification.” At the time of 1901 census for Dover and district, the Worster family was residing at 72 Biggin Street, Dover, Kent. Alexander was a brother of the next casualty commemorated. At Dover, Kent on 21 April 1918, Brigadier General Sir W.B. Hickey, K.C.B, presented the Military Cross and Bar which had been awarded to his late son to Mr Alexander Worster.



# The Second World War

## 1939 – 1945

**ARCHIBALD**, CHARLES RONALD. Flying Officer (Pilot), 89072.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 48 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died of exposure at sea Wednesday 25 February 1942. Aged 23.  
Son of John and Barbara Archibald.  
Husband of Elaine Archibald of Maida Vale, London.  
Buried Trondheim (Stavne) Cemetery, Norway. Grave Ref: A IV British. F. 7.  
Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Archibald was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1939.  
There are no Commonwealth war cemeteries in Norway, those who died there being buried in civil cemeteries and churchyards. Trondheim (Stavne) Cemetery contains the largest Commonwealth war graves plot in Norway. Among those buried here are the first casualties of the Norwegian campaign. In September 1938 48 Squadron, Royal Air Force moved to Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppy, Kent to become a general reconnaissance unit but moved to Thorney Island, Hampshire a few days before the outbreak of the Second World War. The Squadron began flying anti-submarine patrols and maintained important anti E-Boat patrols during the evacuation of Dunkirk. In July 1940, the Squadron moved to Merseyside to carry on with anti-submarine patrols and in July 1941 it was moved to the Shetland Islands where conversion to Lockheed Hudson's took place. The Squadron undertook shipping patrols and strikes on enemy craft off the Norwegian coast, during which time Charles lost his life. In December 1942 the Squadron was again moved, this time to Gibraltar for patrols over the approaches to the Mediterranean. In February 1944 the Squadron was moved back to the United Kingdom and was re-equipped with Dakotas to become a transport unit. The Squadron was then sent to India in August 1945, but the Japanese surrender resulted in its disbandment on 16 January 1946.

**ASHMAN**, FREDERICK EDWARD. Sergeant (Navigator), 1337269.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 49 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Thursday 26 November 1943. Aged 19.  
Son of Herbert and Edith Eliza Ashman of Lenham, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: Joint grave 9. F. 12-13.  
Frederick was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1939.  
Also commemorated on Lenham, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
49 Squadron, Royal Air Force was based at R.A.F Fiskerton, Lincolnshire, from 2 January 1943 to 16 October 1944. Fiskerton parish church of St. Clement's contains a memorial plaque in the Lady Chapel, to commemorate the personnel of R.A.F. Fiskerton from 1943 to 1945. St Clement's also holds the 49 Squadron Roll of Honour. At the airfield site a memorial stands at the side of the old runway, located to the east of the minor road, it was dedicated in May 1995 to R.A.F. Fiskerton, 49 Squadron and 576 Squadron and takes the form of a memorial stone with two smaller stones carrying a dedication and poem which were dedicated in June 1997. Frederick was in the crew of

Lancaster bomber JB362 EA-D which was flown by 21 year old Warrant Officer (Pilot), Ronald Brunt from Chadderton, Lancashire. The Lancaster took off from R.A.F Fiskerton, Lincolnshire at 1731 hours on 26 November 1943, but crashed at Gransee, Germany to the south of Lake Gehronsee. Sergeant J.G. Burrows was the only survivor of the seven crew members, and became a prisoner of war. On the night of 26/27 November 1943, 443 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitos flew to Berlin and Stuttgart, the latter being a diversion for the much larger bomber force. Both forces flew a common route over Northern France and on nearly to Frankfurt before diverging. The German controllers thought that Frankfurt was the main target until a late stage and several bombers were shot down as they flew past Frankfurt. Only a few fighters appeared over Berlin, where flak was the main danger, but the scattered condition of the bomber stream at Berlin meant that bombers were caught by fighters off track on the return flight and the casualties mounted. 28 Lancasters were lost, and 14 more Lancasters crashed in England. The weather was clear over Berlin but, after their long approach flight from the south, the aircraft in the Pathfinder Force marked an area six to seven miles north-west of the city centre and most aircraft bombed there. Because of Berlin's size, however, most of the bombing still fell within the city boundaries and particularly on the semi-industrial suburb of Reinickendorf; smaller amounts of bombs fell in the centre of the city and others in the Tegel districts, and in the Siemensstadt where there was many electrical factories. The Berlin Zoo was heavily bombed on this night. Many of the animals had by then already been evacuated to zoos in other parts of Germany, but the bombing killed most of the remaining animals. Several large and dangerous animals, such as Leopards, Panthers, Jaguars and Apes, escaped and had to be hunted down and shot in the streets. The diversionary raid on Stuttgart was carried out by 157 Halifax's and 21 Lancaster's. 6 Halifax's bombers were lost. The bombing was very scattered and caused little damage but part of the night-fighter force was drawn off from the Berlin operation as intended.

**AXFORD, NORMAN FRANK.** Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), 1181575.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 420 (Royal Canadian Air Force) Squadron.

Died Sunday 27 July 1941. Aged 20.

Son of Frank William George and Hilda Frances Axford of River, Dover, Kent.

Buried Kiel War Cemetery, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. 4. D. 1.

Norman was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1938.

Also commemorated on River, Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance that is kept at the Dover Museum.

As a member of the four men crew, Norman was on Hamden bomber AE202 PT-X which was flown by Pilot Officer R.N. Rayne that took off from R.A.F. Waddington, Lincolnshire on the night of 26/27 July 1941. The Hamden being in a mixed bomber force of 403 aircraft which was comprised of 181 Wellington's, 77 Lancaster's, 73 Halifax's, 39 Stirlings and 33 Hampden's that were dispatched in what was probably a full 'maximum effort' for the regular Bomber Command squadrons. Norman's aircraft crashed near Tönning, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany where three of the bomber's crew was laid to rest, the pilot survived and became a prisoner of war. Following the cessation of hostilities, Norman and his comrades were reinterred in the Kiel War Cemetery. 29 aircraft were lost on the raid, they being 15 Wellingtons, 8 Halifax's, 2 Hampden's, 2 Lancasters, 2 Stirlings, both of the Hamden's lost were from Norman's squadron, the

other aircraft was lost without trace and its crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Crews encountered a mixture of cloud and icing at some places on the route, but clear weather at the target. Good bombing results were claimed. Hamburg reports show that severe and widespread damage was caused, mostly in housing and semi-commercial districts rather than in the docks and industrial areas. At least 800 fires were dealt with, 523 being classed as large. 823 houses were destroyed and more than 5,000 damaged. More than 14,000 people were bombed out. 337 people were killed and 1,027 injured. 12 Boston's and 10 Blenheim's carried out Intruder flights to airfields. 1 Boston of 226 Squadron was lost while attacking Jever; this being the first Boston Intruder casualty.

**BARLING**, GRAHAME WILLIAM. Warrant Officer (Pilot), 1331895.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died Saturday 17 February 1945. Aged 21.  
Son of William Masters Barling and Nellie Margaret Barling.  
Husband of Betty F. Barling of Herne Bay, Kent.  
Buried Herne Bay Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Sec. NN. Grave 249.  
Also commemorated on Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.  
Grahame was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1936.

**BOARD**, ROWLAND DOUGLAS. Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class, C/MX 56948.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Curacoa. (D41).  
Died Friday 2 October 1942.  
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 60. Column 1.  
Rowland was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1933.  
Rowland's 4190 ton 'Ceres' class light cruiser was launched on 5 May 1917 and commissioned on 18 February 1918, she was rearmed as an Anti-Aircraft cruiser from August 1939 until April 1940. H.M.S. Curacoa was engaged in convoy escort duties with the liner Queen Mary which was in use as a troopship and carrying over 10,000 American troops across the Atlantic. While both ships were zigzagging, H.M.S. Curacoa commanded by Captain J. W. Boutwood, D.S.O., R.N, crossed the Queen Mary's bow with insufficient clearance. The Queen Mary sliced into her at a speed of 28 knots, cutting the light cruiser in two. Separated by about 100 yards, she sank instantly with 338 casualties. Despite the impact of the collision the Queen Mary did not falter or slow down, despite the fact of a 40 foot gash in her bow, for fear of German submarines. The convoy behind picked up 26 survivors from Rowland's ship. Amongst those who survived the tragedy was the commander of H.M.S. Curacoa.

**BRETT, RAYMOND WILLIAM.** Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1807476.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 44 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 22 June 1944.

Buried Lanklaar Communal Cemetery, Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 1-7.

Raymond was a pupil at the school from 1936 to 1940. Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Book of Remembrance which is kept at the Dover Museum.

Raymond was amongst the seven man crew of Lancaster bomber ND552 KM-X which took off from R.A.F Dunholme Lodge, Lincolnshire at 2258 hours on the night of 21 June 1944, in a force comprised of 133 Lancasters and 6 Mosquitos to attack the synthetic-oil plant at Wesseling; all the aircraft in this force were from No 5 Group except for 5 Lancasters provided by No 1 Group. The weather forecast for the target area and for the attack on Scholven/Buer which took place at the same time, predicted clear conditions but the bombing force encountered 10/10ths low cloud. The planned No 5 Group low-level marking method could not be used and the reserve method, in which the Lancasters bombed on H2S, was used instead. (Airborne radar, H2S equipment enabled bomber crews to see through cloud and darkness for bombing, target-marking, and navigation). German night fighters made contact with the bomber force and 37 Lancasters were lost, with numbers 44, 49 and 619 Squadrons each losing 6 aircraft. The casualty rate represented almost twenty eight per cent of the Lancaster force. Post-raid reconnaissance showed that only slight damage was caused to the oil plant, but a secret German report quoted in the British Official History records a 40 per cent production loss at Wesseling after this raid. It is possible however that the loss was only of short duration. Raymond's aircraft which was flown by 22 year old Flying Officer Neil. J. Smith, Royal Australian Air Force, crashed into the grounds of a coalmine between the villages of Eisden and Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg, Belgium, all the Lancaster's crew were killed and are buried together in the village cemetery.

**BREWSTER, IVOR JOHN.** Craftsman, 7590648.

1 Airborne Division Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Died Tuesday 16 January 1945. Aged 20.

Born Leicestershire. Resided Kent.

Son of Walter Lennox Brewster and Matilda Caroline Brewster of Dover, Kent.

Buried Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: 18. C. 12.

Formerly Private, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Ivor was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1938. Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Book of Remembrance which is kept at the Dover Museum.

Ivor's Commanding Officer was Major William Jack Carrick R.E.M.E. who commanded the 1 Airborne Division Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during the airborne 'Operation Market Garden' at Arnhem, Holland in September 1944, and during the course of which he lost five of his other rank personnel members of the unit. A Corporal and three Craftsmen were killed during the actual Arnhem battle, and several others were wounded, one of whom was Ivor, who succumbed to his wounds on 16 January 1945 whilst a patient at Apeldoorn Hospital. Major 'Bill' Carrick survived the

war and on 19 March 1948 was awarded the King Haakon VII Freedom Cross, for the liberation of Norway. He died at York, Yorkshire in April 1988.

**BROOKER**, PERCY THOMAS ERIC. Lieutenant, 324901.

Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Attached to the 7th Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Died Wednesday 14 February 1945. Aged 19.

Born Monmouthshire, Wales. Resided West London.

Son of Percy Charles and Florence Mary Brooker of Paddington, London.

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 51. B. 4.

Percy was a pupil at the school from 1939 to 1941.

**BUCKLEY**, MAURICE WILLIAM. Sergeant (Observer), 1380001.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 148 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Friday 24 April 1942.

Buried Catania War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave Ref: Collective grave IV. L. 24.

Maurice was a pupil at the school from 1922 to 1927.

Amongst the 451 identified casualties buried in Poznań Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland is 23 year old Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), Anthony R.H. Hayter from Newbury, Berkshire. Anthony was one of those involved in the mass escape from Stalag Luft III, at Sagan (now Zagan), in March 1944 who are buried in the cemetery. Now remembered as "The Great Escape," probably more due to Hollywood than history books and the like. Of the 76 men who escaped, 3 made it home to the United Kingdom, 23 were recaptured and sent back to Sagan. Adolph Hitler personally ordered the execution of the other 50 men including Anthony who was captured by the Germans and murdered by the Gestapo. Anthony had been captured after his Wellington bomber BB483 Q was shot down over Acate, Sicily on Friday 24 April 1942; he was the aircrafts pilot and the only survivor of the six crew. The other five are all buried in the Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, one of whom is Maurice Buckley. The Wellington had taken off from R.A.F. Luqa, Malta at 2045 hours on a bombing mission to Comiso, Sicily, and was one of two of 148 Squadron's Wellington shot down, the entire crew from the other bomber all perished and are also at rest in the same cemetery as Maurice and his comrades. Following the entry of Italy into the war on 10 June 1940, detachments of United Kingdom bomber squadrons had been sent to Malta to carry out attacks against targets in North Africa. Three of these detachments from No 38, 99 and 115 Squadrons were amalgamated to form a new No 148 Squadron on 14 December 1940 at Luqa, Malta and equipped with Wellington bombers. Maurice's squadron continued its attacks against targets in Libya, Sicily and also the Italian mainland, from Malta, until March 1941 when it moved to a new home at Kabrit in Egypt. From here it supported the 8th Army during its battles for control of the North African Desert, operating from a number of desert landing grounds. On 7 December 1942 a detachment of 12 Wellingtons was sent to Malta, leaving six at LG167 in Libya, which were transferred to No's 30 and 70 Squadrons. A week after arriving in Malta, the squadron disbanded, with the crews being absorbed by other units on the island. Three months later on 14 March 1943, No 148 Squadron reformed at Gambut, Libya in the 'Special Duties' role, equipped with Halifax's and Liberator's. It was now

responsible for supplying Partisan groups throughout the Balkans and as far afield as Poland, as well as undertaking normal bombing missions when not otherwise occupied. With the end of the war the squadron re-equipped with standard bomber Liberator's, moving back to Egypt in November 1945, where it disbanded on 15 January 1946.

**CASSINGHAM, JACK.** Third Engineer Officer.

Merchant Navy, Cable Ship Alert.

Died Saturday 24 February 1945. Aged 39.

Son of John Odion Cassingham and Kate Cassingham.

Husband of Violet Cassingham of Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 4.

Jack was a pupil at the school from 1914 to 1921.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Freeman served was sunk while repairing the Dumpton Gap - La Panne undersea cable in the Straits of Dover on 24 February 1945. All 59 crew members were lost in the sinking.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which William served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**De CARTARET, HARVEY GEORGE.** Lieutenant, 200235.

71 (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).

Harvey was probably attached to a different unit at the time of his demise; please see additional comments at end of this brief commemoration.

Died Monday 8 January 1945. Aged 27.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Harvey Forbes de Carteret and Nellie de Carteret of Guston, Dover, Kent.

Buried Hotton War Cemetery, Hotton, Luxembourg, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. D. 6.

Harvey was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1934, and where on the school tribute to the Second World War fallen, Harvey is recorded as having died of wounds in the Western Desert which in view of where he is buried is clearly an unfortunate error, but might be indicative of him having been wounded earlier in that theatre of war.

Hotton War Cemetery contains 666 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 21 of them sadly unidentified. A number of those buried in the cemetery date from the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force, one of whom was Major John R.H. Cartland R.A. who died on 30 May 1940, whose brother Captain James A.H. Cartland of the Lincolnshire Regiment fell the previous day, the brothers father had lost his life in the Great War, there sister was the novelist Barbara Cartland. Between 1940 and 1945 aircrew personnel were laid to rest in the cemetery, but by far and away the largest number of the casualties date from the time when the village of Hotton was on the western limit of the great German counter offensive in the Ardennes during January 1945 when and where it would appear that Harvey lost his life. Harvey de Carteret Senior may have served in the Great War as a Warrant Officer Class 1 in the Royal Engineers, prior to being commissioned as a Lieutenant and Quarter Master in the corps. Reference was made above appertaining to the fact that it appeared that Harvey was probably attached to another unit at the time of death. From 30 July 1940 until the cessation of hostilities, the 71 (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was a 'Divisional Troops' unit of the 46th Infantry Division, and was in Italy from 3 July 1944 until 13 January 1945 when a move to Greece was made. Where reference is made in the school Book of Remembrance to Harvey having died of wounds in the Western Desert, it might be of relevance to add that from 22 March 1944 until 31 March 1944, and 18 June 1944 until 28 June 1944, Harvey's Field Regiment was in Egypt.

**CASTLE, RONALD VICTOR.** Fourth Engineer Officer.

Merchant Navy, S.S. Empire Crossbill (London).

Died Thursday 11 September 1941. Aged 22.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Castle of River, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 39.

Ronald was a pupil at the school from 1928 to 1935, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Ronald's ship, a 5463 ton steam freighter was torpedoed and sunk by the Lorient, Brittany, France based u-boat U-82 commanded by Oberleutnant zur See (Lieutenant) Siegfried Rollmann at 0705 hours on Thursday 11 September 1941 at position 63.14N 37.12W whilst in convoy SC-42 traveling from Philadelphia to Hull, with a cargo of 6686 tons of steel and 4 tons relief supplies, all 49 onboard being made up of passengers and crew perished in the sinking of the S.S. Empire Crossbill, her Master Eric Robinson

Townend aged 38 came from Fenham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, another member of the crew and a former Prince of Wales Sea Training School boy was George Liddle, who is commemorated on the Memorial Plaque and has a brief tribute below. S.S. Empire Crossbill was originally an American vessel built in 1919 by the Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Drydock Corp, San Pedro California, for the US Shipping Board, Los Angeles and named the "West Amargosa;" in 1937 the ship had been transferred to the US Maritime Commission and laid up as part of the Reserve fleet, she was renamed in 1940 when she was given to Great Britain and became a MOWT ship, managed by Sir W. Reardon Smith & Sons but at the time of her loss she was managed by John Morrison & Son, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The then Kapitänleutnant (Lieutenant Commander) Siegfried Rollmann died along with the other 44 crew members onboard the submarine U-82 on Friday 6 February 1942 north of the Azores, when the submarine was sunk in position 44.10N, 23.52W, by depth charges fired from two Royal Navy ships, they being the sloop HMS Rochester (L50) and the corvette HMS Tamarisk (K216). A type VIIC submarine the U-82 was built by Bremer Vulkan, Bremen-Vegesack, Germany, the U-82 was laid down on Wednesday 15 May 1940 and commissioned on Wednesday 14 May 1941, being amongst 74 of different types of submarines that were commissioned into the Kriegsmarine, from their Bremen-Vegesack shipyard between Saturday 27 July 1940 and Saturday 15 April 1944.

**CHELL, ALFRED CHARLES.** Guardsman, 2617566.

5th Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died Wednesday 26 January 1944. Aged 27.

Born South East London. Resided Kent.

Husband of Emma Foster Chell of Glasgow, Scotland.

Buried Anzio War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: IV, F, 8.

Alfred was a pupil at the school from 1929 to 1932. Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance in the Dover Museum.

In 1941 the 5th and 6th, Battalions, Grenadier Guards were raised, and the 3rd and 5th Battalions later took part in the invasion of North Africa. The 3rd, 5th and 6th Battalions of the regiment were engaged in the invasion of Italy and the Italian campaign, with Alfred's battalion being amongst the force that landed at Anzio.

**COLES, PETER ERNEST.** Leading Aircraftman (Observer Under Training), 1389953.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died Friday 31 October 1941. Aged 24.

Son of Ernest James Coles and Alice Maud Coles.

Buried Killead (St. Catherine) Church of Ireland Churchyard, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Grave Ref: Sec. 23. Grave 4.

Peter was a pupil at the school from 1925 to 1936.

**CORNWELL, WILLIAM FREDERICK.** Seaman.

Merchant Navy, Cable Ship Alert.

Died Saturday 24 February 1945. Aged 39.

Born 29 September 1914. Discharge number: R125243.

Son of William John and Ellen Susan Cornwell of Dover, Kent.

Husband of Olive Cornwell of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 4, and in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Remembrance.

William was a pupil at the school from 1925 to 1930.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which Freeman served was sunk while repairing the Dumpton Gap - La Panne undersea cable in the Straits of Dover on 24 February 1945. All 59 crew members were lost in the sinking.

Built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson of Wallsend on the Tyne in 1918, the 941 ton vessel on which William served was working off the North Goodwin Sands in the Straits of Dover, undertaking repairs to the Dumpton Gap, Kent to La Panne, Belgium undersea telegraph cable, when she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk with the loss of all of her 59 hands. It was not one of the large ocean going type of submarines which sank the Alert, but a Seehund (Seal) type. These submarines had a displacement of 17 tons when submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two underslung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 kilometres at 7 knots, and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, but had to be almost literally stationary for undertaking submerged torpedo attacks. About fifty Seehund submarines were built which had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged. These types of midget German submarines were involved in a number of limited actions off Dungeness Point on the south Kent coast. On the morning of 24 February 1945 the two man crew of the U-5330, Oberleutnant zur See, Klaus Sparbrodt and Masch Mt. Günter Jahnke claimed to have sunk a corvette northeast of the South Falls. Initially it was assumed by the Kriegsmarine that they had sunk the 1,050 ton French destroyer La Combattante, but this ship had been mined off the Humber estuary on the night of 23/24 February, by a mine laid on 16 February 1945 by German Motor Torpedo Boats (Schnellboots or E-boats), and the real victim of U-5330 was in fact the British G.P.O. cable layer Alert. Arguably one of the Post Office cable laying ship Alert's most important contributions to the Allied war effort took place surrounded in secrecy in Kent during May 1942. It had been realised that with her shallow draft and the crews' expertise gained over many years cable laying for the General Post Office, that the vessel would be an ideal choice to take part in the embryonic Pipeline Under the Ocean (PLUTO) experiments. Resulting from the decision to use the Alert, she laid a fuel pipe across the river Medway, Kent, and fuel was pumped successfully at a pressure of 600 lbs. per square inch. From observations and data collected the programme of experimentation and modification continued and by the next month the system was ready for deep water trials which were conducted by another larger vessel in the Clyde estuary, and of course in June 1944 PLUTO proved to be invaluable.

**COX, CECIL CHARLES.** Private, 7594509.

1 Base Ordnance Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Died at sea Monday 17 June 1940. Aged 24.

Born and resided Kent.

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 145.

Cecil was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1935, where he is commemorated as being a member of the Royal Army Service Corps, but it is doubtful if in fact Cecil had ever served in that corps, as he has a Royal Army Ordnance Corps regimental number. Although when time and financial resources permit a more detailed search regarding Cecil's demise will need to be carried out, and whilst a number of vessels were of course lost, the date of his death is that of the loss of the H.M.T. Lancastria off St. Nazaire. The evacuation of the British and French troops from France in 1940 did not end with Dunkirk. British and French forces were still being rescued two weeks later when Britain's worst maritime disaster of the Second World War took place. On the 17 June 1940 the 16,000 ton Cunard liner (in use as a troopship) H.M.T. Lancastria lay 5 miles off St Nazaire, in the estuary of the River Loire, and was embarking troops, Royal Air Force personnel, and also civilian refugees, including women and children, who were being evacuated from France, when the country was on the verge of collapse. The exact numbers onboard the ship will almost clearly never be known, but almost certainly exceeded 6000; some estimates have put the casualty number as high as 9000. The H.M.T. Lancastria was attacked and hit by bombs from German Junkers 88 aircraft.

**CURTIS, GILBERT ALFRED JOHN.** Pilot Officer (Air Gunner), 178241.

Royal Air Force. 431 (Royal Canadian Air Force) (Iroquois) Squadron.

Died Thursday 8 June 1944. Aged 21.

Son of Alfred Ernest and Amy Afra Curtis.

Husband of Margaret Ellen Curtis of Dagenham, Essex.

Buried Blevy Communal Cemetery, Eure-et-Loir, France. Grave Ref: Collective grave.

Gilbert was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1940.

About 17 yards south of the crucifix in the centre of the cemetery is the collective grave of the eight man crew of Gilbert's aircraft, three of them belonged to the Royal Air Force and five to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Gilbert's Halifax bomber MZ602 SE-U flown by 23 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot) John P. Artyinuk from Onoway, Alberu, Canada had taken off from R.A.F. Croft, County Durham at 2354 hours on Wednesday 7 June 1944 on an operation to Versailles, Yvelines, France. The Lancaster crashed at Blevy, Eure-et-Loir, France which is about 14 miles south west of Dreux. Gilbert and his fellow crew members were in a mixed bomber force which consisted of 483 aircraft, made up of 286 Lancaster's, 169 Halifax's and 28 Mosquitos, which attacked railways at Alençon, Fougères, Mayenne, Pontabault and Rennes as part of the preventive measures undertaken to prevent or at least delay German reinforcements from the south reaching Normandy. All of the raids appear to have been successful, but during which 4 aircraft were lost, 2 Lancasters from the Pontabault raid and 1 Lancaster and 1 Mosquito from the Rennes raid. The first 12,000lb Tallboy bombs developed by Barnes Wallis were used on this night by No 617 Squadron in a raid on a railway tunnel near Saumur, 125 miles south of the battle area. The raid was prepared in great haste because a German Panzer unit was expected to move by train through the tunnel. The target area was illuminated with flares

by 4 Lancasters of No 83 Squadron and marked at low level by 3 Mosquitos. 25 Lancasters of No 617 Squadron then dropped their Tallboys with great accuracy. The huge bombs exploded under the ground to create miniature 'earthquakes,' one actually pierced the roof of the tunnel and brought down a huge quantity of rock and soil. The tunnel was blocked for a considerable period and the Panzer unit was badly delayed, fortunately no aircraft were lost from this raid.

**DERMOTT, JOHN.** Fourth Engineer Officer.

Merchant Navy, S.S. Biela (Liverpool).

Died Saturday 14 February 1942. Aged 22.

Born 22 June 1919. Merchant Navy Discharge number: R116519.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dermott of Radipole, Weymouth, Dorsetshire.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 17, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance, that is kept in the Dover Museum.

John was a pupil at the school from 1932 to 1935.

John's ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-98 which was commanded by the 'u-boat' ace Kapitänleutnant Robert Gysae, when she was approximately 400 miles South West of Cape Race, at 0026 hours on 15 February 1942 (Continental time). At the time of her loss the S.S. Biela was sailing independently from Liverpool to Buenos Aires with a general cargo, having left the River Mersey 1 February 1942. When she was sunk the 5,298 ton steam freighter was dispersed from convoy ON 62. The vessels Master, 53 year old Captain David Anderson, from Johnshaven, Kincardineshire, 43 crew members and 5 D.E.M.S. gunners were lost. Owned by Lamport & Holt Ltd, Liverpool, John's ship was built in 1918 by Short Brothers of Pallion, Sunderland as the War Mastiff and renamed the Biela the following year. The most successful German Third Reich U-boat commanders are most often rated based on how much tonnage they each sank, excluding warships, Robert Gysae was rated fifteenth having sunk 25 ships and damaged another. Born on 14 January 1911 at Berlin-Charlottenburg, Germany, Robert Gysae enlisted in the navy on 1 April 1931, he survived the Second World War, and after spending a short time as a prisoner of the allies he then enlisted in the Bundesmarine (post-war German Navy), and served for two years in the German minesweeping service (Deutscher Minenräumdienst). He later served for four years as a Naval attaché in the United States of America, and then spent three years as Flottillenadmiral and Commander of the 'Marinedivision Nordsee' before retiring in March 1970. Robert Gysae died on 26 April 1989.

**ELWORTHY, BERNARD PATRICK.** Lieutenant, EC/7103.

14th Prince of Wales's Own Cavalry (Scinde Horse), Indian Armoured Corps.

Died Monday 22 June 1944. Aged 22.

Son of Henry Albert and Hilda Mary Elworthy of Dover, Kent.

Buried Sidon War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic. Grave Ref: 3. G. 12.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Remembrance which is the safe keeping of the Dover, Kent Museum. Bernard was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1938, where he had gained the Royal Life Saving Society swimming examinations, Bronze Medal and bar in 1936. Bernard's regiment was the first of the Indian Cavalry regiments to be mechanized during the late 1930's. From June to

December 1944, the 252nd Indian Armoured Brigade, 31st Indian Armoured Division, to which the 14th Prince of Wales's Own Cavalry (Scinde Horse) belonged, was located at Insariya on the south coast of Beirut, Lebanon. Those formations of the brigade whilst located there provided a squadron at a time to the Middle East School of Infantry for demonstration purposes; both the Scinde Horse and Hodson's took turns in providing squadrons for the demonstrations. In addition to the demonstrations Bernard's regiment was involved in security operations in Lebanon under the command of the Ninth Army. Unfortunately it has not thus far been possible to ascertain the cause of Bernard's death, but it was probably whilst involved in the security operations as opposed to the Middle East School of Infantry demonstrations, although probably like at most similar war time training establishments, 'realism' led to accidents.

**FERMOR, SYDNEY CHARLES.** Flight Sergeant (Navigator), 1390455.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 96 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Monday 17 May 1943. Aged 24.

Son of Charles and Eva Fermor of Eythorne, Dover, Kent.

Buried Rambouillet Communal Cemetery, Yvelines, France.

Sydney was a pupil at the school from 1928 to 1937.

Also commemorated on Eythorne, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

On 18 December 1940, No. 422 Flight, a Hurricane night-fighter unit at Cranage, Bayle, Cheshire was redesignated No. 96 Squadron. In February 1941 it received Boulton & Paul Defiant's as additional equipment and flew night patrols over Merseyside and the Midlands. Bristol Beaufighter's arrived in May 1942 and in April 1943 the Squadron started to fly intruder missions using Ford as an advanced base. In June 1943 the Squadron converted to Mosquitoes and resumed defensive operations in August from Church Fenton. In September it moved to Scotland for two months before coming south to Kent. After the Normandy landings, the Squadron provided night cover over the landing areas and was soon engaged in countering flying-bombs launched against London at night. On 12 December 1944, the Squadron was disbanded.

**FLISHER, LEONARD CHARLES.** Sergeant (Observer), 564186.

Royal Air Force. 218 Squadron.

Died Sunday 12 May 1940. Aged 26.

Son of Harry William Flisher and Rose Hannah Flisher of Guildford, Surrey.

Buried Sensenruth Communal Cemetery, Bouillon, Luxembourg, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 3-4.

Leonard was a pupil at the school from 1928 to 1937.

As part of the Advanced Air Striking Force (A.A.S.F.), 15 Fairey Battles carried out an operation during the afternoon of Sunday 12 May 1940, when the aircraft attacked German troops near Bouillon, Belgium. Six aircraft failed to return from the operation and the 'Battles' suffered a staggering and unsustainable loss rate of sixty two per cent. Leonard was part of the three man crew of Fairey Battle K9353 HA-J which was flown by 24 year old Flight Sergeant (Pilot) John B. Horner from Bicester, Oxfordshire, took off from Aubérive-sur-Suippes, Marne, France to take part in the operation, it was shot down at Sensenruth (Luxembourg), 3 kilometres north of Bouillon, Belgium. Leonard's aircraft was one of 311 Fairey Battle 1's that were delivered to the Royal Air Force by

Fairey Aviation between May 1938 and February 1939, within the Serial Range K9176 to K9486, and was one of two of his squadrons 'Battles' lost on the operation. It was somewhat apt that being an ex Dover Grammar School boy, Leonard had served in the Royal Air Force as a member of 218 Squadron, as its origins can be traced back to the town when it was formed there on 24 April 1918. About a month later the squadron went to France as a day-bomber squadron equipped with DH9 aircraft. It joined the 5th Group, working under the Dover-Dunkirk Naval Command, and during five months of operations made 117 raids on enemy targets in Belgium and France, and dropped 94 tons of bombs, also claiming the destruction of 38 enemy aircraft in air combat. Disbanded in 1919, the squadron was re-formed in 1936 and became one of the comparatively few bomber squadrons to serve continuously through the Second World War years against Nazi Germany. No. 218 Squadron flew to France on 2 September 1939, and made valuable reconnaissance flights and leaflet raids in Fairey Battle aircraft in the early days of the war. In June 1940, after having hindered the German advance into France by bombing the enemy's lines of communications and troop concentrations, but having suffered heavy casualties in the process, it was evacuated to England to be re-equipped with Bristol Blenheim medium-range bombers. Five months later, when it was equipped with Wellington long-range aircraft, it became a heavy-bomber squadron. Its targets were of the widest variety, ranging from industrial centres, railways, V-weapon flying bomb construction and subsequent launch sites and assorted gun batteries, to the Channel ports, oil and petrol installations, and concentrations of troops and armour. The squadron was re-equipped with Stirling four engined bombers (the first of the real "heavies") beginning in December 1941. Three months after His Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast and the peoples of the Gold Coast territories officially adopted the squadron. The Stirlings were, in turn, replaced by Lancasters in the summer of 1944. Immediately before the German capitulation in May 1945, when the heavy bombers' offensive ceased, the 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron dropped food supplies to the starving Dutch people, and subsequently its aircraft were busily employed ferrying liberated prisoners of war to England from the Continent. Amongst the mass of gallantry awards to No. 218 Squadron was included a Victoria Cross, which was awarded (posthumously) to Flight Sergeant A.L. Aaron for his "most conspicuous bravery" during a raid on 12/13 August 1943.

**FRAME, FREDERICK JAMES.** D.S.M. Chief Engine Room Artificer, D/M 38773.

Royal Navy. H.M. Submarine Upholder.

Died Saturday 18 April 1942.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 68, Column 3.

Frederick was a pupil at the school from 1920 to 1924.

Like numerous other war deaths at sea, Frederick's is along with the rest of the crew of H.M. Submarine Upholder is an estimated date. She was lost on her 25th patrol, becoming overdue on 14 April 1942. The most likely explanation is that she fell victim to depth charges dropped by the Italian torpedo boat 'Pegaso' off the north east coast of Tripoli on 14 April 1942, although no debris was seen on the surface. The attack was in fact approximately 100 miles away from the submarine's patrol area, commanded by 30 year old Lieutenant Commander Malcolm. D. Wanklyn V.C., D.S.O. and 2 Bars, it is thought that he may have changed his vessel's position to find more targets. It is also

possible that the submarine was sunk by a mine on 11 April 1942 near Tripoli, when a submarine was reported as approaching a minefield.

**GARLINGE, FRANK LEONARD.** Trooper, 7908187.

44th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died at sea Friday 5 December 1941.

Born and resided Kent.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 22, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance which is in the safekeeping of the Dover Museum.

Frank was a pupil at the school from 1927 to 1933.

The 44th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, was formed on 1 January 1938 by converting the 6th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, which was Territorial Army infantry battalion into an armoured unit of the

**GILLMAN, KEITH REGINALD.** Pilot Officer, 42053.

Royal Air Force. 32 Squadron.

Died Sunday 25 August 1940. Aged 19.

Son of Richard Gordon Gillman and Gladys Annie Gillman of River, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 8, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance. Also commemorated on River, Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, Kent.

Keith was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1939.

As one of "The Few," Keith lost his life during the Battle of Britain. At 1835 hours on Sunday 25 August 1940, Hurricane N2433 of 32 Squadron, Royal Air Force, based at Biggin Hill, Kent which was flown by Keith, was reported as missing in aerial combat over the English Channel off Dover, Kent. 32 Squadron, had taken off to intercept twelve German Dornier Do17 bombers, which were being escorted by thirty six fighter aircraft.

Keith's was one of two 32 Squadron Hurricane's that failed to return from the engagement with the Luftwaffe fighter escort, the other aircraft was flown by Pilot Officer J. Rose who parachuted into the English Channel. Consisting of just eight aircraft following the loss of two aircraft, both of which were shot down by Messerschmitt Bf 109's, the tattered remnants of Keith's squadron was withdrawn from the battle and the Commanding Officer John Worrell was placed in command of the Biggin Hill Sector.

**GOLDFINCH, WILLIAM LACEY.** Serjeant, 954859.

76 (Highland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).

Died Wednesday 26 July 1944. Aged 26.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of William Lacey Goldfinch and Ellen Charlotte Goldfinch of Whitfield, Dover, Kent,

Husband of Gladys Eileen Goldfinch of Dover, Kent.

Buried La Delivrande War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: IV. E. 7.

William was a pupil at the school from 1929 to 1933.

As a 'Divisional Troops' unit of the 3rd Infantry Division, the 76 (Highland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery had been in the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944.

Following the amphibious landing and various 'minor' engagements with the enemy, the regiment took part in the fighting in and around Caen from 4 July 1944 to 18 July 1944, and from the latter date until 23 July 1944 took part in the Battle of Bourguebus Ridge. Following William's death, his regiment later fought in the Mount Pincon battle during Operation Bluecoat stage of the Normandy battles. Latter the regiment was engaged in battles in Holland and Germany, primarily around the river Rhine. William's Field Regiment served with the 3rd Infantry Division from 5 March 1940 until 17 August 1945. In Normandy and throughout the North West Europe Campaign the regiment was equipped with M7 Priest, Sherman based self-propelled guns. With a seven man crew, the M7 Priest was armed with a 105mm main gun and a 12.7mm heavy machine gun in addition to which was the crews' personal weapons. Included amongst the unit were vehicles designated M7 Priest, Sherman OP, the OP standing for Observation Post, these machines were stripped of their main gun. Although British artillery units which were armed with M7 Priest's, as they were American and not a standard British Army type, the 69 rounds ammunition carried on each vehicle was not a British standard calibre, and had to be supplied separately for the M7 batteries, which made for a considerable logistic complication.

**GRANT, JOHN AUSTIN.** Sub-Lieutenant (A).

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Fleet Air Arm 830 Squadron, H.M.S. Furious.

Died Saturday 6 May 1944. Aged 23.

Son of Captain John Francis Grant, Indian Army, and Grace Henrietta Olga Grant of Paddington, London.

Husband of Junior Commander Joan Olive Grant, Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Trondheim (Stavne) Cemetery, Norway. Grave Ref: A IV British. C. 13.

John was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1938.

**HARRISON, RICHARD.**

Richard was a pupil at the school from 1923 to 1928, where he is commemorated as serving as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force, Coastal Command at the time of his death. Despite all of the school information, it has not been possible to extract any CWGC commemoration for him. Checking the General Registry Office, Second World War Overseas Deaths (Royal Air Force), also showed no entry for Richard. It is probably of significance that the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance which is in the safekeeping of the Dover, Museum, records a J.R Harrison of whom no clear 'Dover' match has been possible. But after checking through other data it revealed a **Coastal Command** Royal Air Force casualty J.R Harrison, he being:-

**HARRISON, JAMES RICHARDS.** Pilot Officer, 89822.

Royal Air Force, 217 Squadron.

Died 26 September 1941. Aged 24.

Buried Farnborough, Kent (St. Giles the Abbot) Churchyard. Grave Ref: Grave 619.

Whilst engaged on an anti-shipping patrol, at 1022 hours on 26 September 1941, a Hudson spotter plane of Coastal Command sighted a merchant vessel, approximately 35 nautical miles south-west of Belle Isle in the Bay of Biscay. Following the information regarding the vessel being received by Coastal Command Head Quarters, three Beaufort bombers of 217 Squadron, Royal Air Force Coastal Command were dispatched from R.A.F. St

Eval, Cornwall at 1150 hours to try and locate, and if necessary carry out an attack on what the Hudson's crew had believed to have been an enemy vessel. Two of the bombers were unable to find the vessel, the third bomber did locate it, but probably due to (as with the Hudson) being unable to positively identify the ship, it did not launch an attack. Returning to base the Beaufort's broke formation, one aircraft landed at R.A.F. Chivenor, Devon, and another landed back at R.A.F. St Eval. The third plane flown by James Beaufort W6483 MW-A failed to return from the mission, it had crashed on the edge of the County Quarry on Tregonning Hill, which is some 3 miles to the north west of Helston, Cornwall whilst flying in bad visibility at 1705 hours. A memorial has been erected on the hill where the bomber crashed which gives the names of the crew of the aircraft. Pilot Officer J.R. Harrison 89822, Pilot Officer P.F. Opperman 100561, Sgt H.L. Carter 11622321 and Sgt D.A. Ryder 1255613. Their squadron reformed prior to the Second World War, on 15 March 1937 at Boscombe Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire in a General Reconnaissance role. It was equipped with Avro Anson aircraft which was the Royal Air Forces first monoplane with retractable undercarriage. It moved between R.A.F. Tangmere, R.A.F. Warmwell and R.A.F. Bicester until October 1939 when it arrived at its war station at R.A.F. St Eval, Cornwall, from where it carried anti-submarine patrols over the Western Approaches. The Anson's began to be replaced by Beauforts in May 1940, but conversion was slow due to problems with the aircrafts Taurus engines, as a result it was September before operations began and the end of the year before the Anson's were retired. Anti-shipping operations were now the order of the day and these continued from R.A.F. St Eval until February 1942, when the squadron moved to Scotland. However, few operations were carried out from R.A.F. Skitten and later R.A.F. Leuchars as the squadron was earmarked for service in Ceylon with the ground echelon leaving on 7 May and the aircraft flying out on 7 June 1942. On arrival in Malta, the squadron was retained for attacks against enemy shipping in the Mediterranean. When the ground crews arrived in August, they had no aircraft and it was October before Hudson's arrived for the squadron to begin anti-submarine patrols. New Beauforts arrived in April 1943 to supplement the Hudson's until June when the Hudson's left and the squadron reverted to the anti-shipping strike role. In July 1944, Beaufighters replaced the Beauforts, but the lack of suitable targets meant that the squadron operated in a defensive role until May 1945. With the invasion of Malaya in the planning stage, the squadron was due to move to the Cocos Islands in preparation, but the dropping of the atomic bombs negated this action and it remained in Ceylon, where it disbanded on 30 September 1945.

**HOOD, HAROLD.** Best match obtained, but anyone conducting more detailed research into the life and death of Harold should view this brief commemoration with caution.

**HOOD, HAROLD CHRISTOPHER.** Lance Bombardier, 1128468.

53 (Bolton) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).

Died Tuesday 2 November 1943. Aged 36.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Christopher Thomas Hood and Elizabeth Hood.

Husband of Norah Mary Hood of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XV. D. 37.

Harold was a pupil at the school from 1921 to 1927, unfortunately his branch of the armed or civilian services served in is not shown at his school commemoration.

**HOWARTH, PETER NOEL.** Leading Aircraftman, 1255696.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 216 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Friday 7 August 1942.  
Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt.  
Grave Ref: Collective grave XXXIII. D. 23-26.  
Peter was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1937.

**JAMES, ANTHONY LANGFORD.** Flight Sergeant (Air Bomber), 1801848.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 189 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Friday 2 February 1945. Aged 21.  
Son of William Edgar Robert and Doris Gertrude James of Dover, Kent.  
Buried Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tölz, Bayern, Germany. Grave Ref: 1. F. 20.  
Also commemorated on Eythorne, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.  
Anthony was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1940.  
Lancaster bomber PB840 CA-K took off from R.A.F. Fulbeck, Lincolnshire at 2018 hours on Friday 2 February 1945, with Anthony as one of the aircrafts seven crew, which was flown by 21 year old Flying Officer William D. Kelly R.A.A.F. from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The Lancaster was at the start of a mission to Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and was amongst 250 Lancasters and 11 Mosquitos of No. 5 Group involved. Cloud cover over the target caused this raid to be a complete failure with reports from Karlsruhe stating that no casualties had occurred and only a few bombs had been dropped on the target area. The report mentions 'dive bombers' which presumably was referring to the Mosquito marker aircraft trying to establish their position. The raid was the last major R.A.F. raid of the Second World War on Karlsruhe, during which a total of 14 Lancasters were lost, including 4 of the 19 aircraft from Anthony's squadron which took part on the raid. Anthony's aircraft crashed at Unteröwisheim which is approximately 6 kilometres North East of Bruchsal, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Six of the crew were killed in the crash and are now buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery. Anthony was taken to the cemetery to lie with his comrades, having been initially buried by the German authorities on 9 February 1945 at Ulstadtfriedhof which is located about 2 kilometres West of Unteröwisheim. Only Sergeant R.F. Dyson G.M. survived the crash, and is reported to have been found by a German civilian who delivered him up to an Oberleutnant Workaensfer at Dientsstele, who in turn had him admitted to a hospital in Karlsruhe. Sergeant Dyson who was a pre-war regular member of the R.A.F. was later interned in Camp 7A. Despite being wounded, he fortunately also survived the war and was repatriated on 11 May 1945. He had gained his George Medal for his brave actions despite his own injuries, when Lancaster PB745 CA-Q of 189 Squadron, Royal Air Force crashed at Saltby, Leicestershire on the night of 26/27 November 1944, at which time three of the crew were killed and others died later of their injuries.

**JENKINS, NORMAN WILLIAM ERIC.** Warrant Officer Class II (Q.M.S.), 1871032.

Royal Engineers.

Died at sea 28/29 May 1941. Aged 24.

Born Rutland. Resided Kent.

Son of George Henry Jenkins and Florence Norah Jenkins of Rusthall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece. Face 4.

Pre war member of the Royal Engineers.

Norman was a pupil at the school from 1927 to 1933. He is also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance, which is in the safekeeping of the Dover, Kent Museum.

**KENNARD, HAROLD MOORE.** Sergeant, 1204535.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 90 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Saturday 20 February 1943. Aged 26.

Son of George and Lizzie Kennard of Shepherdswell, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 155.

Harold was a pupil at the school from 1927 to 1934, and was an Associate of Trinity College London.

Also commemorated Shepherdswell (or Sibertswold), Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

Harold was a crew member of Stirling bomber BK627 WP-P flown by 22 year old Albert B. Scholey from Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, which took off from R.A.F. Ridgewell, Essex at 1754 hours on a mission to bomb the port of Wilhelmshaven, Lower Saxony, Germany. The Stirling was amongst 338 mixed bomber force engaged on the raid, which was comprised of 120 Wellingtons, 110 Halifax's, 56 Stirlings, 52 Lancasters. A total of 12 aircraft were lost on the raid, they being 5 Stirlings, 4 Lancasters and 3 Wellingtons. Unfortunately for the R.A.F. Bomber Command planners the raid was failure, with the Pathfinder Force marking causing the Main Force bombing to fall north of Wilhelmshaven. After this raid it was found that the Pathfinders had been issued with out-of-date maps which did not show recent town developments. Resulting from those findings a general updating of maps then took place. All seven crew were lost when Harold's aircraft was presumed to have crashed in the sea. Six of the crew are now commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, but the body of Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Stanley G. Fisher was found on 18 April 1943, and was buried at Westerland on Sylt, one of the North Frisian Islands, he was later moved to lie amongst the almost 1000 Second World War casualties (mostly aircrews) who are at rest in Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Harold's Stirling had been built by Austin Motors Ltd and delivered to his squadron on 17 November 1942, and was one of two the squadrons Stirlings which were lost on this operation.

**KENNEDY, LEWIS ROBERT EDWARD.** Lieutenant (E).

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Galatea.

Died Monday 15 December 1941. Aged 25.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. W. Kennedy.

Husband of Doreen Betty Kennedy of Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 44, Column 3, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Lewis was a pupil at the school from 1924 to 1931.

H.M.S. Galatea was a 5220 ton Arethusa class cruiser built by Scotts of Greenock, Scotland; she was laid down on 2 June 1933, launched on 9 August 1934 and completed on 14 August 1935. On 9 December 1941 the German submarine U-557 commanded by Korvettenkapitän Ottokar Arnold Paulshen left Messina, Sicily for what was destined to be her last patrol. Six days after starting the patrol she sank H.M.S. Galatea which was commanded by 42 year old Captain Edward W.B. Sim R.N. about 35 nautical miles off the west coast of Alexandria, Egypt. Captain Sim, 22 officers and 447 ratings were killed, but 144 survivors were picked up by the Royal Navy destroyers H.M.S. Griffin and H.M.S. Hotspur. U-557 was sunk the next day due to an accidental ramming by the Italian torpedo boat Orione with all hands lost.

**KILLICK, ROBERT.** Private, 7607542.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Died at sea Tuesday 28 May 1940. 25.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Alfred Wheeler Killick and Sarah Pritchard Killick.

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 146, and is also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Robert was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1934.

**KINGSMILL, STANLEY GEORGE.** Sergeant (Air Bomber), 1394618.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died Friday 28 April 1944. Aged 20.

Son of George Albert and Maud Mary Kingsmill of Dover, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: Sec. Y.G.X. Grave 16.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Stanley was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1940, where he had gained the Royal Life Saving Society swimming examinations, Bronze Medal in 1936.

**KIRBY, REGINALD FREDERICK.** Private, S/97562.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Friday 19 July 1940. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of John Frederick and Elizabeth Alice Kirby of Northwood, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Sibertswold (or Shepherdsweil) Dover, Kent (St. Andrew) Churchyard.

Also commemorated on Sibertswold (or Shepherdsweil) Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and on Second World War memorial plaque located in Sibertswold (or Shepherdsweil) Dover, Kent (St. Andrew) Parish Church.

Reginald was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1936. It should be mentioned that in the school Book of Remembrance, Reginald is commemorated as having been a member of the Royal Air Force as opposed to the army. The book also shows that his death was after being evacuated from Dunkirk. Although the above brief commemoration above does not match his school data, it is with a fair degree of confidence that the army data etcetera as has been shown above is correct.

**KIRTON, DAVID IAN.** Sergeant (Pilot), 550500.

Royal Air Force. 65 Squadron.

Died Thursday 8 August 1940. Aged 21.

Son of James Hughes Kirton and of Violet Kathleen Kirton of West Hampstead, London.

Buried St. James's Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: Sec. K.V. Grave 22.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

David was a pupil at the school from 1929 to 1935, and was a brother of the following Royal Air Force casualty.

David joined 65 Squadron R.A.F. in July 1940; based at R.A.F. Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent, David was killed when he was shot down over the Dover, Kent area whilst flying a Spitfire I, No. K9911, by a Messerschmitt Bf 109, from 9 Gruppe of JG 26 at 1140 hours on 8 August 1940. On 1 August 1934, 65 Squadron was reformed at Hornchurch, Essex, at which time it was equipped with Hawker Demons, but in September 1935 the squadron began losing its personnel to drafts being sent to the Middle East during the Abyssinian crisis and was reduced to just a cadre, being brought up to strength from July 1936, at the same time as Gloster Gauntlets were received to replace the remaining Hawker Demons. In June 1937 the squadron was re-equipped with Gloster Gladiators, before converting to Spitfires in March 1939. In June 1940, offensive patrols began to be flown over France and the Low Countries to cover the evacuation from Dunkirk, the squadron being moved to Lincolnshire to refit at the end of May. It returned south a week later and took part in the Battle of Britain until the end of August, when it moved to Scotland. In November 1940 the Squadron moved south again and began offensive sweeps over northern France in January 1941 before moving to Lincolnshire in February 1941. In October 1941, No. 65 received Spitfire Vs which it used for low-level attacks on enemy transport and shipping reconnaissance until October 1942, when it moved back to Scotland. No. 65 moved down to Cornwall in March 1943 for fighter patrols and bomber escort missions. In December the Squadron converted to Mustangs which were used in the fighter-bomber role and in June 1944 No. 65 had moved to Normandy where it supported the army until September 1944. The Squadron was then moved to East Anglia to act as fighter escorts

for Bomber Command's daylight raids over Germany until January 1945 when it moved back to Scotland to provide similar services to Coastal Command attacking shipping off Norway and Denmark. In May 1945, the Squadron moved to East Anglia again where it replaced its Mustangs with Spitfires until June 1946 when it began to receive Hornets, moving during the following months to Yorkshire. In December 1950 the Squadron began to replace its Hornets with Meteors and in August 1951 it moved to Duxford. In December 1956, Hawker Hunters began to arrive until No. 65 disbanded on 31 March 1961.

**KIRTON, JAMES HUGHES.** Squadron Leader (Pilot), 41771.

Royal Air Force. 84 Operational Training Unit.

Died Thursday 27 January 1944. Aged 27.

Son of James Hughes Kirton and Violet Kathleen Kirton.

Husband of Frances Kirton of Barnet Green, Worcestershire.

Buried Desborough Cemetery, Northamptonshire.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

James was a pupil at the school from 1924 to 1934.

James had previously been stationed at Nakuru, Kenya, and also in Egypt. James was the pilot of Wellington bomber serial HZ484 which took off from R.A.F. Desborough, Northamptonshire at 1855 hours on 27 January 1944, to undertake an evening cross country exercise. All six crew lost their lives when the Wellington mysteriously nose-dived and crashed at 2245 hours near the "Manor House," Arthingworth, Northamptonshire, only about two miles from the airfield.

**LANGHAM, LOUIS JOHN.** Sergeant (Navigator/Bomb Aimer), 1337179.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 102 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Friday 26 February 1943. Aged 23.

Son of Harry Louis and Emma Langham.

Husband of Bettina Jewel Langham (nee Coppins) of Dover, Kent.

Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 4. C. 2-20.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Louis was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1938.

Whilst taking part on two separate operations, 102 Squadron, Royal Air Force lost three of its Halifax bombers on the night of 26/27 February 1943. One of those lost was HR691 DY-E which was flown by 24 year old Sergeant (Pilot) Michael J. Gibbons, from Whitehaven, Cumberland, took off from R.A.F. Pocklington, Yorkshire at 1853 hours on Friday 26 February, with Louis as a member of its crew. The Halifax was amongst a mixed bomber force on a raid on Köln (Cologne), Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, which was comprised of a total of 427 aircraft that was made up of 145 Lancasters, 126 Wellingtons, 106 Halifax's, 46 Stirlings, 4 Mosquitos. Most of the bombs from this large raid fell to the south-west of the city of Köln, and 10 aircraft, they being 4 Wellingtons, 3 Lancasters, 2 Halifax's, and 1 Stirling were lost. Both of the Halifax aircraft belonged to Louis's squadron, his aircraft was shot down over the target area resulting in the deaths of all eight crewmembers. All of the crew were initially laid to rest in the Ehrenfriedhof at Köln-Süd, Nordrhein-Westfalen, by the German authorities on Wednesday 3 March

1943. Following the cessation of hostilities the site of Rheinberg War Cemetery was chosen in April 1946 by the Army Graves Service, for the assembly of Commonwealth graves recovered from numerous German cemeteries in the area. The majority of those now buried in the cemetery were airmen, whose graves were brought in from Düsseldorf, Krefeld, Mönchen-Gladbach, Essen, Aachen and Dortmund, of their number 450 graves were from Cologne alone, seven of whom were from the crew of Louis's aircraft. Sergeant John L. Wilson aged 24 from Leicester, Leicestershire has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 170.

**LAWRENCE, LEONARD ALBERT.** Flight Sergeant, 1395618.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 179 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Saturday 14 October 1944. Aged 21.  
Son of Albert and Edith Florence Victoria Lawrence of Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 219, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Leonard was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1939.  
No.179 squadron (Coastal Command) was formed in September 1942 from a detached flight of No.172 Squadron. Equipped with Wellingtons fitted with Leigh lights, it moved to Gibraltar for patrols over the approaches to the Mediterranean. The squadron returned to England in April 1944 to fly anti-submarine patrols over the Bay of Biscay and the Western approaches until the end of the war. Conversion to Warwick's took place in November 1944 and in February 1946 Lancasters began to arrive. While conversion was under way the squadron divided into two parts; No.179X converted to Lancasters while No.179Y remained operational with Warwick's. In May, the remaining Warwick's were disposed of and on 1 June, No.179Y was renumbered 210 squadron and No.179X became simply 179 squadron. It was disbanded on 30 September 1946, and its aircraft and crews were transferred to No.210 Squadron.

**McTOLDRIDGE, FRANK WILFRED.** Signaller, 2337392. B.A. (Lond.).  
7th Armoured Division Signals, Royal Corps of Signals.  
Died Saturday 29 November 1941. Aged 25.  
Born Kent. Resided Ayr, Scotland.  
Son of Arthur Charles and Edith Annie McToldridge of Whitfield, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 20. B. 5.  
Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Frank was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1935.

**MATON, RONALD.** No positive trace, two casualties are commemorated by the CWGC both of whom were Sergeants serving in the Royal Air Force.  
Ronald was a pupil at the school from 1927 to 1931.

**MATSON, R.** Only a single casualty who served in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers is commemorated by the CWGC. Dover Grammar School for Boys, Book of Remembrance commemorates him as having been serving with the Royal Air Force at the time of his demise, which is **probably** correct. Only six commonwealth airforce casualties are recorded by the CWGC, but none with the initial R. Checking the General Register Office, Second World War, Royal Air Force (Overseas Deaths) also yielded nil results, as such it has not been possible to add any casualty data here. To compound the lack of data available R Matson has no additional school commemoration details in the Book of Remembrance.

**MERRICKS, LESLIE FRANK.** Pilot Officer (Navigator), 156005.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Saturday 28 August 1943.

Buried Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Bayern, Germany.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 1. J. 12-18.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Leslie was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1939.

At 2054 hours on 27 August 1943 Halifax bomber HR869 MH-Z flown by 29 year old Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) Thomas R. Dobson from Selby, Yorkshire, took off from R.A.F. Snaith, Yorkshire on a mission to Nuremburg, Nürnberg, Germany. Leslie was amongst the bombers seven man crew who were all killed when their aircraft crashed at the village of Hellmitzheim, 13 kilometres south east of Kitzingen, Bavaria, Germany, the reason for the bombers loss not established. All the crew were initially buried at Hellmitzheim, but their graves are now located in the Durnbach War Cemetery. The site for Durnbach War Cemetery was chosen, shortly after hostilities had ceased, by officers of the British Army and Air Force, in conjunction with officers of the American Occupation Forces in whose zone Durnbach lay. The great majority of those buried here are airmen shot down over Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Austria, Hessen and Thuringia, brought from their scattered graves by the Army Graves Service. The remainder of the casualties are men who were killed while escaping from prisoner of war camps in the same areas, or who died towards the end of the War on forced marches from the camps to more remote areas. Halifax bomber HR869 MH-Z was amongst a mixed bomber force of 674 aircraft, that was comprised of 349 Lancasters, 221 Halifax's and 104 Stirlings taking part in the raid to Nuremburg. 33 aircraft, they being 11 of each type on the raid failed to return from it. The marking for this raid was based mainly on H2S, 47 of the Pathfinder H2S aircraft were ordered to check their equipment by dropping a 1,000-lb bomb on Heilbronn, Baden-Württemberg while flying to Nuremburg, and 28 Pathfinder aircraft were able to carry out this order. Nuremburg was found to be free of cloud but it was very dark. The initial Pathfinder markers were accurate but a creepback quickly developed which could not be stopped because so many Pathfinder aircraft had difficulties with their H2S sets. The Master Bomber could do little to persuade the Main Force to move their bombing forward; mainly due to the fact that only a quarter of the crews could actually hear his broadcasts.

**MERRYFIELD, GEORGE. A.** No CWGC commemoration.

George was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1932.

**MIRIAMS, JACK LEONARD.** Flight Sergeant (Navigator), 658855.

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

Died Thursday 20 January 1944.

Buried Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: 4. L. 13.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Jack was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1938.

More in depth searching is necessary to confirm same, but Jack possibly had served in the army as a member of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), prior to joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. At 1634 hours on 20 January 1944, Halifax bomber LK921 MP-R flown by 26 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot) Victor Parrott R.C.A.F. from Redlake, Ontario, Canada took off from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire on a mission to Berlin, Germany. Jack was amongst the seven man crew of the Halifax who were killed when their aircraft crashed in open countryside some 15 kilometres north west of Burgkernitz, Saxonia-Anhalt which is a village between Dessau and Leipzig, north of the Muldestausee, (man made lake) and 9 kilometres east north east of Wolfen. All the crew are buried in the Berlin, Germany 1939-45 War Cemetery. The site of Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery 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 80 per cent of the total, were airmen who were lost in the air raids over Berlin and the towns in eastern Germany. 769 aircraft, comprised of 495 Lancasters, 264 Halifax's and 10 Mosquitos took part in the mission to Berlin. 35 aircraft, they being 22 Halifax's, 13 Lancasters were lost, including No 102 Squadron, from Pocklington, which lost 5 of its 16 Halifax's on this raid, 2 more crashed in England and the squadron would lose 4 more aircraft in the next night's raid. Whilst not of the same magnitude as No 102 Squadron, Jack's squadron lost a total of 3 of its Halifax's on the raid, his aircraft being the sole one with a total loss of crew. The bomber approach route during the raid took a wide swing to the north but, once again, the German controller managed to feed his fighters into the bomber stream early and the fighters scored steadily until the force was well on the way home, and the diversions were not large enough to deceive the Germans. The Berlin area was, as so often, completely cloud-covered and what happened to the bombing something of a mystery. The Pathfinder skymarking appeared to go according to plan and crews who were scanning the ground with their H2S sets believed that the attack fell on eastern districts of Berlin. No major navigational problems were experienced, but no photographic reconnaissance was possible until after a further four raids on Berlin were carried out, but the various sources from which the Berlin reports are normally drawn all show a complete blank for the night that Jack lost his life.

**MORRIS, HENRY.** Sub-Lieutenant (A).

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Ark Royal.

Died Wednesday 11 June 1941. Aged 21.

Son of Robert Henry and Elsie May Morris of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent, Memorial, Hampshire. Bay 1. Panel 7, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Henry was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1938.

**MYERS, JOHN. J.** No trace at all, the school Book of Remembrance commemorates John as having been a member of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, killed in action near Amiens, France in January 1940. There is no CWGC commemoration for John, nor is he recorded either in the book form or CD, "Army Roll of Honour World War II." A check of the General Register Offices, Second World War, Army (Overseas Deaths) was made both the officer and other ranks books, which again yielded nil results. On several occasions over the years (albeit more prolifically commemorations for the Great War), a number of servicemen have been noted as named on war memorials and other forms of remembrance of the war dead, in Kent (and elsewhere), who fortunately survived the two world wars. The mistakes seem to mainly be applicable to former prisoners of war, noticeably so amongst those who were recovering in hospitals, post the years of conflict. In view of the school data which shows John as having been a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1938, in addition to the quite specific details regarding month, year and even area of the country he is shown as his death occurring, the thought obviously occurred that he may have been captured whilst serving in the British Expeditionary Force in 1940, but actually survived.

**NEILL, WILLIAM STANLEY.** Guardsman, 2665325.

4th Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Died Tuesday 31 October 1944. Aged 20.

Born South East London. Resided Kent.

Mierlo War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Grave Ref: VII. F. 9.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

William was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1942.

**PADDOCK, ALAN GEORGE.** Captain, 204311.

2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Attached to the Indian Army.

Died Thursday 27 January 1944.

Born and resided Kent.

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 4. K. 16.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Alan was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1940.

**PAIN, NORMAN. S.** No CWGC commemoration.

Norman was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1939.

**PASCOE**, W.T.C. No trace, or CWGC commemoration, but is almost certainly the same casualty who was pupil at the Dover, Kent Grammar School for Boys from 1931 to 1935. His school commemoration shows “Died of wounds, January 1946,” and the “Recce” as shown in the Second World War Book of Remembrance was probably indicative of him having been a member of the Reconnaissance Corps, which was disbanded after the war on 1 August 1946. In the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance which is in the safekeeping of the Dover Museum, he is commemorated as **PASCOE**, W.J.C., but have **assumed** him to be the same man.

**PELHAM**, WILFRED JOHN. Sergeant (Navigator), 1397020.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died Saturday 1 May 1943. Aged 21.  
Son of Frederick Charles and Mary Selina Pelham of Wyboston, Bedfordshire.  
Buried Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: VIII. C. 5.  
Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Wilfred was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1939.

**PEVERLEY**, KENNETH WILLIAM. Sergeant (Navigator), 1334693.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died Wednesday 24 March 1943. Aged 19.  
Son of Watson Evans Peverley and Dora Peverley of Dover, Kent.  
Cremated at Harrogate Crematorium, Yorkshire.  
Kenneth was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1940, and a son of the next casualty commemorated below. Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

**PEVERLEY**, WATSON EVANS. Pilot.  
Lighthouse and Pilotage Authorities. Trinity House Service, S.S. Storaas (London).  
Died Wednesday 3 November 1943. Aged 51.  
Born 11 June 1892.  
Husband of Dora Peverley of Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 122, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Watson was a pupil at the school from 1908 to 1913.  
On 2 November 1943, the S.S. Storaas left Southend, Essex as part of Convoy CW 221, the convoy proceeding along the Channel Westwards, transporting 2500 tons of tank parts from to a weapons factory in Cardiff, Wales. H.M.S. Whitshead was the escort to the convoy which consisted of 19 Merchant ships including the S.S. Storaas. The bills of lading show that it had a cargo of 376 tons of steel slabs, 250 tons of steel billets and 608 tons of pig iron (a total of 1234 tons). However, a contemporary account by a survivor, the 3rd officer, Mr H.B. Knudsen, describes the cargo as “tank parts and aircraft.” Just after midnight on 3 November 1943, a number of German E-boats (Schnellboots) were sighted. H.M.S. Whitshead and the S.S. Storaas opened fire and the E-boats were driven off, but approximately a quarter of an hour later a torpedo struck the S.S. Storaas amidships. She was heavily laden and sank quickly. Of the total of 36 people onboard, 22 were lost, they being her Master, the 1st and 2nd Officers, 2nd and 3rd Engineers,

Steward, Cook, 1 Naval and 2 Army D.E.M.S. Gunners, and 12 of her crew. Seven survivors from the vessel were picked up by an English coaster which was also part of the convoy, the rest being rescued by a motor launch and taken to Newhaven, Sussex.

**Addendum.** In view of the long term importance regarding maritime war graves, it seemed right to add the following information to the above, although both the Dover Grammar School commemorations and the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance transcriptions were *completed?* in 2004:-

Petty Officer, P/J 34814. James Varndell, aged 44 was amongst the twenty one men who were lost when the S.S. Storaa, was sunk. At the High Court in late 2005, sisters Rosemary Fogg and Valerie Ledgard, who are the daughters of James, argued quite rightly that their late father was on “active military service” when his ship was sunk by the Germans in November 1943. Presiding judge Mr Justice Newman heard that because the S.S. Storaa was armed and being protected by H.M.S. Whitshead and Petty Officer Varndell was a member of the Royal Navy, the wreck should be preserved under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. The sisters’ judicial review challenge was fought by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and John Short, who was sold the diving rights to the S.S. Storaa in 1985, and is a member of the Hastings Sub Aqua Association. Mr Justice Newman, who found in favour of the sisters, said: “The Storaa was obliged to travel into one of the most dangerous sea passages off the coast of England to face the known risk of being attacked by the enemy. If threatened with attack, by reason of being armed, it was required to engage in combat with the enemy for its own protection and for the benefit of the convoy.” Following the ruling by Mr Justice Newman, the MOD had to declare the wreck of the S.S. Storaa a war grave. Rosemary Fogg and Valerie Ledgard said they were delighted with the ruling.

**PHILLIPS, W.E.H.**

A pupil at the school from 1924 to 1928.

**PLEASANCE, GEORGE ERNEST.** Flying Officer, 152231.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 235 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Tuesday 28 December 1943. Aged 21.

Son of Arthur Edward and Florence Hilda Pleasance of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 128, and in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Remembrance.

George was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1938.

At 1445 hours Beaufighter TF.X LZ186 flown by 24 year old Flying Officer Aylwin G. Metcalf D.F.M., R.N.Z.A.F. from Hawera, Taranaki, New Zealand, took off R.A.F. Portreath, Cornwall to Patrol over the Bay of Biscay in the hunt for enemy destroyers.

With George as the other member of the aircrafts crew, the pair of Flying Officers were last heard from when flying above cloud approximately 15 miles to the north of St. Ives, Cornwall. The Beaufighter is presumed to have ditched in the St George’s Channel. Both of the aircrafts crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Alwyn Metcalf was an experienced pilot and had already completed a tour of operations flying Wellington bombers in the Middle East theatre of the war whilst serving in 38 Squadron, Royal Air Force, prior returning to Britain, where he converted to the Beaufighter, as such although the reason for Beaufighter TF.X LZ186 is unknown, it probably was not

resultant of pilot error, nor was any enemy aircraft thought to have played a part in its disappearance, the obvious other cause was due to mechanical failure. 235 Squadron, Royal Air Force was reformed as a fighter squadron at Manston, Kent on 30 October 1939, and was initially equipped with Fairey Battles, but in February 1940 these were replaced by Blenheim's and the unit was transferred to Coastal Command. Its duties then included convoy protection and reconnaissance of enemy coastal areas and in 1941, anti-shiping operations, which continued when the squadron moved to Dyce, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in June. In December 1941 it began to receive Beaufighter's and the following May it moved south to Docking, Norfolk from where it carried out anti-shiping strikes along the Dutch coast. In July 1942 it moved to Chivenor, Devon for operations over the Bay of Biscay before moving back to Scotland in January 1943. August 1943 brought the squadron back to the south west for further operations over the Bay of Biscay, during the build up of forces in preparation for the Operation Overlord. With the invasion over the squadron returned to Scotland in September 1944, joining the Banff Strike Wing. Just before moving to Banff, the squadron had converted to Mosquitos, which remained its equipment until disbanding on 10 July 1945.

**PRICE, STANLEY WILFRED.** Leading Aircraftman (Pilot Under Training), 1392661.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died Wednesday 25 November 1942. Aged 19.  
Son of Wilfred C. H. Price and Ellen Margaret Price of St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Vereeniging. The Old Town Cemetery, Gauteng, South Africa.  
Grave Ref: Church of England Plot. Grave 1282.  
Also commemorated in St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, (St. Margaret of Antioch) parish church, Kent, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Stanley was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1939.  
Probably Stanley died resultant of a flying accident while undergoing flying training at No. 22 Air Training School, which was based at Vereeniging during the Second World War, and had old biplanes such as Hawker Harts and Nimrods to train the potential pilots. The Old Town Cemetery contains 48 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War and where a Military Hospital was also located.

**REEDER, ROBERT CHARLES.** Sub-Lieutenant (A).  
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. H.M.S. Godwit.  
Died Sunday 2 January 1944. Aged 22.  
Born 4 November 1922.  
Son of Charles Edward and Clara Reeder of Banstead, Surrey.  
Buried (All Saints Churchyard) Banstead, Surrey.  
Robert was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1937.  
Also commemorated on Banstead, Surrey civic war memorial, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Robert's grave is shared by his parents, and his headstone shows that he was killed; as such his death might have been resultant of an accident during training at H.M.S. Godwit which during the Second World War was a training school for the Fleet Air Arm. It being one of more than eighty scattered around the country, mainly in inland areas and often

next to or attached to R.A.F. airfields, which in the case of Robert's posting it was also known as R.A.F. Hinstock. It was commissioned as H.M.S. Godwit on 14 June 1943, and from October 1941 to April 1946 H.M.S. Godwit was in use as a naval instrument flying training base.

**ROMNEY, ALBERT. E.** No CWGC commemoration.

Albert was a pupil at the school from 1915 to 1919, his school commemoration shows died in hospital April 1943.

**SAVERY, HENRY JAMES.** Trooper, 7910248.

1st Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died Wednesday 19 July 1944. Aged 24.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Henry Ernest and Harriott Maud Savery of Dover, Kent.

Buried Banneville-la-Campagne, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: IV. B. 10.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Henry was a pupil at the school from 1934 to 1935, where he is erroneously commemorated as Henry J. Sabery, and where his death is recorded as occurring on 6 June 1944 (D-Day), but five other different sets of data checked all show the 19 July 1944 as being the date of his demise.

**SHARP, ERIC CHARLES.** Major, 100895.

"A" Squadron, 4th Regiment, Reconnaissance Corps, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died Sunday 9 April 1944. Aged 44.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Charles and Nellie Sharp.

Husband of Dorothy Freda Sharp of Etchinghill, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XVIII. D. 12.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Eric was a pupil at the school from 1925 to 1933, and was later a B.Sc., Hons.

**SHARP, SIDNEY GEORGE.** Private, S/10686487.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Saturday 1 May 1943. Aged 35.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Sydney and Ellen E. Sharp of Dover, Kent.

Buried El Alia Cemetery, Algeria. Grave Ref: 12. H. 22.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Sidney was a pupil at the school from 1919 to 1924, where he is commemorated with his Christian name spelt Sydney, but all other data checked shows it spelt Sidney. He died in a military hospital of Pneumonia.

**SHEPPARD, HARRY BERNARD.**

No CWGC commemoration has been found for Harry.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Penelope.

Died Friday 18 February 1944.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

On the day that Harry's school commemoration records his death as occurring, the 5220 ton Arehusa class light cruiser H.M.S. Penelope commanded by Captain G.D. Belben, D.S.O, D.S.C, A.M, R.N. was leaving the Anzio, Italy area to return to Naples, when she was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-410, commanded by Oberleutnant zur See Horst-Arno Fenski. The torpedo struck her in the after engine room and was followed shortly afterwards by a second one which hit in the after boiler room, causing her immediate sinking. At the time of the attack by the U-410, Harry's ship was making 26 knots when she was hit. As far as can be ascertained, this is a unique case in the history of submarine attacks by any nation's submarines in all during the Second World War. No other vessel running at such a high rate of knots was ever successfully attacked. There were 206 survivors of the sinking of H.M.S. Penelope, but 415 of the crew, including the captain went down with the ship. Born 3 November 1918 at Königsberg, East Prussia, Horst-Arno Fenski survived the Second World War, following which he then spent two years in American captivity, and died at Hamburg, Germany on 10 February 1965.

**STANDRING, GIBBARD SELKIRK.** Sergeant, 927496.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Tuesday 23 June 1942. Aged 30.

Son of Robert Selkirk Standring and Ellen Isabel Standring of Potters Bar, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 94.

Harry was a pupil at the school from 1919 to 1929.

At 2330 hours on 22 June 1942, Wellington bomber X3758 DX-? Flown by 20 year old Sergeant James B. Larkins R.N.Z.A.F. from Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, took off from R.A.F. Feltwell, Thetford, Norfolk. Gibbard being amongst the Wellington's five man crew. Gibbard's aircraft was amongst a mixed bomber force of 227 aircraft, comprised of 144 Wellingtons, 38 Stirlings, 26 Halifax's, 11 Lancasters and 8 Hampden's on a mission to bomb Emden, Lower Saxony, Germany. 6 of the aircraft failed to return from the mission, they being 4 Wellingtons, 1 Lancaster, and 1 Stirling. The exact cause of the loss of Gibbard's aircraft is unknown, but it is presumed to have crashed into the sea, three of the crew are buried in Sage War Cemetery, Oldenburg, Niedersachsen, Germany, but both Gibbard and his pilot have no known graves and are both commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Following the raid on Emden, 196 crews claimed good bombing results, but decoy fires are believed to have drawn off many bombs. Emden reports showed 50 houses destroyed, 100 damaged, damage in the harbour (no details available), 6 people killed and 40 injured. The most severe bombing of Emden took place on 6 September 1944, when roughly eighty percent of all houses in the inner city were destroyed. In the collective memory of the city, this date still plays an important role. Of note is the fact that the shipyard area was for the most part largely untouched by the bombs.

**SUTTON, ROY JOHN.** Sergeant (Pilot), 1269173.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died Saturday 7 November 1942. Aged 20.

Son of Norman and Daisy Sutton of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 94, and in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Roy was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1939.

On completion of his pilot training in South Africa, Roy was promoted to Sergeant (Pilot), and posted to R.A.F. Turnberry, Ayrshire, Scotland as a staff pilot flying Avro Anson's with No. 5 (Coastal) OTU (Coastal Command Operational Training Unit). Following his time spent at Turnberry flying Anson's, Roy then flew Bristol Beaufort, torpedo bombers, and died on the night of 7 November 1942 when his aircraft crashed into the sea off the coast off Ayrshire, Scotland during a night exercise. Roy's good friend, 28 year old Sergeant, (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) Robert A.N. St. John Farnon, R.A.F. (V.R.) was also killed in the crash, his body was recovered and he is buried at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. In his sphere prior to the war, Robert was both well known and much in demand as the singer Robert (Bob) Ashley. Regularly performing with such popular bands as George Elrick, Jack Payne and many others, including Louis Levy in his 'Music from the Movies' programme. Due to his popularity and 'star status,' Robert was cajoled by his superior officers into becoming an R.A.F. Drill Instructor which would have secured him a safer posting and left him freer to 'entertain the troops' and to a lesser extent to carry on with his pre service career, but he stuck to his guns (no pun intended), and pointed out that he had enlisted to serve with an operational unit. Whilst this is a brief tribute to his friend Roy Sutton, it seemed right to also draw attention to his crewman, not for his fame and star status, but for his determination to really do his bit at the sharp end of the Royal Air Force in the war. Shortly after Roy's death his unit moved on 29 December 1942, to R.A.F. Long Kesh, Lisburn, Northern Ireland, using Maghaberry as a satellite from February to September 1943. During 1943 a number of changes took place, In February, No. 3 (Anson) Preliminary Training Flight was transferred to No 10 Radio School, by November, Beaufort training was being cut back due to successes in the Mediterranean and Hampden's were replaced by Ventura's and Hudson's were transferred from No 1 (C) OTU. Early in February 1944 the unit moved back to R.A.F. Turnberry, and in April it took over No 1 Torpedo Training Unit and Beaufighters began to replace Beauforts. In May 1944 the ASR Training Unit was absorbed from Thornaby and the unit was now operating Beaufighters, Ventura's, Hudson's, Warwick's, Oxford's and Martinet's. By the time that the unit was disbanded on 1 August 1945, it had also added Wellington's and a Spitfire. When it closed the Warwick commitment was transferred to No 6 (Coastal) Operational Training Unit.

**TANTON, ERNEST COVENEY.** Reverend. (Civilian Casualty).

Died Saturday 10 February 1945. Aged 54.

Son of Mr. J. Tanton.

Husband of Jeanetta Tanton (nee Frith), and father of 11 year old Brian Godfrey Tanton and Dorothy Tanton. Three of the family died at their home, 12 Lemna Road, Leytonstone, London. Dorothy Tanton was sadly the only member of the family to survive the devastation caused by a V2 flying bomb which fell in Lemna Road, Leytonstone, on Saturday 10 February 1945. The bomb also damaged a school in Kirkdale Road, Leytonstone which has since been demolished and whose site is now part of the Matalan car-park). Ernest was a pupil at the Dover Grammar School for Boys from 1904 to 1910, and was a minister of the Wesleyan Church. During the Great War as a Chaplain to the Forces, Reverend Tanton had served abroad in the Royal Army Chaplain's Department.

**TEASDALE, CECIL WALKER.** Captain, 138982.

152 (The Ayrshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died Friday 26 February 1943. Aged 24.

Born Warwickshire. Resided South East London.

Son of Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Teasdale, R.A., and Edith Teasdale of Rugby, Warwickshire.

Buried Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: 5. C. 16.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Cecil was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1935, and was a pre war member of the London Rifle Brigade. At the start of the Second World War, the Ayrshire Yeomanry were asked to fill a gap in the Army's Artillery organisation and duly formed two Regiments of Field Artillery; they being the 151 and 152 Field Regiments, Royal Artillery. When Cecil's regiment had converted to artillery it was sent to Orkney to help defend Scapa Flow, and whilst there the officers and other ranks trained on 75mm guns, 18 pounders, 4.5 in Howitzers, and 25 pounders, the latter being the weapon with which they were finally equipped. Following a spell of duty spent in Essex, the regiment was then attached to 6th Armoured Division and in November 1942 sailed to Tunisia. From January to May 1943 Cecil's regiment was virtually continually in action, supporting the Irish Brigade at Two Tree Hill and Kasserine. With the transfer of the Irish Brigade to the 78th Division, the regiments' responsibility for artillery support was switched to the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, which was an association that was to continue until; jointly both finally reached the Adriatic. After participating in the capture of Tunis, and the final Axis surrender, with 238,000 men, in May 1943, the regiment moved to Constantine, and in February 1944 sailed to Naples. A month later, again supporting the Grenadier Guards the regiment was present at the third attack on Monte Cassino, and in June took part in the fighting for Arezzo. Following the battle of Monte Battaglia, and the crossing of the river Po, the regiment ended the war north of Venice. Both Regiments fought with great courage throughout the North African, Middle Eastern and European Theatre of Operations. Between them the two (Ayrshire Yeomanry) Field Regiments, Royal Artillery won four Distinguished Service Orders, twenty one Military Crosses and twenty four Military Medals.

**TOMLIN, HUBERT HAROLD.** Fireman.

Auxiliary Fire Service.

Died Friday 3 January 1941. Aged 36.

Husband of Kathleen Blanche Tomlin of 45 West Town Lane, Brislington, Bristol.

Hubert was a pupil at the school from 1913 to 1923, and is also commemorated in the 'Book of Remembrance' at the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire. On the day that Hubert and a colleague, 33 year old Fireman Henry Bright lost their lives, when they were killed at "The Posada," High Street, Bristol, 170 German bombers carried out a heavy raid on the city of Bristol. During the Second World War 1,299 people in the city of Bristol were killed as the result of several German bombing raids. About 3,000 buildings were destroyed and 90,000 others damaged.

**TREADWELL, ALFRED HENRY ARTHUR.** Flying Officer (Observer), 124245.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 236 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 4 February 1943.

Buried Bergen (Mollandal) Church Cemetery, Norway. Grave Ref: C. 6.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Alfred was a pupil at the school from 1931 to 1937.

On 31 October 1939, No.236 Squadron reformed at R.A.F. Stradishall, Suffolk in Fighter Command and received Blenheim fighters in December. It moved to North Coates, Lincolnshire at the end of February 1940 to join Coastal Command, but reverted to Fighter Command in April on arrival at R.A.F. Speke, Cheshire. During May and June the squadron flew defensive patrols over shipping in the English Channel and on 4 July rejoined Coastal Command for fighter and reconnaissance duties. A detachment was based in Northern Ireland from 18 September, which became No.272 Squadron on 19 November, but the bulk of the squadron's operations were flown from Cornwall and Pembrokeshire until 9 February 1942, when it moved to East Anglia and became a cadre unit, its Beaufighter's having been withdrawn from service with other squadrons. It became operational again on 15 March with Beaufighter's, which it used for escort and shipping reconnaissance missions. In July 1942 it began taking part in attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch coast, while detachments flew patrols over the Bay of Biscay to protect Coastal Command anti-submarine aircraft from enemy fighters. In April 1943, a strike wing was formed at North Coates. No.236 joined it and remained an anti-shipping unit until the end of the war disbanding on 25 May 1945.

**VOSPER, JACK.** Sergeant, 1360578.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 144 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Sunday 13 December 1942. Aged 27.

Son of William Henry and Florence Mary Vosper.

Husband of Sylvia Maud Vosper of Snowdown, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 95, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Jack was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1933.

No 144 Squadron, Royal Air Force was flying Handley Page Hampden's from R.A.F. Hemswell, Lincolnshire, at the outbreak of the Second World War but did not get an opportunity to do any operational work until the war was nearly three weeks old. Then,

on 26 September 1939, its chance finally came when it was ordered to dispatch 12 Hampden bombers to search for and attack enemy naval vessels which had been reported in the North Sea. Flying in two formations of six, the Hampden's approached to within about 12 miles of the German coast but the only naval vessels sighted were two submarines which were presumably of unknown nationality and the aircraft returned to base with their bomb loads intact. The squadron's next mission, another armed reconnaissance over the North Sea on 29 September, was a very different story indeed. Eleven Hampden's, split into two sections - a section of five led by Wing Commander J.C. Cunningham, the Commanding Officer, and a section of six led by Squadron Leader W.J.H. Lindley, were detailed to search part of the Heligoland Bight to within sight of the German coast. Cunningham's section left Hemswell at 1650 hours and was not heard from again. Lindley's section found two enemy destroyers in the search area steaming east in line astern at 20 knots but, owing to the destroyers' maneuvers and flak umbrella, only three Hampden's were able to attack; the results were not observed. All six Hampden's returned safely to base. In the ensuing months the squadron stood to for shipping searches on several occasions but only once - on 14 December - was it required to operate; the mission was uneventful. The first occasion on which No 144 Squadron flew over the German mainland was the night of 24/25 February 1940, when propaganda leaflets or Nickels were dropped on Hamburg. On 6 March, by which time it had Nickelled several other German towns and by which time also it had flown a number of security patrols, the squadron took part in Bomber Command's first attack on a German land objective - the minelaying-seaplane base at Hornum. Just over two months later (by which time minelaying had been added to its duties) No 144 shared in another notable "first" - the first big bombing attack on the German mainland (the exits of München-Gladbach). The Squadron continued to operate with Bomber Command until 1942, and during this period, in addition to its normal night-bombing attacks and minelaying expeditions, it occasionally undertook certain other tasks such as daylight bombing against German warships at Brest and night-intruder operations against enemy searchlight installations. One night in November 1941, one of the squadron's Hampden's bombed from a very low level and set on fire a 10,000 ton merchant ship the largest of several vessels in an enemy convoy off the Frisian Islands. It was learned afterwards that Major-General Felix Varda, the commander of the Western anti-aircraft defences, was on board this ship and was among those killed as a result of the Hampden's attack. On 21 April 1942, the squadron's association with Bomber Command ended when it was transferred to Coastal Command. In September 1942 the Squadron moved to North Russia to help protect the Arctic convoys until it handed over its aircraft to the Russians at the end of October. The Squadron then moved to Scotland to take up anti-submarine patrols and shipping strikes from Leuchars. In January 1943 conversion to Beaufighters began and in June these were flown to North Africa for attacks on enemy shipping in the Mediterranean. The Squadron returned to the United Kingdom in August and resumed operations at the end of October 1943. In May 1944, the Squadron moved to south west England to cover the west flank of the Normandy landings and after helping to destroy the German naval forces in Western France, the Squadron joined a strike wing in Lincolnshire for attacks on enemy convoys off the Dutch coast. In September it returned to Scotland for similar missions off Norway. In January 1945, No. 144 Squadron became an anti-flak unit, remaining as such until the end of the war and disbanding on 25 May 1945.

**WALSH, JOHN JAMES.** Flying Officer, 154262.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 267 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Tuesday 22 August 1944. Aged 21.

Son of Michael John Walsh and of Bridget Walsh of Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Malta Memorial. Panel 13, Column 2, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

John was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1939.

No. 267 Squadron, Royal Air Force was formed at Calafrana, Malta on 27 September 1918, from Nos.360, 361, 362 and 363 Flights based at the seaplane station there. It flew anti-submarine patrols until the signing of the Armistice and remained in being as an operational squadron and aircraft holding unit until renumbered 481 Flight on 1 August 1923. On 19 August 1940, No.267 Squadron reformed from the Communications Unit, Heliopolis, for local transport duties in Egypt. It used a variety of types for transporting passengers, mail and freight between Egypt and outlying bases. Larger aircraft were acquired by the end of 1941 and by August 1942, operations extended throughout the Mediterranean area and its role included the movement of personnel and equipment, casualty evacuation and occasional supply-dropping missions to guerilla bands in Italy and the Balkans. In November 1943, the squadron moved to Italy and in February 1945 was transferred to India, where it carried supplies during the 14th Army's final offensive that cleared Burma of the Japanese. After a period of general transport duties, the squadron officially disbanded on 30 June 1946, though it actually continued operations until 21 July.

**WATSON, COLIN IAN MACKENZIE.** Major, IA/1128.

2nd Battalion, 8th Punjab Regiment.

Died Sunday 21 January 1945. Aged 26.

Son of Colin Campbell Watson and Winifred Rosina Sarah Watson of Dover, Kent.

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 27. G. 2.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Colin was a pupil at the school from 1929 to 1937.

Colin's battalion spent the duration of the Second World War in India and Burma, during which time, on 6 January 1943 at Donbaik, Mayu Peninsula, Burma, 29 year old Havildar 14696 (later Major) Parkash Singh (31 March 1913-23 March 1991) drove his own carrier forward and rescued the crews of two disabled carriers under very heavy fire. Again on 19 January 1943 in the same area he rescued two more carriers which had been put out of action by an enemy anti-tank gun. He then went out yet again and brought to safety another disabled carrier containing two wounded men. For his valour Parkash Singh was awarded the Victoria Cross.

**WEIR, IAN ROBERT.** Serjeant, 914393.

Died at sea Saturday 14 November 1942. Aged 23.

Born South West London. Resided Kent.

97 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 39, and in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Ian was a pupil at the school from 1928 to 1937, and a pre war member of the Royal Artillery, doubtless a member of the 97 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, R.A.

The day on which Ian died was that with the most recorded deaths to the 97 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery during the Second World War. All were lost whilst they were prisoners of war aboard the 1,579 ton Italian cargo/passenger ship S.S. Scillin whilst en route from Tripoli to Sicily with 814 Commonwealth prisoners of war on board. With a naval gun crew and 30 Italian guards on board, the ship was torpedoed by the British submarine H.M.S. Sahib (P212), commanded by Lieutenant John Bromage when she was approximately 10 miles north of Cape Milazzo in the Tyrrhenian Sea. H.M.S. Sahib rescued 27 of the prisoners from the water, 26 British and one South African, plus the Scillin's captain and 45 Italian crew members. Only then, when Lieutenant John Bromage heard the survivors speaking English, did he realize that he had sunk a ship carrying Commonwealth prisoners of war. At a subsequent inquiry into this 'friendly fire' tragedy, Lieutenant Bromage was cleared of all blame and/or negligence as the ship was unmarked and at the time of the sinking, and he had thought that the S.S. Scillin was being used as a troopship carrying Italian troops. Immediately following the sinking of the S.S. Scillin, H.M.S. Sahib was attacked by bombs from escorting German Junkers Ju-88 bombers, and depth charges from the Italian corvette Gabbiano, badly damaged; H.M.S. Sahib was later abandoned and scuttled. Due to the war time restrictions which were of necessity in place at the time of the sinking of the S.S. Scillin, and the obvious 'propaganda gift' to the enemy, the truth was withheld from the British public, which is obviously understandable. What is not understandable however is that the Ministry of Defence kept the tragic incident a closely guarded secret until **1996**, repeatedly telling relatives of those lost in the tragedy that they had died while prisoners of war in Italian POW camps, or simply "Lost at sea." After repeated requests for information, mainly of course from the families of the 783 allied prisoners who were drowned, that the truth finally was revealed, by which time it can safely be assumed that most, indeed probably all of the parents of those lost had themselves also died, never knowing what had really happened to their loved ones or where they had really lost their lives whilst serving their country. A lot of information (and the truth) came to light following detailed and comprehensive research undertaken by the noted Italian Naval Historian, Professor Alberto Santoni. It should be noted that Professor Santoni's findings appertaining to the sinking of the S.S. Scillin, have been published in both the Italian and German languages, but as far as I am aware not also in English.

**WEST, STANLEY MORNINGTON.** Pilot Officer (Pilot), 42778.

Royal Air Force.

Died Saturday 13 January 1940.

Buried Grantham Cemetery, New Somerby, Lincolnshire.

Grave Ref: Section 17. Row J. Grave 10.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Stanley was a pupil at the school from 1930 to 1934.

It would seem likely that Stanley was based at the original R.A.F. Grantham, Lincolnshire, which was the home to the 12 Flying Training School from September 1939 to 1 April 1942, when it was renamed again to become the 12 (Pilots) A.F.U., and this name remained up to its disbandment on 8 February 1945. The actual station was renamed to R.A.F. Spitalgate in 1944 to avoid confusion with R.A.F. Grantham (St Vincent's), H.Q. No. 5 Group. Stanley's station continued as a training base throughout most of the Second World War until 8 February 1945, and continued in Royal Air Force use until 1975 after having been in use as the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) Depot, responsible for the recruit training of all non-commissioned females in the R.A.F. until this moved to R.A.F. Swinderby when the airfield at Grantham was closed. Today (2004) the site is still in use by the military and is currently the Prince William of Gloucester Army Barracks and the home to the 5 Training Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps, Territorial Army Centre, Grantham. The cemetery where Stanley is buried at New Somerby, on the eastern edge of Grantham contains 55 Commonwealth burials of the Great War and 58 from the Second World War. Like Stanley, the other Royal Air Force casualties are buried in Section 17.

**WILLIAMS, ALLAN ARTHUR FREDERICK.** Sergeant (Navigator/Bomber), 1391272

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 9 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Sunday 31 January 1943. Aged 26.

Son of Arthur Balfour Williams and Elizabeth Mary Williams of Whitstable, Kent.

Buried Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent, (St. Alphege) churchyard. Grave Ref: Grave I. 9.

Allan was a pupil at the school from 1927 to 1934.

Formerly a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, and is also commemorated on Whitstable, Kent civic war memorial.

Having returned from a mission to Hamburg, Germany involving 148 aircraft, comprised of 135 Lancasters, 7 Stirlings, 6 Halifax's, or 1, 5 and No 8 Groups, Allan's aircraft crashed. The raid the aircraft had been coming back from was the first of the war that was carried out as a H2S attack, with Pathfinder Stirlings and Halifax's using the new device to mark the target. Allan's aircraft was one of five Lancasters that were lost, including another of his squadrons. Although H2S would later become a more effective device, its use was not successful on this night of its first use, even though Hamburg, close to a coastline and on a prominent river, was clearly the best type of H2S target. Bombing was scattered over a wide area, and most of the bombs appear to have fallen in the River Elbe or in the surrounding marshes. However, 119 fires, 71 of which were considered to be large were started; 58 people were killed and 164 injured. Lancaster bomber ED481 WS-N, flown by Warrant Officer Class II (Pilot) Frank G. Nelson R.C.A.F. a 24 year old American, from Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. had taken off from R.A.F.

Waddington, Lincolnshire at 2350 hours on Saturday 30 January 1943 to take part in the above raid on Hamburg. On the aircrafts return to base, the pilot was ordered to divert to R.A.F. Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. In the process of carrying out the diversion order, the Lancaster crashed on high ground at Moor Gate, Hawnby Hill, six miles to the north west of Helmsley, Yorkshire killing all the seven crew. Frank G. Nelson R.C.A.F is commemorated on page 198 of the Canadian Second World War Book of Remembrance.

**WILLIAMS, HAROLD JAMES.** Lieutenant, 277747.

1 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died Sunday 18 February 1945. Aged 35.

Born London. Resided Reading, Berkshire.

Son of James and Nellie Williams.

Husband of Grace Florence Williams of Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire.

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 18. E. 8.

Harold was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1936, where the Book of Remembrance records him as having died of wounds in hospital. Pre Second World War the 1 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery was based at Portsmouth, Hampshire. The regiment served in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in 1940 as GHQ Troops. Between 1940 and 1942 the regiment served in the United Kingdom as 10 Corps Troops, prior to going overseas again and serving in India 1942-1943 as 33 Indian Corps Troops. The regiments' service in Burma (now Myanmar) was during 1944 and 1945 as 15 Indian Corps, 14 Army and 33 Indian Corps Troops.

**WILLIS, JAMES. A.** As commemorated in the school Book of Remembrance, is probably the following R.A.F. officer who was a pupil at the school from 1924 to 1929:-

**WILLIS, JAMES OWEN.** D.F.C. Wing Commander (Pilot), 32059.

Royal Air Force.

Died Saturday 22 November 1941.

Buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Grave Ref: 2. B. 9.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

James CWGC commemoration shows him to have been a resident of Southern Rhodesia.

Of significance in trying to locate the right casualty is that whilst possibly erroneously commemorated in the school Book of Remembrance as A.J. WILLIS, it does show his death as "Killed in action over Sidi Omar, November 1941."

**WILSON, CLAUD ROBERT.** D.F.C. Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 144288.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 158 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Monday 12 November 1945.

Buried Tripoli Military Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 12. H. 27.

Also commemorated in the Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.

Claude was a pupil at the school from 1935 to 1939.

**WILSON, JOHN ERNEST.** Flying Officer, 124641.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 205 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Friday 11 June 1943. Aged 22.  
Son of Ernest and Emily Wilson of Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Column 424.  
John was a pupil at the school from 1933 to 1937.

**WISE, JOSEPH FRANCIS LOFTUS.** Pilot Officer, 151301.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died Sunday 18 April 1943.  
Commemorated on the Ottawa Memorial, Ontario, Canada. Panel 2. Column 2, and in the  
Dover, Kent Second World War Book of Remembrance.  
Joseph was a pupil at the school from 1926 to 1932.

**WOODHAM, PERCY BENJAMIN ELLIOTT.** Sergeant (W.Op./Air Gnr.), 1377795.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died 18 September 1943. Aged 32.  
Son of Alfred Ernest and Maud Alice Woodham of Deal, Kent.  
Buried Finningley (Holy Trinity and St. Oswald) churchyard extension, Nottinghamshire.  
Grave Ref: Row C. Grave 2.  
Percy was a pupil at the school from 1921 to 1927.

