Kent Police

The Second World War
1939 -1945

Briefly commemorated below are members of the Kent Police, who lost their lives during the Second World War as the direct result of enemy action, whether or not they were on police duty at the time. Officers and police staff that died between 1939 and 1945 but not due to the enemy, who will not be recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have not been added here, but can be found on the roll of honour of Kent County Council employed staff, elsewhere on this website. Police casualties born or residing in Kent, but serving in other forces, such as the Metropolitan or City of London Police have not been added below. Different categories of the counties police which were still in existence during the Second World War are represented below, including a number of the former various town and borough forces. In much the same way that different forces are included, a wide spectrum of police personnel have been encompassed for commemoration, including full time officers of the Kent County Constabulary, members of the Police War Reserve, and the Special Constabulary, in addition to which a young man was accessed during researches who was serving as a Police Messenger, and quite properly he too has been added below. Kent police officers and staff who were serving in the armed forces at the time of their respective deaths have also been added. Doubtless several of the latter category of casualties will in the fullness of time, also be commemorated on Kent war memorials as they are transcribed, as too but probably to a lesser extent will those not serving in the armed forces. All of those who are commemorated below are also named on the National Police Memorial on the corner of The Mall and Horse Guards, London, which was unveiled on Tuesday 26 April 2005 by H.M. the Queen. Present at the ceremony was Michael Winner, founder and chairman of the Police Memorial Trust, who conceived the memorial, which was designed by Lord Norman Foster. All the leaders of the main political parties, including the Prime Minister Tony Blair; and Great Britain’s most senior police officers were also present. Most important among the invited guests were hundreds of members of the families of the police officers whose names are recorded on the memorial. A guard of honour was provided to families by over 50 constables wearing the uniforms, and representing every United Kingdom police force.
AUSTEN, WILLIAM ERNEST. Sergeant.  
Police War Reserve.  
Died 23 March 1942. Aged 57.  
Husband of A. E. Austen of 25, Pencester Road, Dover, Kent.  
William died at the Conservative Club, Dover, Kent, during an air raid by four Junkers JU-88 bombers just before 2100 hours on the evening of 23 March 1942; at which time he was in the company of Police Constable Percy William Sneller, who like William is commemorated in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Rememberance. William was a Dover Borough Councillor and a former Deputy Mayor.

BARTY, WILLIAM EDWARD HEATON. Pilot Officer, 187752.  
Died Wednesday 6 December 1944.  
Born Isle of Thanet, Kent.  

BENNETT, JACK DIGHTON. Ordinary Seaman, C/JX 332202.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Dasher.  
Died Saturday 27 March 1943. Aged 27.  
Son of Ernest Dighton Bennett and Kate Ethel Bennett of Woolwich, London.  
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 70, Column 2.  
Built at Sun Shipbuilding, Chester, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., and laid down as the U.S. mercantile vessel ‘Rio de Janeiro.’ She was converted to an escort carrier on 12 April 1941 and named BAVG-5, after which she was transferred to the Royal Navy on completion 1 July 1942 and commissioned 1 July 1942. She was basically similar to the ‘Archer’ Class, but differed sufficiently to be regarded as a separate class. All in her class were converted in the U.S.A. from mercantile hulls. When Avenger and Biter first arrived in the United Kingdom they went immediately into dockyard hands to have their flight-decks lengthened by 42 feet to allow Swordfish aircraft to take off with a full load of weapons and fuel. H.M.S. Dasher supported the North African landings in November 1942. This was the last time the Sea Hurricane was used during ‘Operation Torch,’ the amphibious assault on North Africa. Sea Hurricanes of 800 and 801 squadron flew off of H.M.S. Biter, while H.M.S. Dasher carried Sea Hurricanes of 835 squadron. The Sea Hurricanes were very successful in protecting the beachheads against the French, with five Dewoitine D.520s being shot down and a further 47 aircraft destroyed on the ground. Once the invasion had taken hold, the carriers withdrew, leaving the job of air cover to the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. Subsequently H.M.S. Dasher was destroyed by an accidental aviation fuel explosion in the river Clyde, off the Isle of Arran, Scotland on 27 March 1943, resulting in the deaths of 379 sailors including Alan. The wreck of H.M.S. Dasher is located in the Firth of Clyde, to the south of Little Cumbrae Island, Scotland.

BOWDEN, RONALD SYDNEY. Flying Officer (Navigator), 142347.  
Died Saturday 4 December 1943. Aged 30.  
Son of Thomas and Ellen Bowden (nee Daniel).  
Husband of Ethel Ada Bowden of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Ronald’s birth was registered in the Malling district of Kent during the third quarter of 1913.

BRADDICK, WILLIAM GEORGE. Sergeant.  
Kent County Constabulary.  
Died Saturday 5 August 1944. Aged 37.  
Born Gravesend, Kent.  
Son of Mr. W. S. Braddick of 5, Cecil Road, Gravesend, Kent.  
Husband of Alice Olive Braddick.  
William died at 2 Elmfield Villas, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent.
BRANSBY, WILLIAM ALBERT.
Died Thursday 22 October 1942. Aged 59.
Resided at 92A, High Street, Deal, Kent.
William died at the High Street, Deal, Kent.
It would appear that Amy Agnes Bransby aged 54, who was the widow of Edwin W. Smith, and probably William’s wife died with him during the same incident.

CHAPMAN, FREDERICK. Constable.
Police War Reserve.
Died Tuesday 20 June 1944. Aged 49.
Son of the late Joseph and Fanny Chapman of Greenwich, London.
Husband of Edith Mary Chapman of Lillys, Chelsfield, Kent.
Frederick was injured at his home Lillys, Chelsfield; and died of his injuries later the same day whilst a patient at the County Hospital, Farnborough, Kent.

CLOKE, STUART HENRY. Lieutenant, 316071.
General List.
Died Sunday 1 April 1945. Aged 41.
Born and resided Essex. (Please see below).
Son of Thomas Henry and Elizabeth Cloke.
Husband of Grace Emily Lillian Cloke of Hawkhurst, Kent.
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.
Commemorated on the Hawkhurst, Kent, civic war memorial.
Places of birth and residency are as accessed from Stuart’s entry in/on the Army Roll of Honour-World War II, which as is the case with its Great War equivalent it is known to contain several errors. It was seem likely that Stuart was numbered amongst those with an erroneous entry, as the birth of a Stuart Henry Cloke was registered in the Cranbrook District of Kent during the last quarter of 1903.

COLLARD, FREDERICK JAMES.
Died Saturday 5 August 1944. Aged 46.
Born Dover, Kent.
Son of the late William and Annie Louise Collard of Temple Farm, Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Marjorie Collard (nee Hadlow) of Alpha, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent.
Frederick died at Malling Road, Snodland, Kent.

CONSTABLE, CECIL GEORGE. Police Constable.
Son of Richard and Emily Constable of 13, Lodge Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
Husband of Irene Constable of 91, Canada Road, Walmer, Kent.
Cecil died at his home; 91, Canada Road, Walmer, Kent.

CRUDDUCK, KENNETH AMOS. M.M. Corporal, 1870089.
2 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers.
Died Friday 3 October 1941. Aged 26.

CUSWORTH, JOHN FREDERICK. Flying Officer (Navigator), 148746.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Son of Harry and Clara Cusworth (nee Dearnley) of Pudsey, Yorkshire.
Husband of Grace Edna Cusworth of Pudsey, Yorkshire.
DICKINSON, WILLIAM GEORGE. Serjeant. Folkestone Borough Police. 
Died Friday 15 September 1944. Aged 49. 
Son of George W. and Bessie Dickinson. 
Husband of Margaret Ann Dickinson of 29, Walton Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. 
William died at his home; 29, Walton Gardens, Folkestone, Kent, during an enemy bombing raid. Having enlisted in the army at Dover, Kent, on 28 October 1914, William initially served in the 1st Life Guards, Household Cavalry before going to serve in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment on 10 May 1918.

DOWLING, REGINALD WALTER. Police Constable. 
Police War Reserve. 
Died 18 April 1943. Aged 49. 
Husband of Edith Maud Dowling of 59 Northgate Street, Canterbury, Kent. 
Reginald had been injured on 1 June 1942 at Canterbury, Kent, during an enemy air raid, and died whilst a patient at the Isolation Hospital, Canterbury, Kent on 18 April 1943.

FARRELL, THOMAS JAMES. Constable. 
Kent County Constabulary. 
Died 1 November 1940. Aged 38. 
Husband of Lilian A. Farrell of 106 Chipstead Lane, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. 
Thomas died of head injuries at London Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent, during an enemy air raid.

GIBLING, ALBERT ROBERT. Constable. 
Police War Reserve. 
Died 16 August 1944. Aged 63. 
Born Ipswich, Suffolk. 
Husband of Mary Chapman Ormes Gibling (nee Bragg) of Wyvenhoe, Banks Road, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. 
Albert died at his home; Wyvenhoe, Banks Road, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent.

GREENSTREET, FREDERICK ERNEST. Lance Corporal, 14245460. 53 Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police. 
Died Friday 21 July 1944. Aged 29. 
Born and resided Kent. 
Son of Horace and Elizabeth Greenstreet of Faversham, Kent. 
Husband of Joan Elizabeth Sylvester Greenstreet of Folkestone, Kent. 

HANDS, JOHN. Flight Sergeant, 1390983. 
Died Thursday 13 July 1944. Aged 32. 
Son of Uriah and Lavinia E. Hands (nee Wyatt). 
Husband of Marjorie M. E. Hands of Hythe, Kent. 
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 218.

HARLING, JOHN EDWARD. Sergeant, 1399617. 
Died Sunday 27 August 1944. Aged 27. 
Son of John A. and Margaret Ann Harling (nee Mallard). 
Husband of Vivien Marie Harling of Worcester, Worcestershire. 
Buried Amersfoort, (Oud Leusden) General Cemetery, Utrecht, Netherlands. 
HEINE, FREDERICK WALTER. Special Constable.
Died Tuesday 15 October 1940. Aged 40.
Born East Malling, Kent.
Son of Emily Heine (nee Woodger) of Mill Street, East Malling, Kent.
Husband of Lilian Mary Heine of Heathfield, London Road, Addington, Kent.
Frederick was numbered amongst those who died or were injured at the Royal Oak Inn, Wrotham Heath, Kent, on 15 October 1940. A number of the most seriously injured were taken to the Preston Hall Emergency Hospital, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, where some sadly later succumbed to their injuries.

HORN, WILLIAM THOMAS BOURNE. Sergeant.
Police War Reserve.
Died Sunday 7 September 1941. Aged 61.
Resided at 48, Burlington Mansions, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Mary E. Horn.
William, who probably served during the Great War as Corporal, 90941, Royal Garrison Artillery, died at Burlington Mansions, Dover, Kent.

HUGGINS, STEPHEN GEORGE JAMES. Police Constable.
Died Saturday 31 October 1942. Aged 37.
Resided at 96, Spenser Road, Herne Bay; Kent.
Son of William Huggins, and of the late Mary Ann Huggins.
Stephen was injured at Herne Bay, and died later the same day whilst a patient at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, King Edward Avenue, Herne Bay; Kent.

JACKSON, CLIFFORD. Gunner, 14668280.
28 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died Tuesday 16 October 1945. Aged 29.
Born Lancashire. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of William and Elizabeth Jackson of Radcliffe, Lancashire.
Husband of Elsie Jackson of Radcliffe, Lancashire.

JOHNSON, FREDERICK. Special Constable.
Special Constabulary.
Husband of Nellie Johnson of 5 Garden Terrace, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Frederick died at Ash Platt Road, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.

JONES, CHARLES JOHN AUSTEN. Special Constable.
Special Constabulary.
Died Thursday 29 May 1941. Aged 33.
Son of Mrs. Emmie Jones and the late Mr. Robert Jones of 67, Oswald Road, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Ivy Jones (nee Pott) of 31, Morehall Avenue, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent.
Charles died at his home 31, Morehall Avenue, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent, during an enemy bombing raid.
Commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque located in the parish church of All Souls, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent. Charles being one of the twenty three Cheriton civilians named on the plaque.
Died Saturday 7 September 1940. Aged 30.
Son of Henry Kettle of Rose Cottage, Mill Lane, Hawkinge, Kent, and of Annie Kettle. Henry died at Mill Lane, Hawkinge, Kent. Henry appears to have been a twin, as the CWGC also commemorates 30 year old Helen Kettle of the same address, and parentage who died at the same location on the same day.

MAYCOCK, WILLIAM CHARLES. Police Constable.
Dover Borough Police.
Died Saturday 24 August 1940. Aged 31.
Son of Louisa Maycock of 20, Chilham Road, Folkestone, Kent, and of the late W. C. Maycock.
Husband of Mary Alice Maycock of 15, Chevalier Road, Elms Vale, Dover, Kent.
William died at his home 15, Chevalier Road, Elms Vale, Dover, Kent, during a bombing raid. Commemorated in the Dover, Kent, Second Word War, Book of Rememberance which is currently held in the safe keeping of the Dover Museum, Market Square, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PB.

McGAW, NEIL McARTHUR. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 173338.
625, Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Thursday 4 May 1944.
Buried Trouan-le-Petit, Aube, France. Grave Ref: Collective grave 3.

MILHAM, GEORGE EDWARD. Gunner, 14253879.
142 (The Royal North Devon Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Born and resided Hastings, Sussex.
Son of Sidney and Alice Grace Milham.
Husband of Jeanne Kathleen Milham of Pett Level, Sussex.
Buried Minturno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. G. 9.

MILLARD, ARTHUR THOMAS. Lieutenant (A).
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. H.M.S. Illustrious.
Son of Arthur Frederick and Lucy Millard.
Husband of Vera Ivy Millard.
Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial. Bay 6, Panel 3.

MITCHELL, FRANK ERNEST. Flying Officer (Bomb Aimer), 129679.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 431 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force.
Died Tuesday 18 July 1944.
Son of James Frederick and Jane Mitchell.
Husband of Dorothy Lilian Mitchell of Folkestone, Kent.
Buried Cramoisy Communal Cemetery, Oise, France.
Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent, civic war memorial, and on Second World War memorial plaque located in the parish church of All Souls, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent, also on a similar plaque located in the parish church of St. Johns, Folkestone, Kent.

MITCHENER, GEORGE JAMES. Sergeant (Navigator), 1389928.
Son of George Henry and Florence Emily Mitchener of Brighton, Sussex.
MOORE, GEORGE. Inspector. Special Constabulary. (Gravesend Borough Police). Died 16 August 1940. Aged 51. Husband of Violet Moore of Glenbrook, Cobham Terrace, Greenhithe, Dartford, Kent. George was off duty when he was injured at Vale Road, Northfleet; Kent, and died later the same day on the way to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.

NICHOLSON, J. Able Seaman. Although this Kent Police Officer, who served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, was accessed during our researches. Unfortunately it has not at this point in time, been possible to positively provide additional information appertaining to him here.

OLIVE, JOHN. Special Constable. Died Wednesday 28 August 1940. Aged 55. Husband of Alice E. Olive (nee Mellish) of 89 Beatty Avenue, Gillingham, Kent. John died whilst a patient at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent.


POTTEN, ARTHUR EDWARD. Special Constable. Died Sunday 5 October 1940. Aged 43. Son of Mrs. M. W. Potten of 2 Mayfield Terrace, Lyminge, Kent. Husband of Helen Grace Potten of The Street, Postling, Hythe, Kent. Died at The Leas junction, Earls Avenue, Folkestone, Kent. Commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary and St. Radegund, Postling, Hythe, Kent.

RUSSELL, GEORGE ERNEST. Constable. Special Constabulary. 
Died Monday 18 October 1943. Aged 62. 
Husband of Louisa Violet Russell, of 78 Dover Road East, Northfleet, Kent. 
George died at his home 78 Dover Road East, Northfleet, Kent, as did his wife 54 year old Louisa Violet Russell, and their 14 year old daughter Elsie Primrose Russell.

RUSSELL, SYDNEY. Police Constable. 
Died Saturday 29 January 1944. Aged 37. 
Son of Ernest Sydney and Alice Mildred Russell of Church Cottage, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent. 
Husband of Henrietta Louise Russell of 5 School Avenue, Gillingham, Kent. 
Sydney died at his home 5 School Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.

SHELLER, PERCY WILLIAM. Police Constable. 
Police War Reserve. 
Died 23 March 1942. Aged 60. 
Husband of A. K. Sneller of 5, Millais Road, Dover, Kent. 
Percy died at the Conservative Club, Dover, Kent, during an enemy air raid by four Junkers JU-88 bombers just before 2100 hours on the evening of 23 March 1942; he was in the company of Police Sergeant William Austen, who is also commemorated in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Rememberance. Having jointly inherited his late father Frank’s haulage business with his brother Arthur in 1900, and then called it Sneller Brothers, Arthur died in 1906, after which Percy became ‘sole proprietor’ and the company name changed to P.W. Sneller. Over many years the company expanded and it’s lorries very often seen, primarily four wheeled tippers in the Dover and East Kent area, until the company ceased trading in 1979, after having been in existence since the 1860’s, during which time employing local labour.

Died Saturday 10 February 1940. Aged 38. 
Son of Charles Ambrose and Lydia Stammers of Romford, Essex. 

STAPLETON, ALFRED WILLIAM. Rifleman, 14311519. Queen Victoria's Rifles, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Serving in No. 5 Commando. 
Born and resided North West London. 
Son of George and Alice Stapleton of Kilburn, Middlesex. 
Alfred’s CWGC commemoration does not show which battalion of his parent regiment he belonged to, but it would have been either the 7th or 8th Battalion. During the period between the two world wars, the Queen Victoria's Rifles was affiliated to the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and at the commencement of the Second World War, the 1st Battalion, Queen Victoria's Rifles became the 7th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, at which time the 2nd Battalion, Queen Victoria's Rifles became the 8th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

TAWSE, WILLIAM JOHNSTON. Chief Motor Mechanic 4th Class, C/MX 116263. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke II. 
Died Friday 4 May 1945. Aged 28. 
Son of William Walker Tawse and Helen Johnston Tawse of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 
Buried Royal Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Kent. 
Grave Ref: Consecrated Section 17C. Grave 692.

TICEHURST, FREDERICK CHARLES. Police Constable. Died Saturday 24 August 1940. Aged 36. Son of Annie Elizabeth Ticehurst of 42 Western Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and of the late William Ticehurst. Husband of Ellen C. Ticehurst of 25 Station Approach Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Frederick died at his home 25 Station Approach Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.


WARNER, WILLIAM GEORGE. Special Constable. Died 23 September 1942. Aged 40. Son of Mrs. Rose (formerly Warner) of 110 Green Lane, Eltham, London, and of the late John Warner. Husband of Elsie Lilian Warner of 2 Victoria Road, Chatham, Kent. William was injured at the Royal Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, Kent, during an enemy bombing raid, and succumbed to his injuries later the same day whilst a patient at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone, Kent.


WHEELER, ROBERT. Special Constable. Died Friday 1 September 1944. Aged 55. Resided at the Pavilion Bungalow, Lower Road, Kearsney, Dover, Kent. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler of 107, Charles Street, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, Wales. Husband of the late Kathleen Wheeler. Robert was injured at his home the Pavilion Bungalow, Lower Road, Kearsney, Dover, Kent, and died later the same day whilst a patient at the Casualty Hospital, Union Road, Dover, Kent.

WILLS, RICHARD DANIEL JAY. Special Constable. Special Constabulary. Died Sunday 20 April 1941. Aged 37. Resided at Elm Lodge, 68 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent. Died at St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent.


WILSON, CLAUDE 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. Commemorated in the Dover, Kent, Second World War Book of Rememberance. Claude was a pupil at the Dover, Kent Grammar School for Boys from 1935 to 1939, where he is also commemorated in the Second World War Book of Rememberance. In the churchyard of St. James, Lissett, Driffield, Yorkshire, is a memorial to 158 Squadron, Royal Air Force, No. 4 Group, Bomber Command, in the Second World War. Claude's squadron was reformed on 14 February 1942 at R.A.F. Driffield, Yorkshire from a nucleus provided by No. 104 Squadron, R.A.F. and equipped with Wellington bombers until June when Halifaxes arrived. At the same time the squadron moved to a new home at R.A.F. East Moor, Sutton-on-the-Forest, Yorkshire, and then in November to R.A.F. Rufforth, York, Yorkshire. In February 1943, the squadron moved to what would be its main wartime home of R.A.F. Lissett, Driffield, Yorkshire, from it operated as part of Bomber Command's Main Force for the remainder of the war. Halifax Ill aircraft arrived in January 1944 and at the same time 'C' Flight was used to provide the basis of No 640 Squadron, which immediately moved to R.A.F. Leconfield, Beverley, Yorkshire. After the war, the squadron together with the rest of No 4 Group, was transferred to Transport Command and began receiving Stirling IV aircraft in June. These were taken to Stradishall in August, from where it conducted trooping flights to the Middle East and India until disbanding on 31 December 1945. Claude's brother, Flying Officer John Ernest Wilson, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 205 Squadron, Royal Air Force, also died and is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Tragically the day after Claude had received his Distinguished Flying Cross at Buckingham Palace on 21 November 1944, his father Ernest was badly injured by a V2 flying bomb, and he sadly succumbed to his injuries the following day whilst a patient at the Woolwich and District War Memorial Hospital. For far more comprehensive details about the Wilson family including photographs, please also see the excellent Dover War Memorial Project website.