OLD FOLEYANS
REMEMBERED

CASUALTIES OF
WORLD WAR II



OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL
STOURBRIDGE

UT PROSIM

VINCE MALUM BONO

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Due to the varying amounts of information available on each casualty, there is no particular order in which they appear.

ROLAND D. JAMES ROYAL NAVY





Foley House

Son of John and Agnes James of the parish of Clifton-on-Teme in the County of Worcestershire. Born December 4th 1920, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 18th, 1928.

Captain school and house rugger
Captain school and house soccer
Captain house cricket 1935, 6
Colours: Rugger 1934, 5, 6

Teams: School rugger 1933,4 ,5 ,6
School soccer 1935 ,6
School cricket 1934 ,5 ,6
House rugger 1932, 3, 4 ,5 ,6
House soccer 1932, 3, 4 ,5 ,6
House cricket 1932, 3, 4 ,5 ,6

Scout Troop Patrol Leader 2nd class.

Societies: Tuesday club
Physics
Badminton
Billiards

Excerpt from Old Foleyan, July 1936.
Founders Day Awards
Gardening Prize - R. D. James
Headmaster's Medal - R. D. James

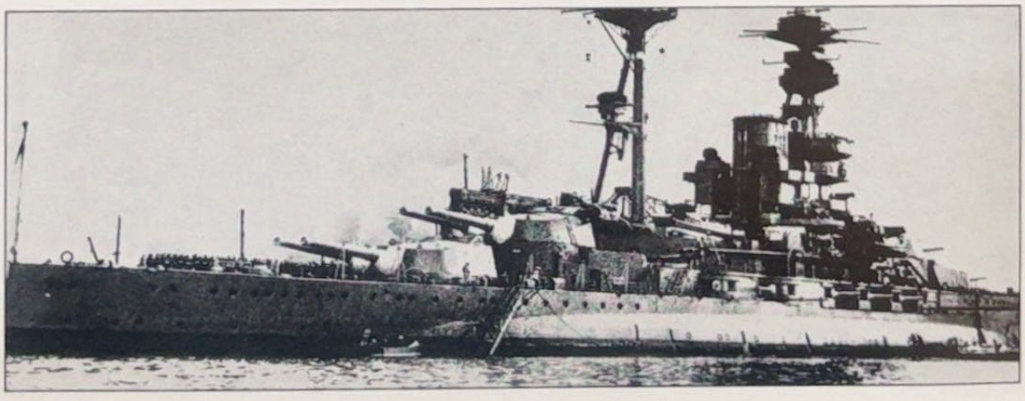
Excerpt from Old Foleyan, December 1938.
R. D. James (Foley House, 1928-1936) has joined the Navy. He is training to become a gunner and is at present stationed at Portsmouth.

The loss of H.M.S. Royal Oak

During the night of 13th/14th October 1939, the German submarine U47, commanded by Lieutenant Prien, penetrated the defences of Scapa Flow. Most of the fleet was at sea, but the battleship Royal Oak was anchored 1,000 yards off the north-east shore. At 00.58 hours, Prien fired three torpedoes from about 4,000 yards range. One scored a hit near the bows of the ship but the detonation was so slight, that those on board the ship believed the cause to be internal. Eighteen minutes later, Royal Oak was struck by two or more torpedoes and, at 01.29 hours, she rolled over and sank, taking 24 officers and 809 men of her complement with her.

That the ship sank so quickly was largely the result of the minimal level of watertight integrity being exercised at that time. She was in what was, no doubt, regarded as a comparatively safe position, and in the generally relaxed atmosphere of harbour routine, many doors, hatches and ventilators were open, that normally would have been closed. Had there been more time available to take adequate counter-measures, the ship might well have been saved.

Ordinary Seaman 25886 Roland D. James
Royal Navy
Killed in action, aged 18 years, whilst serving aboard H.M.S. Royal Oak, October 14th 1939.
Portsmouth Naval Memorial - No known grave.



H.M.S. Royal Oak

ERIC DESMOND MOBBERLEY ROYAL AIR FORCE



Lyttleton House

Son of Major and Jessie Mobberley of the parish of Stambermill in the County of Worcestershire. Born April 17th 1923, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School January 24th 1933.



Captain school rugger 1939
Colours: Rugger 1936, 7, 8, 9

Teams: School rugger 1935, 6, 7, 8, 9
House rugger 1933, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
House soccer 1936, 7, 8, 9
House cricket 1936, 7, 8, 9

Scout Troop Patrol Leader

Societies: English
Geography
Craft
Badminton
Billiards
Swimming



Yonder lies my castle
D. Mobberley aged 13

Excerpt from Old Foleyan, July 1936.

Founders Day Awards

Examination Prize - E. D. Mobberley, Form IV
Examination Prize - E. D. Mobberley, Set Vb

"My Kid Brother"

Affectionately known as Des, my brother was born two months after the death of my father. He was the youngest of five children, four boys and a girl. He attended Stambermill school until the age of eight, then he entered as a boarder Old Swinford Hospital School for boys. He was a very brilliant pupil and received the highest prize of the school known as the Maybury Prize and his name was entered on the Honours Board.

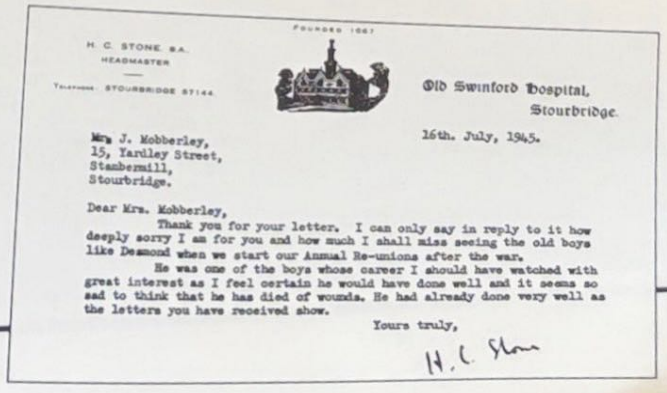
One term he was awarded ten prizes of different subjects and a local newspaper went to the school to take his photograph holding the prizes. He was still at school when war broke out and left later at the age of sixteen. Des started work at the M.E.B. offices at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen. He joined the A.T.C. until he was conscripted into the forces. He joined the R.A.F. and was sent to Bishops Court, County Down, Northern Ireland in 1943 to train as a Navigator. After training he moved to England and joined the Lancaster bombers of which there were six in the crew. Together they went on raids which were called sorties. After a number of sorties they were allowed home leave, then returned to start again. It was during his last sortie before leave that his plane a Lancaster Bomber was hit and brought down. Two of the crew were killed instantly, four managed to bale out; but on landing the eldest of the crew, who they called Pops, died. The Captain, my brother and another member of the crew were imprisoned. After the two survivors returned home they came to see my mother and family and said that Des had landed heavily. They had asked for medical attention, this was refused, and my dear brother had died in his pals' arms. He was buried in the place where he died and later buried in the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland. His name is on Stourbridge War Memorial in Mary Stevens Park. His brothers, Major Raymond Mobberley and Arthur Victor Mobberley both attended Old Swinford Hospital School. Major served on board H.M.S. Hood, he died of T.B. before the war and Victor served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Marjorie.

Sgt/Navigator 1583378 Eric Desmond Mobberley Royal Air Force (V. R.) 50 Squadron

Killed in action, aged 21 years, February 8th 1945. His Lancaster, PD316, was reported missing on the 7/8th of February 1945.

Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland.



H. C. STONE, B.A.
HEADMASTER

Old Swinford Hospital,
Stourbridge.

16th. July, 1945.

Mrs J. Mobberley,
15, Yardley Street,
Stambermill,
Stourbridge.

Dear Mrs. Mobberley,

Thank you for your letter. I can only say in reply to it how deeply sorry I am for you and how much I shall miss seeing the old boys like Desmond when we start our Annual Re-unions after the war.

He was one of the boys whose career I should have watched with great interest as I feel certain he would have done well and it seems so sad to think that he has died of wounds. He had already done very well as the letters you have received show.

Yours truly,

H. C. Stone

STANLEY NORMAN RICHARDSON





Dudley House

Son of Arnold and Jessie Richardson of the parish of Wichenford in the County of Worcestershire. Born November 7th 1924, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 19th, 1934.

Captain school and house rugger 1940
Colours: Rugger 1940
Cross Country 1940

Teams: School rugger 1937, 8, 9, 40
School soccer 1940
School cross country 1938, 9, 40
House rugger 1936, 7, 8, 9, 40
House soccer 1939, 40
House cricket 1937, 8, 9, 40

Societies: Natural History
Swimming
First Aid

Founders Day Awards
Headmaster's Medal

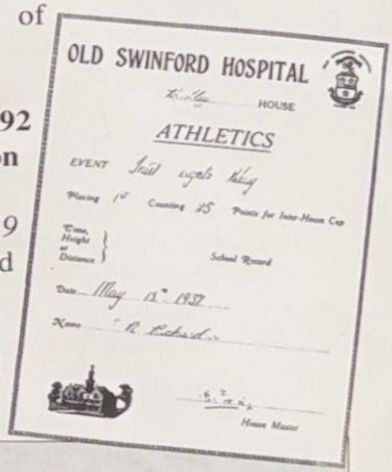
The loss of HMS Dulverton

Naval reinforcements were on the way but the Luftwaffe were fully prepared. The 8th Flotilla would have to pull out to refuel, so another force consisting of cruiser *Phoebe* and the destroyers *Echo, Dulverton,* and *Belvoir* was sent out. After the cruiser had been withdrawn, the three destroyers under the command of Commander Sammy Buss, a famous destroyer skipper, as Captain D 5th flotilla, entered the Agean to the north of Rhodes. They were soon picked up and shadowed by German aircraft. At 03.10 on the morning of the 13th they were attacked by Glider Bombers in the Gulf of Kos.

The *Dulverton* was steaming at twenty two knots when she was struck by an H.S. 293 type bomb on the port side abreast the bridge. The explosion tore away the bow section, forward of the bridge, together with her mounting. The small destroyer was soon settling by the head, ablaze from end to end there was no hope of saving her and her casualties were heavy. The *Echo* and *Belvoir* managed to rescue some six officers and 103 men, but Sammy Buss was not among them. They then sank the blazing hulk with a torpedo in position 36 50, N, 27 30E, five miles east of Kos Island.

Telegraphist P/XJ 327392
Stanley Norman Richardson
Royal Navy

Killed in action, aged 19 years, while serving aboard HMS Dulverton.
November 13th 1943.
Portsmouth Naval Memorial
- No known grave.


OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL

HOUSE

ATHLETICS

EVENT

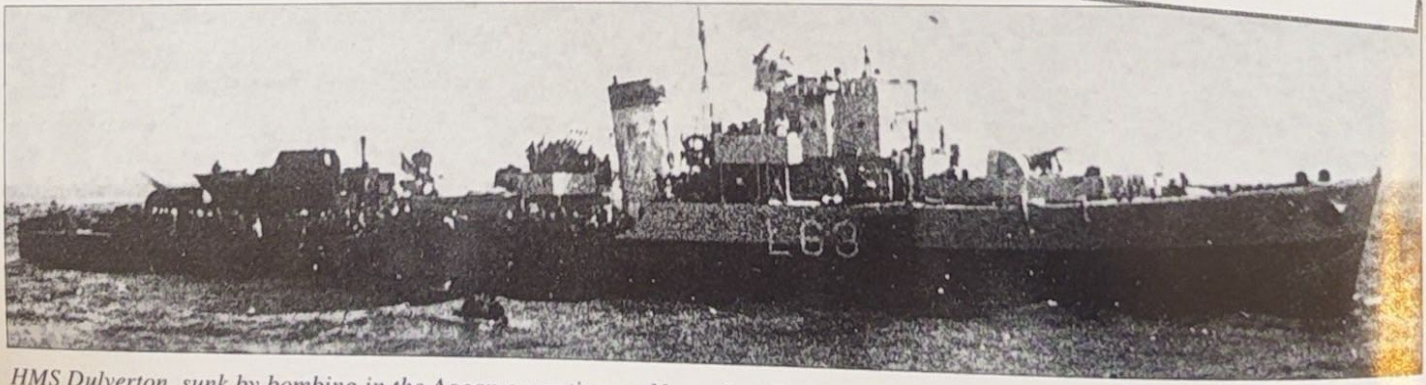
Points for Inter-House Cup

School Record

Date

Name

House Master



HMS Dulverton, sunk by bombing in the Agean operation on November 13th 1943; 78 lost.

NORMAN RONALD NEWEY ROYAL AIR FORCE





Foster House

Son of Henry William and Annie Maud Newey of the parish of Dudley in the County of Worcestershire. Born November 29th 1919, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School December 17th, 1928.

Vice-captain school rugger
Captain house rugger
Colours: Rugger 1934

Teams: School rugger 1933, 4
House rugger 1932, 3, 4
House soccer 1932, 3, 4
House cricket 1933, 4, 5

Scout Troop Patrol Leader 2nd Class

Societies: Tuesday Club
English
Geography
Chemical
Badminton

Excerpt from Old Foleyan, July 1936.

Founders Day Awards

Term Prize - N. R. Newey V Upper
Examination Prize - N. R. Newey V Upper
Examination Prize - N. R. Newey Set 5a
Physics Prize - N. R. Newey V Upper

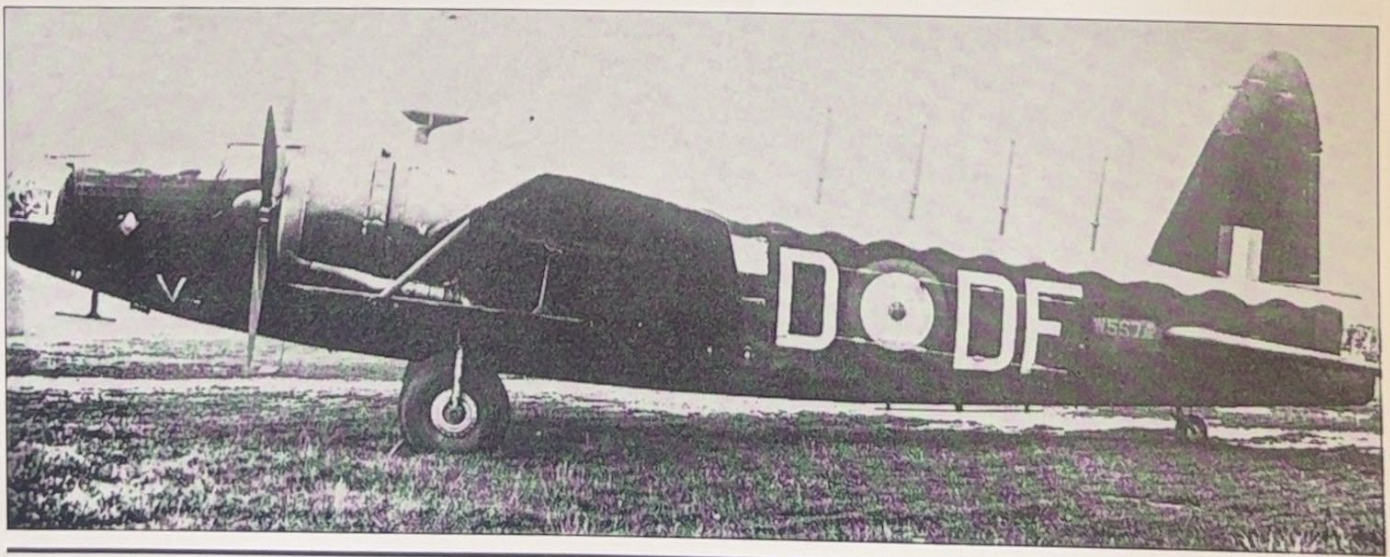
221 Squadron

Another unit to join the struggle at sea was No. 221 Squadron. Reformed at Bircham Newton on 21st November, 1940 under the command of Wing Commander T.R. Vickers. The Squadron was initially equipped with Wellington Ics, fitted with ASV(Air to Surface Vessel) radar and commenced a successful year of operations within Coastal Command on anti-shipping sorties.

In March 1941 the unit began re-equipping with Wellington VIII "Stickleback" aircraft - nicknamed "Goofingtons" and in September moved base from the UK to Reyjavik, Iceland, in order to extend its search areas for U-Boats.

Sgt 944135 Norman Ronald Newey
Royal Air Force (VR) 221 Squadron
Killed in action, aged 21 years, May 12th 1941.
Runnymead RAF Memorial - No known grave.

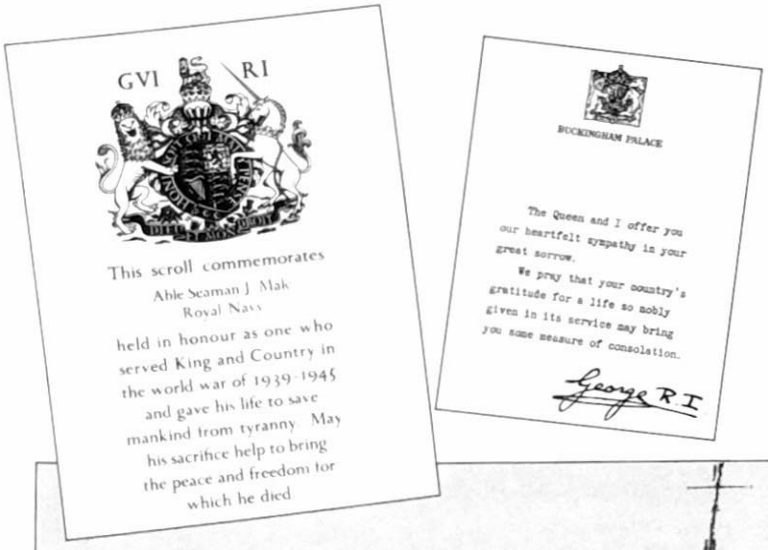
Mk VIII 'Stickleback', W5674 which served with 221 Squadron and 7 OTU at various periods



JACK MALE ROYAL NAVY



Son of Arthur and Eliza Male of the parish of Wordsley in the County of Staffordshire. Born September 17th 1919, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School December 17th, 1929.



The loss of HMS Javelin

In September 1940 the 5th flotilla was moved down to Plymouth to operate in the western approaches. Every night Mountbatten led four of his flotilla out on a sweep, and on the night of 24/25th November it was the *Javelin's* turn again.

The German destroyers were out again that night and Hans Bartel, Commander of the *Karl Galster,* claimed, "We saw the British destroyers on our radar, four minutes before we had visual contact".

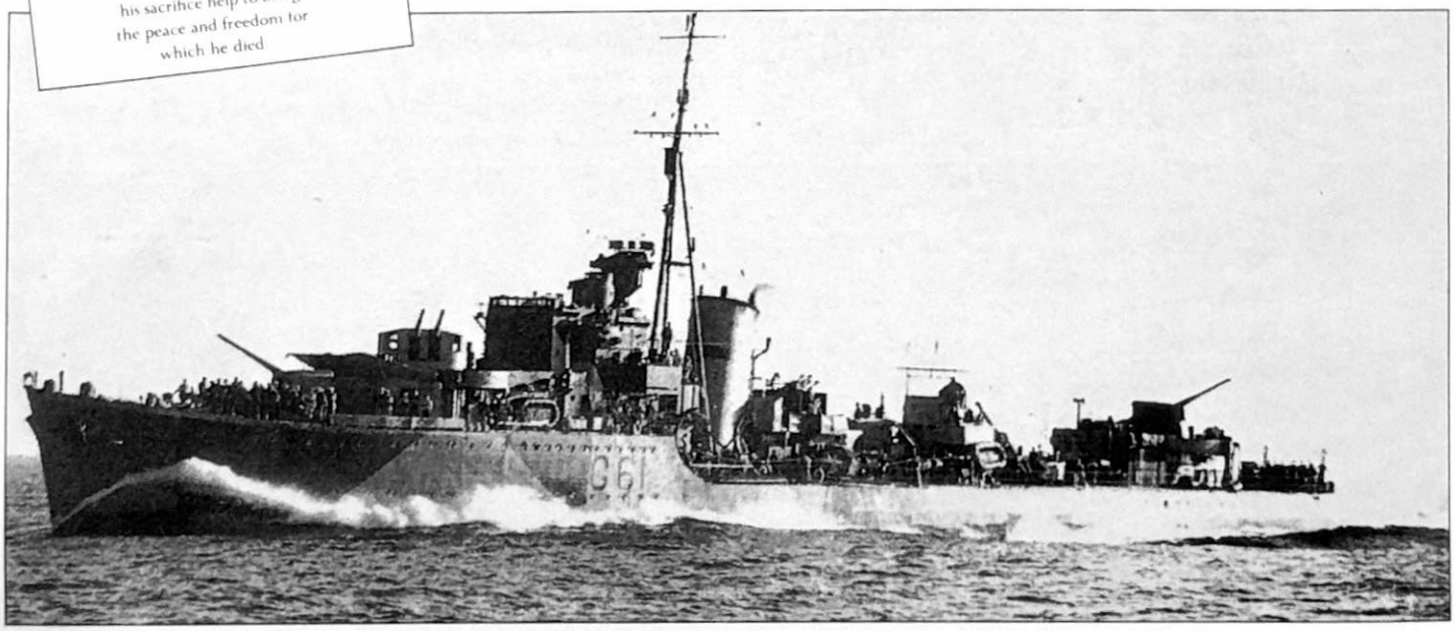
The German ships were not spotted until they were as close as 2,000 yards, closing very quickly to 1,000 yards, at which point commander Pugsley (Captain of *H.M.S. Javelin*) wanted to attack forthwith, but, Mountbatten ordered the ship to turn on a parallel course. No sooner than the order had been carried out, two torpedoes hit the *Javelin*, one in the bows and one in the stern, at which point the aft magazine exploded. Three officers and forty-three ratings were killed.

The crippled ship was slowly towed back to Plymouth and 13 months later re-entered the fray completely rebuilt to survive the war. Javelin's rescue from the sea was a credit to her designers and builders, John Brown, and a triumph for the surviving members of her ship's company in the art of damage control.

Able Seaman P/SSX 21881
Jack Male Royal Navy

Killed in action, aged 21 years, while serving aboard HMS Javelin, November 29th 1940.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial - No known grave.



H.M.S. Javelin

FREDERICK EDWARD BAKER WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT



Son of Thomas Edward and Susan Elizabeth Ann Baker of the parish of Halesowen in the County of Worcestershire. Born February 28th 1906, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School December 21st, 1915.

His Last action

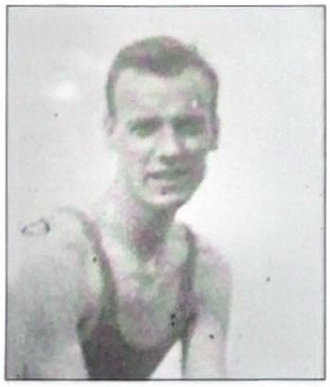
Battle of Keren, East Africa

The Brigadier postponed the final assault until the early hours of 5th May. Before dawn 3/2 Punjab had secured Middle Hill, which nestled under the northern slopes of Alagi. Half an hour later Captain F.E. Baker led the battalion to Little Alagi. The first rays of the sun were on the hill tops and a gallant assault was stopped by wire and machine gun fire from two features to the east, Bald Hill and Little Alagi, one platoon did in fact penetrate the wire, but the battalion was pinned to the ground, unable to move. There on the slopes of Amba Alagi our men lay for the rest of the day. It says much for their patience that when within range of enemy mortars and machine guns, they were able to keep sufficiently still, to prevent the enemy from realising the magnificent target which lay in front of them. In the circumstances the casualties were not heavy, 8 killed and 28 wounded, and so at 1800 hours orders to withdraw went out. By midnight the battalion were concentrated on ground North of Whale Back and the attack of 29 Brigade had been definitely checked.

During the engagement Captain F.E Baker was killed. He had served in the Regiment first as a boy and was one of the first Warrant Officers to receive a Commission. With his death the Battalion was deprived of the last of its Company Commanders who had faced the campaign before Keren.

Captain 171970 Frederick Edward Baker
Worcestershire Regiment
Killed in action, aged 35 years, May 5th 1941, in the battle of Keren, East Africa.
Asmara War Cemetery, East Africa.

WILFRED DOWNTON ROYAL ARTILLERY



Foster House

Son of Joseph Henry and Sarah Downton of the parish of St. Thomas, Stourbridge in the County of Worcestershire. Born May 5th 1918, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 16th 1925.

Vice-captain house rugger and soccer
Eights Captain
Colours: Soccer 1932, 3
Cricket 1933

Teams: School soccer 1931, 2, 3
School cricket 1932, 3
House rugger 1932, 3
House soccer 1931, 2, 3
House cricket 1931, 2, 3

Societies: History
Badminton
Swimming Club
Scout Troop
L.N.U. (League of Nations Union)

Military records show that Gunner Wilfred Downton appears to have been killed, with a Sergeant and another Gunner from 122nd Light Anti Aircraft /AntiTank Regiment, in Burma in a plane crash caused by enemy action. They were reported missing on the 8th August 1944. The Regiment was at Shillong, India for the whole of August.

Gunner 1538730 Wilfred Downton
402 (5th Battallion, The Warwickshire Regiment)
Battery 122 Light A.A./Anti-tank Regiment
Royal Artillery
Killed in action, aged 26 years, August 7th 1944.
Digboi War Cemetery, India.

WALTER WILDE HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT



Lyttleton House

Son of Richard and Jane Wilde of the parish of St. George, Kidderminster, in the County of Worcestershire. Born April 20th 1917, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 16th, 1925.

Excerpt from Old Foleyan,
December 1934 - Pageant Souvenir

Lord Cobham presented his Coat of Arms in silver and enamel to us, and two silver plates on which were engraved the names of our two prefects;

W. WILDE
T. E. DAVIES



Walter Wilde at Dudley Police Station. 3rd from front

8th Army

The fighting during September had been severe and the losses on both sides heavy. The allied armies had won a great success, but at high cost, and they were unable to follow it up as they would have wished. The 8th Army had advanced about thirty miles in less than a month, and hoped now to soon reach the river Po. Apart from their battle casualties, they had lost the 4th Indian Division and the 3rd Greek Mountain Brigade, who had been ordered to Greece.

They had now come to a region of innumerable water channels, which were serious obstacles in the rainy Autumn weather.

The German determination not to yield a yard of ground without fighting for it was almost fanatical. So it was that during October, the 8th army gained only a few miles of rain-sodden ground, while the 5th Army struggled through the mountains in appaling weather against spirited resistance by some of the best German Divisions in Italy.

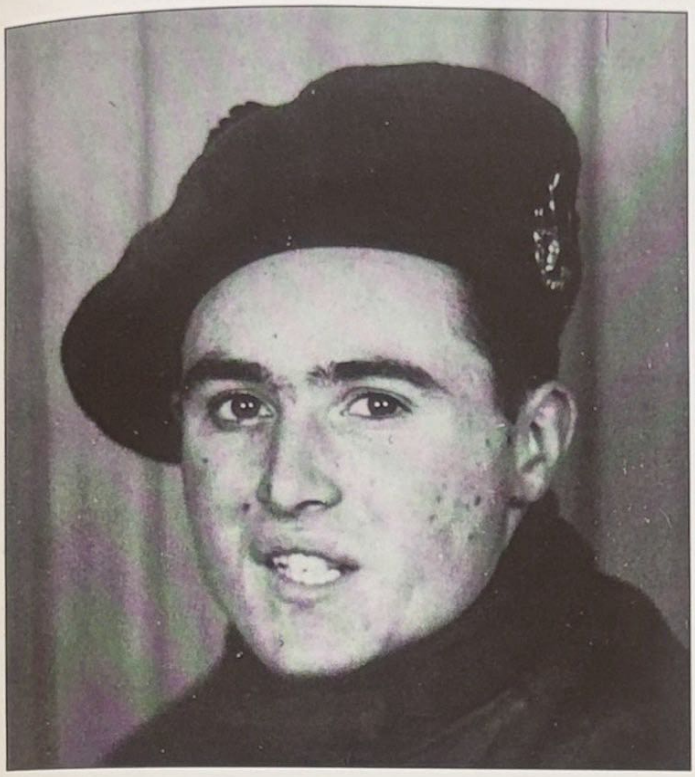
A Brief History

Private Walter Wilde, a member of the Dudley Police Force , joined the Metropolitan Police under the ten-year plan, and was appointed to the County Borough of Dudley in 1937. On August 18th 1941, he volunteered for service in the Royal Air Force, and went for training as a pilot to Rhodesia. After resigning from the Air Force he re-joined the Dudley Police on August 27th 1942. He was however, called for Army service on May 20th 1943 and was posted to the Worcestershire Regiment. He was subsequently transferred to the Hampshire Regiment. He served in North Africa & Italy.

As a Police Constable, he served in Coventry during the blitz period and had been awarded the medal of the N.S.P.C.A. for rescuing a dog from a cavern at the Wren's Nest. He was highly esteemed by his fellow members of the Police Force and had many friends among them. He played football for the police team and was a good cricketer.

Private 14610040 Walter Wilde
The Hampshire Regiment
Died of wounds, aged 27 years, October 20th 1944.
Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy.

DESMOND BERNARD GEENS THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS



Dudley House

Son of William Louis and Annie Elizabeth Geens of the parish of Wall Heath in the County of Staffordshire. Born April 23rd 1925, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 18th, 1935.

Teams: House rugger 1938
House soccer 1938, 9
Cross country 1939

Societies: FWH (Friendship of Willing Helpers)

The 2nd Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders were involved in the operation to capture the village of Adelheide & the airfield at Delmenhorst in April 1945, one of the last actions of World War II.

Private 14642695
Desmond Bernard Geens,
2nd Battalion,
The Seaforth Highlanders
Killed in action, aged 19 years,
April 19th 1945.
Becklingen War Cemetery,
Soltav, Germany.



GEORGE WILLIAM EVANS DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY



Lyttleton House

Son of George Edward and Winifred Evans of the parish of Bewdley in the County of Worcestershire. Born October 7th 1922, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 20th, 1933.

Teams: School cricket 1936
House rugger 1935
House soccer 1934, 5, 6
House cricket 1934, 5, 6

Societies: Swimming

"Enemy Mines"

Extract from the war diary, 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, 151 Infantry Brigade, 50th Division.

The platoon of "D" Company under Lieutenant R.J.Bennett and Company representatives who had gone to the Wadi Zigzaou battle area on March 29th, returned this evening. The party had gone to identify and bury personnel of the Battalion who had been killed during the action; the work was considerably slowed up owing to the presence of fresh mines left by the enemy. One private was killed and two others wounded by an enemy "bar" mine.

Private 5260217 George William Evans
6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry
Killed in action, aged 20 years, 1st April 1943.
Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia.

HENRY JOHN PHILPOTTS PARACHUTE REGIMENT



Foster House

Son of Arthur Thomas and Elizabeth Harriet Philpotts of the parish of Bewdley in the County of Worcestershire. Born May 3rd 1925, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 19th 1934.

Teams: School rugger 1939
House rugger 1938, 9
House soccer 1939
House cricket 1939

Societies: First Aid

Operation 'Market Garden'
1st Airborne Division
4th Parachute Brigade
156 Battalion
Arnhem, September 1944

The aircraft available were Dakotas (c47s) which are slow, unarmed and unarmoured transport aircraft; not fitted with self-sealing tanks. The Allied airforces were supreme in the air and attacks by fighters of the Luftwaffe were neither expected nor feared. There remained only the Anti-Aircraft defences of the enemy: these were formidable and daily increasing. The Germans were quick to reinforce the natural strength of the Rhine by every possible means. There is no doubt that they feared an attack by Airborne troops, and during the first fortnight of September they made all possible preparations to meet it; more and more Anti-Aircraft guns were brought up.

The Division's only hope therefore lay with 4th Parachute Brigade which was due to arrive at 1000 hours. The weather was bright and clear, but there was no sign of the Dakotas carrying 4th Parachute Brigade. Unbeknown to those awaiting their arrival, all the departure airfields were covered in low lying mist, and it was not until morning that the weather improved sufficiently for the aircraft to take off, by 1500 hours the leading aircraft were over the landing and dropping off zones. The drop and landings started, as on the previous day, the parachutists and Gliders were being delivered accurately; but on this occasion exceptionally heavy flak was encountered during the final 20 minutes of the run-in. Private Philpott's Dakota was hit by Anti-Aircraft fire. Henry had two brothers at the school, Alfred and Albert, who also served in the Parachute Regiment.

Private 14642734 Henry John Philpotts
156th Battalion Parachute Regiment,
Army Air Corps
Killed in action, aged 19 years, September 18th 1944.
Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Holland.



HAROLD WILLIAM PEARCE
WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

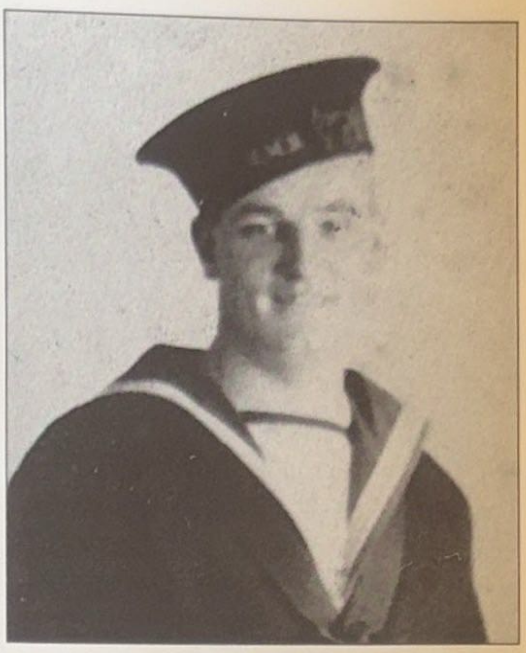
Son of Benjamin and Ellen Beatrice Pearce of the parish of Bewdley in the County of Worcestershire. Born February 19th 1919, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 18th, 1929.

Harold William Pearce
Worcestershire Regiment
Honourably discharged from the army, died in Ronkswood Military Hospital, aged 26 years, 9th March 1945, from illness related to his military service. His name is inscribed on Bewdley War Memorial.

ALBERT COOK ROYAL NAVY



Son of Alfred and Ellen Cook of the parish of Great Whitley in the County of Worcestershire. Born August 27th 1914, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 17th, 1924.



The Loss of HMS Dorsetshire *Easter Sunday 1942*

The hands of the clocks were just moving onto 1.40pm. It was a fine afternoon with some relatively low light cloud cover and the tropical sun was almost directly overhead. It was not thought that the Japanese planes had sufficient range to reach *HMS Dorsetshire*. The range and performance of the Japanese aircraft had been sadly underestimated. They achieved almost complete surprise when they suddenly dived on *Dorsetshire* and launched their attack with disciplined efficiency and fury. They came down at a steep angle in flights of three to release their 500lb. bombs at a low altitude with remarkable accuracy.

The attacks were made from directly ahead. This took advantage of the ship's blind spot as their main anti-aircraft armament was in such a position that it could not be aimed straight ahead - one of the weaknesses of the County Class cruisers. The first three bombs aimed at *Dorsetshire* all hit her. They disabled the steering gear and put both wireless officers out of action, in addition to other damage. As a result of the steering breakdown, *Dorsetshire* continued steering and completed a circle. *Dorsetshire* had taken a terrible pounding, direct hits blasting her in quick succession. One hit caused an explosion in a magazine. Smoke and steam were billowing from her side as she sank stern first, her bows almost vertical, to her ocean grave. In only about eight minutes since the first bomber dived on her, *Dorsetshire* had disappeared, taking with her more than 200 of her ship's company.

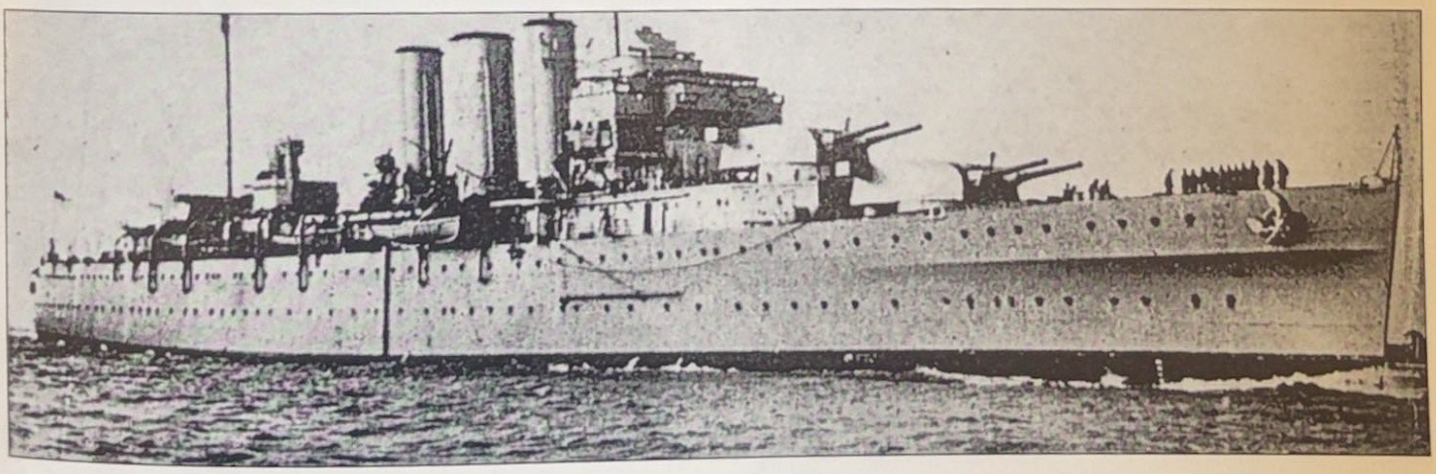
The agonising suffering, both mental and physical, endured by those men who were listed as "missing, presumed killed" - in the casualty list published in the official journal The Fleet - is a nightmare that even the passing of the years fails to obliterate. Their names are printed in alphabetical order in the September 1942 issue of The Fleet, under the heading War Service Losses "We will remember them".

Captain Augustus Agar, Victoria Cross,
Commanding Officer of HMS Dorsetshire.

Stoker 1st class D/KX 126557 Albert Cook
Royal Navy

Killed in action, aged 27 years, April 5th 1942, while serving aboard HMS Dorsetshire.

Plymouth Naval Memorial - No known grave.



HMS Dorsetshire

WILLIAM CHARLES HILL THE GREEN HOWARDS



Dudley House

Son of William and Audrey Alice Hill of the parish of Dudley in the County of Worcestershire. Born March 22nd 1922, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School December 17th, 1929.

Teams: House rugger 1934
House soccer 1935
House cricket 1935

Societies: History

The Final Assault

The Company Commander, Ted Roberts, was killed during an enemy attack on the company position on 31st of May 1944. For most of that night 4 enemy Mark IV tanks, engines running, were clearly visible in the cornfields in bright moonlight down a gentle slope about 200 yards to the front.

LCpl Fredericks and Pte Hill were on the forward slope manning a PIAT (Projectile Infantry Anti Tank) and were ordered to move back to a less exposed position just below the crest where they dug in. The PIAT could not engage the tanks at that range.

When the tanks came in at first light they overran Frederick's and Hill's trench. Captain O'Driscoll went up to the crest after the tanks had gone and to his great sadness found both men dead. They had fired at least one PIAT bomb at the oncoming tanks before they died. Both were very gallant soldiers and they were killed instantly at first light on 1st June 1944 while engaging oncoming enemy armour.

Private 4389575 William Charles Hill
1st Battalion The Green Howards
(Yorkshire Regiment)
Killed in action, aged 22 years, May 31st 1944.
Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, Italy.

ARTHUR ERNEST RYALL WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT



Foley House

Son of James Harold and Ada Ellen Ryall of the parish of Wolverley in the County of Worcestershire. Born September 23rd, 1923, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 20th, 1933.

Teams: House rugger 1936, 7
House soccer 1937
House cricket 1937

Burma

Private Ryall who was formerly a lorry driver in the employ of Jordan's Kidderminster, joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in December, 1943, being later transferred to the Worcestershire Regiment.

On the night of 18th December 1944, it fell to the 2nd Worcesters - 19th Division, to lead the Brigade in the advance from Banmauk towards Nankan.

He had been in Burma only six months.

Private 14682619 Arthur Ernest Ryall
2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment
Killed in action, aged 21 years, 19th December 1944.
The Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar - No known grave.

JAMES RICHARD BASTERFIELD ROYAL ARTILLERY



Son of Ernest and Elizabeth Basterfield of the parish of Halesowen in the County of Worcestershire. Born March 27th 1914, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School July 20th 1921.

Reported Missing

Affectionately known as Dick, he served for 6 years in the army in India, his trade being a farrier. In August 1939, because Dick was on the reserve list, he was called up.

He was sent to France and took part in the evacuation from Dunkirk. Then after a few days leave Dick returned to his unit which was subsequently sent to Libya.

In June 1942 Dick was reported missing in Libya, at the fall of Tobruk. He was taken prisoner by the Italians and was put in camp 0154 at Benghazi.
During November 1942, Dick and some 800 other Prisoners of War were being transferred from Italy to North Africa when their ship was bombed by British action and sunk.

Note: This ship should have had clear Red Cross markings on it to show it was carrying Prisoners of War.

Bombardier 819024 James Richard Basterfield
97 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment
Royal Artillery
Killed in action, aged 28 years, November 14th 1942.
The Alamein Memorial, Egypt - No known grave.

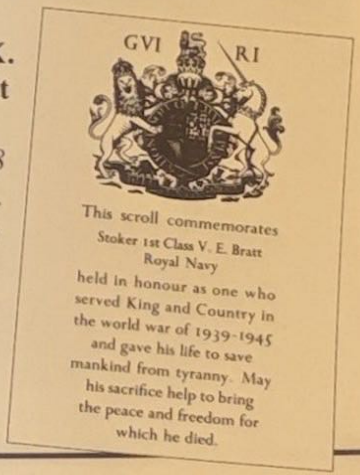
VICTOR EDWIN BRATT ROYAL NAVY



Son of Edwin and Francis Bratt of the parish of Alvechurch in the County of Worcestershire. Born July 18th, 1905, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School December 21st 1915.

The loss of S.S. Khedive Ismail
At noon the Commodore's ship, the 7,300 ton transport *S.S. Khedive Ismail*, packed with Naval ratings, nurses, wrens & ATS girls, was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine 127 off the Maldive Islands; the ship sank in three minutes, leaving many of her crew and passengers, numbering 1,507 struggling in the sea. The submarine placed itself beneath the survivors where she was depth charged and subsequently sunk by the escorting destroyers *HMS Petard & HMS Paladin*. 1,300 lives were lost
1st class Stoker Bratt was one of 195 Royal Naval ratings who were lost, he was on his way to the shore base H.M.S. Lanka at Colombo/Trincomalee, Ceylon.

Stoker 1st class C/KX. 126541 Victor Edwin Bratt
Royal Navy
Killed in action, aged 38 years, while aboard S.S. Khedive Ismail, February 12th 1944.
Chatham Naval Memorial - No known grave.



NORMAN BUNN NO. 2 COMMANDO





Dudley House

Son of Samuel and Elizabeth Bunn of the parish of Kingswinford in the County of Staffordshire. Born May 31st 1922, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School January 24th, 1933.

Captain house cross country

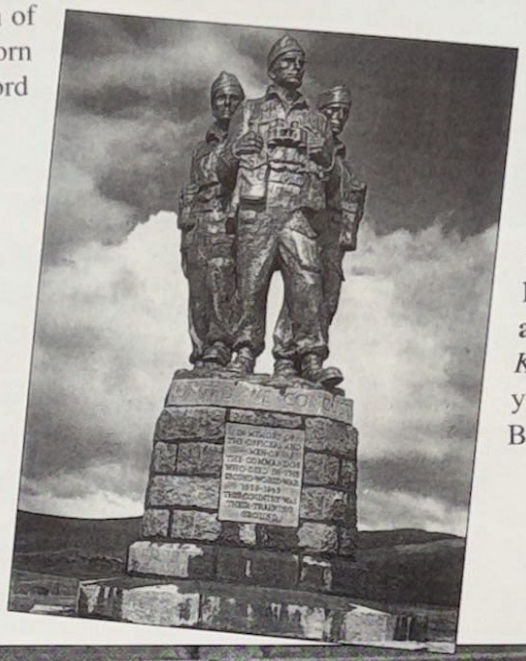
Teams: School cricket 1936
School cross country 1936
House rugger 1933, 4, 5
House soccer 1936
House cricket 1936

Scout Troop Patrol Leader 2nd class.

Societies: Stamp
Swimming
Badminton
Billiards

The Raid

On the night of 28/29th July 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Fynn, the new CO of 2 Commando, landed at Spilje in Albania at the head of a considerable force. With his own 250 strong Commando plus attached ranks from No. 9 Commando and the Highland Light Infantry, the force totalled some 700 men, almost a host in Commando terms. For once they outnumbered the Germans, but they attacked four German positions which were in a state of total defence and stubbornly defended. The German garrison beat the attack off, inflicting about sixty casualties, before the Commando returned to their ships. Spilje fell two days later to a full Partisan brigade.



Trooper 7893626
Norman Bunn
Royal Armoured Corps and No. 2 Commando
Killed in action, aged 22 years, 30th July, 1944.
Bari War Cemetery, Italy



2 Troop, 2 Commando. Norman Bunn is standing 3rd row down, 2nd from right.

KENNETH VICTOR LOWE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT



Son of Harry Sydney and Cissie Mary Lowe of the parish of Wordsley in the County of Staffordshire. Born February 28th 1914, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 19th, 1923.

The Action

Excerpt from 'The Worcestershire Regiment 1922-1950'
The First Battalion 1944-1945

On the morning of 22nd September, orders for a limited operation were received involving the capture of the village Oosterhout, beyond Nijmegen, where a bridgehead over the Waal had been secured. The plan was in hand when late in the evening, Oosterhout having already been taken by the Somersets, counter orders were received to make quickly for Valburg. Without lights along a narrow road, with Dutch dykes waiting for the sleepy driver on either side, the drive through a dark night in a drizzle of rain was a test of nerves and temper. Somehow in the dark, companies and their vehicles sorted themselves out around the Valburg crossroads and as day dawned the Dutch emerged from their houses, curious to inspect the new arrivals. Alas, their peaceful village was soon to have shells crashing through their roofs and only the cellars were safe.

The unhealthy climate of Valburg was to lead to a yet more desperate situation at Elst, some ten miles to the north east. At 1200 hours orders were received to attack the town four hours later. The country was open and a long, straight road led to Elst. After artillery preparation, "D" company with tank support, deployed and advanced across the flat fields. "C" and "A" companies followed and with darkness descending and Panther tanks prowling around, it was only possible to cling to the edge of the town. The times demanded much local initiative and quick decisions. The fight for Elst on the following day, **24th September**, was therefore an isolated battle. The enemy hit back in fierce street fighting with a tenacity which dampened the optimism of many who a few days earlier, had looked to the beginning of the end. Every house seemed to shelter a German automatic weapon, and before the end of the day two fine Company Commanders, Majors Souper and Gibbons, were to lose their lives. By daybreak on the 25th September Elst was in our hands.

Sgt 5257791 Kenneth Victor Lowe
1st Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment
Killed in action, aged 30 years, 24th September 1944, at Nijmegen.
Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Holland.

KENNETH GEORGE HARRIS ROYAL ARTILLERY

Foster House

Son of George Richard and Selina Harris of the parish of Brierley Hill in the County of Staffordshire. Born October 14th 1920, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 18th, 1928.

Teams: House rugger 1933.
House soccer 1933.
House cricket 1933.

Societies: Gardening
Woodwork
L.N.U. (The League of Nations Union)

Excerpt from Old Foleyan, December 1934, Pageant Souvenir
K. Harris, group 3b. May Term - Examination Prize.

Gunner 1472300
Kenneth George Harris
311 Battery,
73 Anti-aircraft Regiment,
Royal Artillery
Killed while on duty, aged 18 years, 26th September 1939.
Birmingham General Cemetery. Public grave, T3.



WILLIAM BLACKFORD SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT



Lyttleton House

Son of Thomas and Lucy Blackford of the parish of Bewdley in the County of Worcestershire. He was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 16th, 1925.

Excerpt from Old Foleyan, July 1931.

Blackford, Lyttleton's - Cricket Colours
Blackford, Lyttleton's - Rugger Colours

Airborne Operations - Salamander

The scene for the first major Allied airborne operations of the war was Sicily, where Allied paratroops and glider-borne troops were given important tasks in Operation "Huskey" in July 1943. But lack of experience resulted in a near disaster, redeemed only by the flexibility and courage of the troops, and the lack of real Axis power in southern Sicily.

The two battalions of the British 1st. Airlanding Brigade suffered similar misfortunes. The pilots of the tug aircraft were sufficiently off course between their checkpoint at Malta and their release points to have a 25 mile lateral spread from Cape Passero to Cape Murro di Porco. In addition there was a strong westerly wind of some 30 knots which would cause the gliders to land short if slipped at the planned points, which were over the sea. In addition to which, Anti-Aircraft fire, made frighteningly visible by tracer, undoubtedly deterred a closer approach to the coast. Sixty-nine gliders landed in the sea and some 500 men were drowned.

Only one glider of the *coup-de-main* party landed accurately near Ponte Grande. In it were Lieutenant Withers and a platoon of South Staffords.

Undaunted by the fact that the only other glider to arrive had crashed on landing and blown up killing everyone on board. Withers gathered his platoon, ordered half to swim the river and then assaulted the bridge garrison, who were Italians, from both ends. In half an hour he was in possession and had lifted the demolition charges. Daylight brought reinforcements as parties from the scattered gliders marched to their objective. From then on a weak company held off the counter attacks of an Italian battalion until it was down to 15 unwounded men without ammunition, artillery or air support. (Close air support for ground troops at that date was slow, crude and primitive in both the Allied armies and airforces.) Wither's platoon was overrun at 1520.An hour later the leading battalion of the 8th Army hove in sight and recaptured the bridge intact.

Private 4919332 William Blackford
2nd Airborne, South Staffordshire Regiment
Killed in action, aged 24 years, 9th July 1943.
The Cassino Memorial, Italy.



Halifax towing Horsa glider

THOMAS LESLIE FLAVELL ROYAL AIR FORCE

Son of Bertram and Lydia Flavell of the parish of Quarry Bank in the County of Staffordshire. Born November 27th 1913, was admitted into Old Swinford Hospital School June 17th, 1924.

42 Squadron - Coastal Command

At the Outbreak of war in September 1939 the R.A.F. itself possessed just two UK based Torpedo Bomber units, No.22 and 42 squadrons, both flying obsolete biplane Vickers Vildebeests, with a combined strength of 42 aircraft on unit charge. In April 1940 No. 42 squadron began exchanging its Vildebeests for the Bristol Beauforts and in June 1940 was moved north to Wick, Scotland.

The early months of both units working up on Beauforts were beset by technical problems, particularly engine defects, which caused a number of fatal casualties; the initial Beaufort operational sorties were simply as pure bombers or mine 'sowers'.

42 squadron which had eventually commenced Beaufort operations on 21st June 1940, attempting to bomb the Scharnhorst off Norway and losing three Beauforts to Luftwaffe fighters in the proceedings, was stood down until August due to engine problems, but then resumed with some mining sorties.

Excerpt from Men of Coastal Command 1939-1945 by Chaz Bowyer

AC2 623489 Thomas Leslie Flavell
Royal Air Force, 42 Squadron
Killed in action, aged 26 years, September 10th 1940.
Runnymeade RAF Memorial - No known grave.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend both our deepest thanks and condolences to the following relatives and friends of those who gave their lives. Without their support this book would not have been possible.

Mrs M. Thomas (sister of Desmond Mobberley)
Mr. H.C. Mobberley (brother of Desmond Mobberley)
Mr. V. Mobberley (brother of Desmond Mobberley & Old Boy)
Mr. D. Hickman (Old Boy)
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hodgkiss (girlfriend of Roland James)
Mr. R.W. James (nephew of Roland James)
Mr. G. Matthews (nephew of Jack Male)
Mrs M. Matthews (relation of Jack Male)
Mr. A.C. Philpotts (brother of Henry Philpotts & Old Boy)
Mr. I. Downes (Old Boy)
Mr. F.J. Richardson (brother of Stanley Richardson & Old Boy)
Mr. W. Richardson (brother of Stanley Richardson & Old Boy)
Mr. J. Preece (cousin of Desmond Geens & Old Boy)
Mr. K. Geens (brother of Desmond Geens)
Mrs. M. Langford (niece of Desmond Geens)
Mr. G.A. Grey (Old Boy)
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Mr. H.E. Hill (brother of William Hill)
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Mr. N. Bunn (nephew of Norman Bunn)
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Mr. G. Evans (nephew of George Evans)
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Mr. R.M. Basterfield (son of James Basterfield)
Mr. & Mrs. Basterfield (nephew of James Basterfield)
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Mrs. B. Searle (second cousin of Thomas Flavell)
Mrs. N. Staite (sister of Harold Pearce)
Mr. B. Bruff (Old Boy)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
The Staffords Regimental Museum
Royal British Legion
The Green Howards Museum
The Worcestershire Regiment Museum Trust
Royal Naval Museum
Registry of Shipping & Seamen
The Royal Artillery Historical Trust
The Durham Light Infantry Museum
The Highlanders Museum

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