

# **LEST WE FORGET**

**Remembering the men commemorated on  
the War Memorial at Christ Church, Oldham Road,  
Ashton under Lyne who gave their lives  
in the Second World War 1939-1945**

**Research by Meg Gain 2025**

**With grateful thanks for the assistance of Naomi Madeley  
and Lt Col (Ret'd) Stuart Green**

## **CHRIST CHURCH, OLDHAM ROAD, ASHTON UNDER LYNE**

### **WAR MEMORIAL 1939-1945**

Large rectangular plaque with the dates and dedication above and the names below in three columns in white lettering.

#### **Inscription**

IN GRATEFUL AND LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FORMERLY  
LIVED IN THIS PARISH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD AND WHO GAVE  
THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR KING AND COUNTRY IN THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR (91 Names)

CIVILIANS KILLED BY ENEMY ACTION/ (3 Names)

"We will Remember them."

The following men were killed in World War 2 and are commemorated on the plaque inside the entrance to Christ Church. Some of the names are also commemorated on the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial which stands at the junction of Oldham Road and Taunton Road. Those names are highlighted with a star. Those civilians who were killed are also included.

**ANDERTON Horace 1914-1940 Service Number: 3527854**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> battalion**

Horace Anderton was born in Ashton under Lyne in 1914, son of Thomas Anderton and Harriett Chatterley. His parents had married in Dukinfield in 1907. In the 1921 census Thomas and Harriett were living at 20 Newman Street, Ashton with seven children, including 6-year-old Horace. By 1939 the family lived at 175 Katherine Street, Ashton under Lyne. Horace was in the 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 3527854. He was killed in action in Belgium on 27 May 1940. He was buried in Oostaverne Wood Cemetery in West Flanders, Grave reference VI.AA.9

**\*ARNFIELD Norman 1921-1942 Service Number: L/JX299857**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy**

Norman Arnfield was born 26 Aug 1921, son of Percy Arnfield and Sarah Hague. His parents had married in Ashton in 1919.

In the 1939 Register Norman Arnfield was living at 165 Newmarket Road, Waterloo with his parents and six siblings: Mary, Eva, Bertha, Elsie, Leonard and Stanley. Ordinary Seaman, Norman Arnfield died at sea on 25 March 1942 aged 20. He was on board HMS Sulla, a 251-ton whaler converted to be a minesweeper. The ship was en route to Murmansk to be delivered to the Soviet Union when it was lost in gales in the Barents Sea. Norman Arnfield is commemorated on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial. His service number starting with L indicates he was based in Lowestoft, J means he was a seaman and X indicates a new pay structure which was introduced in the 1930s.

**AXON John 1914-1943 Service Number: 352605**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

John Axon was born 3 Sept 1914 in Ashton under Lyne, son of John Axon and Mary. He was baptized on 30 Sept 1914. In the 1921 census he was living at 141 Fleet Street, Ashton under Lyne. John Axon married Doris Speakman in 1937 at Hurst St John's. In the 1939 Register Doris Axon was living at 117 Kings Road, Hurst with her parents Harry and Jane. She is shown as married, but John is not listed on the Register. John was already in the Army. According to the Manchester Regiment Forum he left Strensall, Yorkshire on 7 Jan 1937 and arrived in Egypt in late February. He left Egypt for Palestine in Feb 1938 with 'A' company. John Axon was a Lance Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. His service number was 352605. John Axon was captured by the Japanese. He was Prisoner of War in the Ban Song Karia or Sankrai camp, 13 km south of the Thai/Burma border. He died on 29 May 1943 and was buried in the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Burma now Myanmar. His grave notes he was the husband of Doris, and the Japanese war record shows his last address as 117 Kings Rd Ashton under Lyne. In the Manchester Evening News of 14 Sept 1943, Sergeant John Axon is listed as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese.

**BAILEY Glen 1921-1944 Service Number: 3531294**

**Regiment and Unit: York and Lancaster Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Glen Bailey was born in 1921 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Thomas Bailey, a coal miner and his wife Alice Ann Arrundale. In the 1921 census, Glen was just five months old living with his parents and six siblings at 5 Wych Street, Ashton. In 1939 Glen's parents and younger siblings were living at 127 Smallshaw Lane. There is a redacted record which could be Glen as he does not appear elsewhere.

Glen Bailey married Dorothy Lee in 1941 at St James Church, Ashton.

Glen joined the Manchester Regiment on enlistment but transferred to the York and Lancaster Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion at some point. Lance Sgt Glen Bailey died on 21 April 1944 in Burma (now Myanmar) aged 23. He was buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery, Htauk Kyant, Rangoon. Grave Reference H.F.21. Glen Bailey left a widow, Dorothy.

**BAINES James 1912-1943 Service Number: 3861852**

**Regiment and Unit: The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Baines was born on 18 Jun 1912 in Droylsden, son of William Henry Baines, a railway inspector and his wife Jessie Howson. In the 1921 census the family lived at 6 Winton Street, off Turner Lane, Ashton under Lyne. James was aged 9, living with his parents and five siblings. James married Millicent Leach in 1933 at Christ Church, Oldham Road, Ashton. By 1939 they were living at 14 West Street off Turner Lane, Ashton. James was an unemployed labourer. The couple had at least three children: Doreen born 1934, Brenda born 1936, and Hilda born 1940.

James was a Private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). He died on 11 June 1943. He was commemorated at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, which is 129km Northwest of Bangkok in Thailand, son of William Henry and Jessie Baines, husband of Millicent. Reference Sp.Mem.9.M.4

### **BARBER Arthur 1911-1941 *Civilian Death***

Arthur Barber was born on 20 February 1911 in Ashton, son of James Barber and Margaret Ann Lynn. He was baptised on 22 July 1914 at St Peter's Ashton.

His parents had married in 1907 at Christ Church. Arthur was living with his parents and an older brother, James at 112 Charles St Ashton in 1911. His father was working as a coal miner. By 1921 the family had moved in with James Barber's stepfather at 93 Cambridge St Ashton. Arthur was aged 10, his older brother James was 12 and there were two younger siblings: Harry (8) and a baby sister Mary Elizabeth born 1 Feb 1921. In the 1939 Register Arthur was still living at home with his parents and three siblings, Mary Elizabeth, Winnie born 1923 and Albert born 1927 at 44 Coronation Road, Smallshaw. Arthur was working as a sheet metal labourer.

Arthur was a crane driver for Armstrong and Huxley Ltd in Coventry. He died in the 1941 air-raids on Coventry on 8<sup>th</sup> April of that year. Arthur was aged 30 and lived at 1, Widdrington Road, Coventry. He was buried in the communal grave at the Coventry London Road Cemetery.

### **BARNES Frank 1906-1943 Service Number: 4614927**

#### **Regiment and Unit: Pioneer Corps 81 Coy.**

Frank Barnes was born in Ashton in 1906, the son of Charles Harry Barnes and his wife Sarah Ann Perry. His parents had married in 1895 at Christ Church, Ashton. In the 1911 census Frank was living with his parents and four siblings at 23 Rylands Street, Gorton, Manchester. Frank was 4 years old. His father worked as a stoker at a cotton mill. By 1921 the family had moved to Ashton. Frank's father had died so his mother, Sarah Ann was head of the family. She was an invalid and all four children went out to work. Frank was 15 and working as a cotton ring spinner at the Alger Mill in Hurst. They were living at 32 Delamere Street Ashton under Lyne.

Frank married Maud Bellingham in 1932 at Christ Church, Ashton. They had three children, all born in the 1930s. Maud Barnes is shown on the 1939 Register living at 108 Turner Lane, Ashton in the 1939 Register. Three names are redacted which could be the children of Frank and Maud.

Frank Barnes joined the 81<sup>st</sup> Company of the Pioneer Corps. The Pioneer Corps was a British Army unit that carried out light engineering tasks in Italy during World War 2. They were an important element in the taking of Sicily. It is likely that Frank Barnes was killed during this period as he was killed on 17 July 1943 aged 37. He was buried in

Syracuse War Cemetery, Sicily. Grave reference VIII.G.10. The personal tribute reads:  
*In Loving Memory of Frank, beloved husband of Maud. He gave his life that others might live.*

**BARRATT Herbert 1915-1944 Service Number: 3455762.**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Scots 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Barratt was born on 22 March 1915, the son of Ross Barratt, a cotton spinner and his wife Ellen Dundavan. In 1921 the family lived at 99 Wellington Street, Ashton under Lyne. Herbert was the eldest of three brothers. He was aged 6, and his siblings were Albert aged 5 and Leonard aged 1. By 1939 Ross and Ellen Barratt had five more children: Joseph born 1923, Norman born 1925, Ethel born 1928, Margaret born 1931 and James born 1934. Herbert was still living at home and was employed as a cotton warp dyer. In 1942 Herbert married Lavinia May Bly at Denton Christ Church.

Herbert was in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Scots. His service number was 3455762. He died on 26 June 1944 aged 29 and was buried at Hottot-Les-Bagues War Cemetery. Grave reference VIII.D.10. Herbert left a widow and a baby son, Malcolm, born 1944.

**BOND Peter 1928-1943**

**Regiment and Unit: Air Training Corps 1180 Squadron**

Peter Bond was born on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1928, the son of George Bond and Mary Jane Chapman. His parents married in Chorlton, South Manchester in 1914. Peter had two older siblings, George born in 1913 and Lilian born in 1914. Peter was too young to be included in the 1921 census, but his parents and brother George were living at 82 Brunswick Street, Chorlton on Medlock. Lilian was listed as a visitor to a family in Blackpool. Peter's mother, Mary Jane had married twice- to John Wood in 1933 and to Charles Jepson in 1937. By 1939 Peter was the only child still living at home. He was with his mother and step-father, Charles Jepson at 174 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss. Peter was still a school boy.

Peter Bond was an Air Cadet with the Air Training Corps. He was passenger in an Avro Lancaster III which stalled and crashed after taking off for an air test from RAF Wymeswold in Leicestershire. He was only 15 when he died. He was buried in the churchyard of St Thomas a Becket in Chapel en le Frith where his mother now lived.

The probate record for Peter Bond of New Inn, Chapel en le Frith died 8 Sept 1943. "Died in a field on Suttlewood Farm, Walton on the Wolds, Leics. Probate granted to Mary Jane Bond, widow (his mother). Buried St Thomas A Beckett church Chapel en le Frith. Coll.Grave 395-440.

An inquest was held in October 1943 into the deaths of three ATC cadets, all from Chapel-en-le-Frith. They were members of the Buxton squadron of the ATC and were undergoing a week's training at a RAF camp near Loughborough.

In Memoriam messages were published in the Manchester Evening News on the anniversaries of Peter's death from his brother, George and his sister Lilian. Peter Bond is also commemorated on the Chapel en le Frith War Memorial.

**\*BOWRING Ernest Andrew 1925-1944 Service Number 14583937**

**Regiment and unit: South Staffordshire Regiment 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Ernest Bowring was born on 28 Feb 1925, son of Harold Bowring and Ann Wilde.

In the 1939 Register Ernest Bowring was living at Gambrel Bank Farm. Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne with his widowed father and five siblings: Harold, Walter, Margaret, Jean and Frank.

Ernest was a private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He was killed on 8 Aug 1944 in France and is buried at Banneville-la-Campagne, Dept de Calvados, Basse-Normandie.



**\*BOYLE Gerald 1916-1941 Service Number: 979835**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 5<sup>th</sup> Operational Training Unit. Coastal Command**

Gerald Boyle was born on 9 Nov 1916 in Preston, son of William J. Boyle, a theatre manager and his wife, Eva Chadwick.

By 1921 the family were living in Bradford, East Manchester. In 1939 Gerald was living with his parents at 22 Paradise Street, Audenshaw and working as a cinema operator. Gerald Boyle married Mary Clark in January 1940 in Ashton.

He was a wireless operator and air gunner in Coastal Command based at Chivenor, Devon. He was killed on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941, whilst flying. The aircraft, a Beaufort 1, flew into high ground at Exford, Devon when descending through cloud during a night training flight. He left a widow, Mary and a young son, Gerald born 1940. Sgt. Boyle was buried in Hurst Cemetery in Ashton under Lyne.

From the Kinematograph Weekly 14 Dec 1941

*“Well known in the Kinema world, Sgt Air Gunner Gerald Boyle, younger son of Billy Boyle, managing director of the Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester, has been killed on active service with Coastal Command. Sgt Boyle, in his 25<sup>th</sup> year, was, in peacetime, chief electrician of two Manchester kinemas – the Regal, Oxford Road and the Apollo, Ardwick Green. He leaves a wife and child.”*

**BROOKE Jack 1919-1943 Service Number: 1148948**

**Regiment and Unit: RAF Volunteer Reserve**

Jack Brooke was born on 22 Nov 1919 in Ashton, the son of Herbert Brooke and his wife Emily Taylor. In 1921 Jack was aged one and lived at 47 Elgin Street with his parents and his older sister Mary, born 1912. By 1939 the family had moved to Droylsden. They were living at 41 Market Street where Herbert Brooke had a fruit and fish business. Jack was working as an assistant estimator. A name is redacted on the 1939 Register, and this was likely to be Jack's younger brother Eric, born 1923.

Jack Brooke married Phyllis Keay in the first quarter of 1943 in Openshaw, Manchester, just a few months before he was killed.

He was a Flight Sergeant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. His service number was 1148948. Jack was pilot of a plane, an Oxford II, when it collided with an Oxford X6871 at Kingston Bagpuize in Oxfordshire whilst on a training flight. He was killed on 3 Jun 1943 aged 23. Jack Brooke was buried in Hurst Cemetery, Ashton, Grave reference Sec O, Grave 55.

**BUCKLEY Clifford 1921-1945 Service Number 1074513.**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, 190 Squadron**

Clifford Buckley was born on 21 Aug 1921 in Ashton, the son of Ernest Buckley and his wife Judith H. Wood. His parents had married in 1917 in Wakefield and Clifford's older brother Reggie was born in Normanton about 1918. Clifford does not appear in the 1921 census as it was taken in June 1921, two months before he was born. His parents were living at 47 Blandford Street in Ashton with a 3-year-old son, Reggie. Ernest Buckley was an iron turner working at the National Gas Engine Company. By 1939 Ernest and Judith with Clifford were still living at 47 Blandford Street. Clifford was working as a confectioner (improver) at a sweet manufacturer.

Clifford was a wireless operator with the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, 190 Squadron. His regimental number was 1074513. He was based at Great Dunmow in Essex. His date of death was given as 3 April 1945 when the plane he was flying was lost without trace during an SOE Special Operation supply drop to 'Stirrup 16' DZ in Norway. Two RASC despatchers were also killed. Clifford Buckley is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey as well as the Christ Church Memorial.

**BUCKLEY Joseph Longstaffe 1914-1943 Service Number: 7396605**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Artillery 128 Field Regiment**

Joseph Buckley was born on 19 June 1914 in Ashton under Lyne, the son of William Buckley and his wife Sarah Longstaffe. He was baptised at St Peter's Ashton on 21 Aug 1914. In 1921 Joseph aged 7 was living with his parents at 150 Oxford Street Ashton. His father, William, was transport manager for Gartside's Brewery. By 1939 William and Sarah Buckley were still living at 150 Oxford Street but Joseph is not with them. His wife to be, Lilian Barber was living with her parents at 1 Firs Avenue, off Henrietta Street in 1939 but she would marry Joseph Longstaffe Buckley in 1940 at St Peter's.

Joseph was a Gunner in the 128 Field Regiment, the Royal Artillery. His service number was 7396605. Joseph was killed on 20 Jan 1943 aged 28. He was buried in the Tripoli War Cemetery in Libya.



**BUCKLEY Samuel 1926-1943 Service Number: 3010883**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Technical Training Command**

Samuel was born on 13 March 1926 in Ashton, the son of Samuel Buckley and Lilian Standring. He had a younger sister, Olive, born in 1928. In the 1939 Register, the family lived at 54 Bradgate Street, Ashton. Samuel's father was employed as a cotton doubler. Samuel joined the R.A.F. and was based at Padgate near Warrington. He was a Leading Aircraftman in the Technical Training Command. Samuel was killed on 16 Nov 1943 in the Ribble Valley, Lancashire. He was aged 17. Samuel Buckley was buried in Hurst Cemetery.

**BUTTERWORTH FRED 1918-1940 Service Number: D/KX91229**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy: "HMS Glorious" Stoker 1st Class**

Fred Butterworth was born on 9 June 1918 in Ashton, the son of Fred Butterworth and his wife Martha Ann Wilson. Fred was the youngest child, with seven older siblings. In the 1921 census Fred was living at 30 Delamere Street, Ashton with his parents and siblings: Romania, Nellie, Paul, John Alfred, and Florence. Two other siblings: George Harry born 1903 and Harry born 1913 had died in infancy.

In 1939 Fred's father, also Fred Butterworth, lived at 21 Herries Street. He was still working as a mineral water bottler for Garside's in Ashton. Fred, junior does not appear on the Register but there are two redacted records at the address, one of whom could be Fred.

Fred Butterworth joined the Royal Navy as a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stoker on H.M.S. Glorious.

H.M.S. Glorious was sunk by German battleships, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau whilst evacuating British aircraft personnel from Norway in June 1940. Fred lost his life along with over 1200 others on 8 June 1940. Fred Butterworth is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 41 Column 1.

**\*BUTTERWORTH Harry 1910-1943    Service Number: T/18724**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps**

Harry Butterworth was born on 3 December 1910, son of George Butterworth and Hannah Chadwick of 108 Taunton Road, Waterloo. His parents had married in 1910 at St Stephen's in Audenshaw.

In the 1921 census, Harry was aged 10, was living with his parents and sister, Edith at 26 Raynham St, Ashton. By 1939 Harry was married and working as a railway joiner. He had married Dora Burnett in 1937 in Ashton. They were living at 60 Leam Street in 1939. They had two children living with them, Alan Butterworth born 1933 and Barry Butterworth born 1935.

Harry was a Driver in the R.A.S.C (Royal Army Service Corps). He was taken Prisoner of War in the Far East. He died on 12 May 1943 and was buried in the Chungkai War Cemetery in Thailand.

**CHADDERTON William    1909-1940    Service Number: 3522704**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Corps of Signals**

Signalman William Chadderton #3522704 Royal Corps of Signals I. Corps died between 27 May and 2 June 1940 aged 31 which gives a year of birth circa 1909. Chadderton was commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial Col 30 (source CWGC)

William Chadderton was also listed as Missing - POW in Far East, Changi

Possible- William Chadderton born 1909 in Ashton, son of Ernest Chadderton and Jane Roberts. His parents married in 1905 in Ashton. In the 1911 census William, aged 1 was living with his parents and four brothers at 44 Cotton Street, Ashton. In 1921 the family were still at 44 Cotton Street, William aged 12 with older brothers, Andrew and Robert and younger brothers, Ernest and Albert. In the 1939 Register, William does not appear. His mother and brothers Ernest & Eric were living at 227 Cavendish Street and his father, Ernest, lived at 88 Wellington Road.

**CHANTRELL William 1920-1941 Service Number: 7379892**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Medical Corps**

William Chantrell was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1920 in Ashton under Lyne, the son of William Henry Chantrell and his wife Sarah Eliza Owen. In the 1921 census William Chantrell lived with his parents at 72 Wood Street, Ashton. He was aged one. His father was an iron driller working for mining engineers in Audenshaw. William had an older sister, Gwendolin, born in 1917. By 1939 William's father had died (died 1928 aged 36) and his widowed mother was still living at 72 Wood Street with two daughters, Gwendolin and Gwladys born 1921 and son William who was working as a Butcher's assistant.

William Chantrell was a Private with the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was serving in the Middle East when he was killed on 9 June 1941 aged just 21. He is buried in the Sidon War Cemetery, in Lebanon.

**\*CLAYTON Robert 1913-1944 Service Number: 171432**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve)**

William Robert Clayton was born in the last quarter of 1913 in Preston, son of Arthur Clayton and Lily Davies. In the 1921 census William Robert was aged 7 living with his parents and a sister, Annie at 28 Moorgate, Ormskirk, Lancashire. His father, Arthur Clayton, was working on the railways as a goods guard.

(William) Robert appears to have emigrated to the U.S.A. at a young age. He was back in the UK by 1942, however, as he married Alice Beaumont in that year in Knaresborough, Yorkshire.

*William Robert Clayton Pilot Officer (Nav) aged 30 death 21 June 1944 Military base Winthorpe Notts. 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit, Bomber Command. Ship: Stirling III Nav. Killed whilst flying. Residence: Waterloo Ashton under Lyne*

*R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve. His service number was 171432.*

He was flying a plane on his first solo flight and crashed at Kettlethorpe, Lincolnshire. The engine caught fire, and he lost control. Three of the crew survived. William Robert Clayton (also known as Billy) was killed on 21 June 1944. He was buried in Hurst Cemetery. Grave Ref Section N. Grave 214. His probate record gives his address as 146 Taunton Road and he left a widow, Alice.

**CLEGG Harry 1921-1943 Service Number: 1071774**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 6045 Ames**

Harry Clegg was born on 22 March 1921 in Ashton, the son of Charles Clegg and his wife Mary Bebbington. In the 1921 census, the family lived at 181 Minto Street. Harry was a new baby, just a few months old. He had three older siblings: Rowland, Edith and Herbert. By 1939 the family had moved to 29 Taunton Road. Herbert and Harry, the two youngest Clegg children, were the only ones still living at home with their parents. Harry was working as an apprentice gas fitter. Harry was a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He died on 25 July 1943 and was buried in Catania War Cemetery in Italy.

**COOK Arthur 1927-1946 Service Number: 14041947**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers attd. 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regt**

Arthur Cook was born in the first quarter of 1927 in Blackburn, son of Ernest James Cook and his wife Grace Dorothy Hughes. His parents had married in Blackburn in 1921. Arthur's father, Ernest James Cook, was aged 10 in 1901 and was living at 201 Oldham Road, near Limehurst Farm, in Waterloo. His grandfather, Frank Cook had been born in Oldham. Both had served in the Forces.

Arthur joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and was later attached to the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment. Fusilier Arthur Cook, aged 19, son of Ernest and Grace Cook of Blackburn, died on 30 May 1946 and was buried in the Phaleron War Cemetery, Athens, Greece. Grave Reference 20.D.12.

He was murdered, shot in his sleep by one of his fellow soldiers, believed to be in revenge for a boxing defeat that day.



**CRAMPION Charles Lequesnay 1904-1944 Service Number: 5766858**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Norfolk Regiment**

Charles Lequesnay Crampion was born in 1904 in Great Holland, Essex, the son of Charles Crampion and his wife Martha Zora Bridges. (General Register Office entry for his birth was Charles Sequesny Crampion born March Q 1904 Tendring district, Essex). His parents married in 1900 in Colchester, Essex.

Charles senior was already a widower by the time of the 1911 census. His wife had died in 1909. He was a general labourer working on sea defences and had a live-in servant to help him with four small children: Zora Lilian (aged 8), Charles (aged 7), Vida Amelia (aged 5) and Nina Martha aged 2. By 1921 Charles L. Crampion was a visitor to the Hunt family in Tendring, Essex. His occupation was waiter at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne but, at the time of the census, he was out of work.

Charles was a Private in the Royal Norfolk Regiment and he died on 10 May 1944 on war service in Burma. He was re-buried on 16 Aug 1944 in the Kohima War Cemetery in India. Grave reference 2.C.17. The personal inscription reads: Rest Eternal, Grant Them, O Lord. The original burial site was the Norfolk Ridge. He is recorded as the son of Charles Crampion D.C.M. and his wife Martha.

His Probate Record gives his address as Hall Road, Ashton under Lyne. Probate was granted to Zora Lilyan Rigby (Charles' married sister).

**DALE Fred 1914-1945 Service Number: 11263654**

**Regiment and Unit: Durham Light Infantry 9th Battalion**

Fred Dale was born in 1914, the son of William Dale and his wife Maria Pearson. His parents had married in 1908 at St Peter's, Ashton. Fred was aged 7 in 1921 when the census was taken. He was living with his parents and four siblings at 6 Cryer St Littlemoss. Fred went to Littlemoss Day School and was employed at the Lumb Mill in Droylsden. Fred married Elsie Duke in 1939, and they had a son, Alan, born in 1943.

Fred joined the Royal Artillery in 1941. He was later transferred to the Durham Light Infantry. Fred was killed in action at Posterholt, Ambt Montfort, Limburg, Netherlands. on 4 Feb 1945. He was buried in Nederweert War Cemetery. Grave Reference III.F.10

**DAVIES Frank 1919-1942 (Taunton Rd) Service Number: 1050922**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 235 Squadron**

Frank Davies was born on 16 Dec 1919, son of John Davies and his wife Elsie Myers. His parents married in 1915 in Ashton. In the 1921 census Frank was aged just one and was the only child of John and Elsie. John Davies was a wages clerk at Hannah Lees and Sons, Iron and Steel Manufacturers in Park Bridge. The family were living at 'Glendower' on Taunton Road. By 1939 Frank had two younger brothers: John born in 1922 and Eric born in 1927. Frank was working as a clerk in the Borough Treasurer's office in Ashton. The family were still living at 'Glendower', Taunton Road.

Frank joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and became a Flight Sergeant. He was based at Chivenor, Devon. Frank Davies was killed when his aircraft, a Beaufighter VI came under attack by FW190s (German, single seat, single engine fighter aircraft) over the Bay of Biscay. Frank Davies is commemorated on Panel 74 of the Runnymede Memorial, son of John and Elsie Davies of Ashton under Lyne.

**DAVIES Frank 1926-1945 (Cryer St Littlemoss) Service Number: 3013649**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 313 Maintenance Unit**

Frank Davies was born in 1926 in Stalybridge, the son of Francis Davies and his wife Florence Craighill. His parents had married in 1925 at Stalybridge Christ Church. Frank had a younger sister, Brenda, born in 1928.

In the 1939 Register Francis and Florence Davies were living at 16 Cryer Street in Littlemoss. There is a redacted record at the same address which is likely to be Frank.

The Davies family were next door neighbours to the family of Joseph Williams, also commemorated on the War Memorial.

Frank Davies was an Aircraft Man Second Class when he died on 14 February 1945 in India. He was aged 18. He was buried in the Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery Plot L Grave 219. The personal tribute to Frank Davies reads: *Years roll by but memories stay, as near and dear as yesterday*. Frank is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial. The spelling of his surname is Davis on the listing on the War Memorials Register.

**DIGGLE Raymond 1920-1943 Service Number: 1129136**

**Regiment and Unit: RAF Volunteer Reserve 57 Squadron**

Raymond Diggle was born in Loughborough, Leicestershire on 1 Nov 1920, son of Albert Rowland Diggle of Dukinfield and his wife Ethel Schofield of Lees, near Oldham. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1919. In 1921 Albert and Ethel Diggle with 7-month-old Raymond were living at 15 Sparrow Hill, Loughborough. Albert was an out of work cotton spinner. Albert, Raymond's father died in 1922 in Loughborough. By 1939 Raymond was living at 6 Elgin Street with his widowed mother, Ethel. Raymond was an apprentice cabinet maker.

Raymond became a Sergeant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve 57 Squadron. He was killed on 23 Sept 1943 aged 22, son of Rowland and Ethel Diggle of Ashton under Lyne. He was buried at Durnbach War Cemetery in a joint grave. Grave reference 2.K.15-16. Durnbach is about 45 km south of Munich.

**DRIVER Herbert Firth 1913-1945 Service Number: 2367283 (the spelling on memorial Herbert Frith Driver is incorrect)**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Corps of Signals**

Herbert Firth Driver was born on 11 April 1913 in Ashton, son of Leonard Driver and his wife Gertrude Firth. His parents married in Dewsbury in 1912. Herbert was baptised on 6 Jul 1913. In the 1921 census Herbert was an 8-year-old school boy, living with his parents at 22 Henrietta Street, Ashton. His father, Leonard, was a clothiers assistant working for Herbert Pinder, clothier of 168 Stamford Street. By 1939 Herbert was living with his mother at 2 Bradbury Street, Ashton, His mother was a shop keeper, mixed business. Herbert has been mistakenly entered in the 1939 Register as a female, Harriet F. Driver, born 11 April 1913, and working as an Insurance Clerk. His father was an inmate in the Poor Law Institution, Darnton House, Fountain St, Ashton. Leonard Driver died the following year in 1940. Herbert's mother remarried in 1948 to Henry Chorlton.

Herbert joined the Royal Corps of Signals. They played a key role in the Burma Campaign, operating signals equipment and maintaining communications under enemy fire. Lance Corporal Herbert F. Driver was killed in Burma in 1945. He was buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery, Htauk Kyant, Sagaing Region. His date of death was 3 April 1945 just before his 32nd birthday. The probate record indicates that his last known address was 11 Brookdale Ave, Audenshaw, and the probate was granted to Albert Ford, a railway locomotive driver.

**ETCHELLS Frank 1918-1944 Service Number: 3451436**

**Regiment and Unit: Border Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Frank Etchells was born in 1918 in Ashton, son of Joseph Etchells and his wife Sarah Ethel Harrison. In the 1921 census Frank is aged 2 with his parents and older brother Joseph aged 4 at 3 Blandford Street, Ashton. His father, Joseph was a sheet metal worker at John Rouse, Chip Potato Range Maker, of Booth Street, Ashton.

Frank Etchells married Irene Sullivan in late 1939 at St Hilda's, Audenshaw. His parents and brother Joseph were living at 49 Bromley Crescent, Ashton in the 1939 Register. His wife-to-be was living with her parents in Audenshaw. Frank does not appear on the 1939 Register taken in early September; he may have already joined up.

Corporal Frank Etchells took part in one of the most bitterly fought battles of the Second World War. There was a huge Japanese offensive designed to stop British and Indian troops from reaching Burma between 4 April and 22 June, 1944. Frank was killed on 12 May 1944 and was buried in the Kohima War Cemetery in N.E. India, son of Joseph and Sarah Ethel Etchells, and husband of Irene Etchells of Audenshaw.

**FARROW Vernon 1911-1951 Service Number: T/178675**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps.**

Vernon Farrow was born on 26 Oct 1911 and baptised on 20 Dec 1911 at St James, Ashton under-Lyne, son of Thomas Farrow and Sarah Winterbottom. His parents had married on 17 August 1903 at St James, Ashton.

In the 1921 census, the family lived at 69 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Thomas Farrow was a labourer at the National Gas Engine Works on Wellington Road. Sarah Farrow nee Winterbottom was a cotton weaver but, at the time of the census, was out of work. Vernon's older sister Hilda was 14 and working as a 'chemist's packer' at Thomas Kerfoot's in Bardsley Vale. Vernon was 9 years old, and his younger brother Fred was six years old.

Vernon Farrow married Jenny Gulley in Ashton in 1934.

In the 1939 Register Vernon and Jenny were living at 37 Pembroke Drive in Bury. Vernon was a wholesale tobacconist.

Corporal Vernon Farrow served in World War 2. He was awarded the Defence Medal and the War Medal in 1948. The applicant's address was 98 Taunton Road, Waterloo, Ashton. The Defence Medal was awarded to those who had three years' service at

home or six years' service overseas in territories under air attack. The War Medal was awarded to men who had served full time in the Armed Forces or the Merchant Navy between Sept 1939 and Sept 1945.

However, Vernon Farrow died in 1951 back in Ashton. His death certificate dated 19 May 1951 gives the cause of death as 'chronic hepatitis'. Vernon was aged 39 and was Assistant Cashier at the Limehurst Rural District Council Estate Office. His address at the time of his death was 98 Taunton Road, Ashton. The informant was his widow, Jenny Farrow.

**FRANCE Herbert 1919-1944 Service Number: 7596150**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Herbert France was born on 16 Jan 1919 in Ashton and baptised at Christ Church on 9 February 1919, son of Percy France and Florence Lomas. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1911.

In the 1921 census Percy and Florence France were living at 6 Elgin Street, Ashton under Lyne. They had two sons with them: Eric was born in 1912 and Herbert was born in 1919. Percy France was working as an Iron Turner at the National Gas Engine Works. By the time of the 1939 Register, at the start of WW2, Percy and Florence and their son Eric were still living on Elgin Street but were now living at Number 4. Herbert was not at the same address. He may have already joined up and so would not be listed. Living next door at 6 Elgin Street was another man remembered on the Christ Church War Memorial, Raymond Diggle. Herbert was first cousin of Sam Lomas, also commemorated on the Christ Church Memorial.

Corporal Herbert France died on 5 Nov 1944 aged 25. Herbert France was buried at Faenza War Cemetery in the Province of Ravenna. Grave reference: VA.13.

**\*GERRARD Joseph 1921-1943 Service Number: 3393991**

**Regiment and Unit: York and Lancaster Regiment 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Joseph Gerrard was born on 20 February 1921, son of Matthew Gerrard and Ortholena Johnson.

In the 1921 census Joseph was just 4 months old and living with his parents at 21 Hill Street (now Vale Street), Waterloo. In 1939 the family were still living at 21 Hill Street. Joseph's mother had remarried as her husband, Matthew Gerrard, had died in 1924. Joseph was working as a little piecer in a cotton mill. This was dangerous work as broken cotton threads had to be joined together whilst the machinery was still in operation.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment took part in the Allied invasion of Italy suffering very heavy casualties. They helped in the liberation of Naples.

Private Joseph Gerrard of the 6<sup>th</sup> battalion, the York and Lancaster Regiment, was killed in action in Italy on 7 December, 1943 aged 22. His service number was 3393991. Joseph Gerrard was buried in the Minturno War Cemetery, north of Naples. Grave reference IV.J.4.

**\*GOODWIN Samuel 1915-1945 Service Number: 264828**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers/South Wales Borderers 2nd Battalion**

Samuel Goodwin was born on 12 Aug 1915 in Staffordshire, son of Samuel Goodwin and Mary Ann Bailey. In the 1939 Register Samuel was living with his parents in Coventry and was employed as a school master.

Samuel married Annie Brierley Wales in Ashton in April Q 1942. Annie was the daughter of William Arthur Wales and Lilian Newton Brierley. She was born in Ashton in 1912, and she lived with her parents at 87 Taunton Road, Waterloo.

Samuel joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and had the service number 264828. A secondary regiment is cited on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers.

Lieutenant Samuel Goodwin was killed on war service on 21 March 1945. He was aged 29. He was buried in the Groesbeek Canadian Cemetery, near Nijmegen, Netherlands. Grave Reference VI.A.15.

It might seem strange for a soldier from the UK to be buried in a Canadian war cemetery. However, the CWGC did move remains there after the war. The cemetery is unique in that many of the dead were brought there from nearby Germany. It is one of the few cases where bodies were moved across international frontiers.

Samuel's Probate record gives his address as 87 Taunton Road, Waterloo. He left a widow Annie Brierley Goodwin and two sons, both born in Ashton: Arthur David John Goodwin born 1943 and Samuel Peter Goodwin born 1945.

**GREGORY Wilfred 1921-1940 Service number: 3531701**

**Regiment and Unit: D.E.M.S. Personnel M/V. Capable 2/9<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment**

Wilfred Gregory was born in 1921, the son of Joseph Gregory and Doris Batty. His parents had married on 21 August 1920 at St Peter's Ashton Under Lyne. His father died in 1928; his mother Doris Gregory nee Batty remarried in 1938 to William McConnell. In 1939 William and Doris McConnell lived at 144 Fitzroy Street, Ashton. They had two sons with them: Eric Gregory born 18 September 1922 and Joseph Graeme Gregory born 8 Oct 1927. There is no record for Wilfred in the Register.

Wilfred Gregory was on board the M/V Capable when it was hit by a mine off the coast of the Isle of Wight. The ship was carrying stone from Alderney to Portsmouth. Wilfred, as a Private in the 2/9th Manchester Regiment, was a naval gunner in DEMS (defensively equipped merchant ship). All seven on board died.

Wilfred Gregory's military record shows he died at sea on 5 June 1940. He was aged 19. Wilfred is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, panel 98.

**GREY William aka William GRAY 1915-1944 Service Number: 3389788**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Armoured Corps 48<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment**

William Gray was born in Liverpool on 11 Sept 1915, son of William Gray and Florence Lythgoe. His parents had married at St Andrew's church in Eccles on 17 Sept 1913.

In the 1921 census William was living with his parents at 1 Carnes Street, Wavertree, Liverpool. His father was a grocery and provisions salesman. By 1939 William and his parents had moved to Middleton, near Oldham. They were living at 103 Crowhill South, Alkrington, Middleton. Both William and his father were working as commercial travellers selling 'soap and fats'.

William Gray aged 25, occupation "soldier", son of William Gray, agent, married Margaret Hardy aged 21 of 7 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss on 26 Aug 1941 at St Peter's Church in Ashton. William's address was 103 Crowhill Avenue South, Alkrington, Middleton.

Trooper William Gray, husband of Margaret Gray of Ashton under Lyne and son of Mr and Mrs W. Gray died on 31 August 1944 in Italy aged 29. He was buried in the Montecchio War Cemetery. Grave Reference II.D.10. Montecchio is in Umbria about 50km south of Perugia. Source CWGC. William Gray is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial, Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

**HALL John** The name is a common one and whilst many with that name were killed in WW2, none have an obvious connection to Ashton under Lyne.



**\*HARRISON Sidney 1911-1945 Home Guard**

**Regiment and Unit: 51<sup>st</sup> County of Lancashire (Ashton under Lyne) Battalion**

Sydney Harrison was born on 14 May 1911, son of John Percy Harrison and Catherine Turner. In the 1921 census, Sydney (as his name was spelled) was living with his parents and two siblings, Percy and Ivy, at 258 Oldham Road. In 1938 Sydney married Nora Hulme. In the 1939 Register the couple were living at 221 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Sydney was working as a General Clerk at a chemist's (possibly Kerfoot's manufacturing chemist in Bardsley Vale). Sydney is listed on the Home Guards Records 1940-1944. His battalion was 51<sup>st</sup> County of Lancaster (Ashton under Lyne). Sidney Harrison died on 5 July 1945 on war service. His address in the Probate records was 255 Newmarket Road, Waterloo.

**\*HAYNES Albert 1921-1944 Service Number: 14551492**

**Regiment and Unit: Gordon Highlanders 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Albert Haynes was born on 10 Nov 1921, son of Harold Haynes and his wife Ethel Lees. In the 1921 census, taken before Albert's birth, the family were living at 76 Queen Street, Hurst. By 1939 the family had moved to Limehurst and they were living at 38 Oldham Road. Father, Harold, was an iron moulder, working in munitions. Albert, aged 18, was employed as a greaser on the London and North Eastern Railway.

Albert was a Private in the Gordon Highlanders, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Scottish. He died on 13 Jan 1944 and was buried in the Minturno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave reference: II.G.3. He was the son of Harold and Ethel Haynes of Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne. His epitaph reads "God keep him. Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn". The Commonwealth Monumental Military Cemetery in Minturno holds the burials of 2049 soldiers who fell during WWII on the Garigliano Front from January 1944 in an attempt to break the Gustav Line.

Albert Haynes' death was reported in the Manchester Evening News 15 Feb 1944: "Private Albert Haynes of Oldham Road, Waterloo died in the Central Mediterranean".

**\*HAYNES Tom 1923-1944    Service Number: 1750518**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 160 Squadron**

Tom Haynes was born on 20 June 1923. He was Albert Haynes' younger brother. In the 1939 register Tom is listed at 38 Oldham Road. He was employed as an audit clerk.

Tom joined the R.A.F. and he was a Leading Aircraftman based in Ceylon. His service number was 1750518 and he served with 160 Squadron. The 160 squadron were flying bombers in a reconnaissance role. Tom died around 23 May 1944 just before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. He wandered into the jungle near Sigiriya, Ceylon and was never seen again.

Mr and Mrs Haynes lost two sons within the space of three months.

**HEPWORTH Samuel    1903-1940    Service Number: 4910583**

**Regiment and Unit: South Staffs Regiment & Aux. Mil. Pioneer Corps**

Samuel Hepworth's death is recorded as 17 June 1940 aged 42, son of Samuel and Sarah Hepworth of Dukinfield and husband of Amelia. Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Column 65. In fact, Samuel was aged 37. He was born in 1903 and baptised on 18 May 1903 in Stalybridge, son of Samuel Hepworth and his wife Sarah Ellen Rawnsley. His parents had married in 1898 at Christ Church, Dukinfield. Samuel's father, also Samuel, died in 1903 in Stalybridge and his mother remarried to Thomas Ryder Torkington in 1904. In the 1911 census, Samuel Hepworth, aged 7, was living with his mother, his step-father and two younger half-sisters at 26 Booth Street, Stalybridge. By 1921 Samuel, aged 18, lived with his step-father, his mother and four half-siblings at 77 Minto Street, Ashton. Samuel was working in a cotton mill, the Rock Mill, on Wilshaw Lane, Waterloo.

Samuel Hepworth married Amelia Roberts in Hyde in 1939. In the 1939 Register 'Milly' Hepworth born 1906 was living in Dukinfield. Another name has been added later, "Orr". This refers to Amelia's (Milly) 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to James Orr in 1945 at Dukinfield, St Mark.

Samuel Hepworth was lost when the RMS *Lancastria* was sunk on 17 June 1940 during Operation Aerial. The ship was a British ocean liner requisitioned by the Government during the Second World War. Having received an emergency order to evacuate British nationals and troops from France, the ship was loaded well in excess of its capacity of 1,300 passengers. Modern estimates suggest that between 4,000 and 7,000 people died during the sinking — the largest single-ship loss of life in British maritime history.

Samuel's mother died in 1947 at 77 Minto Street, Ashton and his step father died in 1951 at 131 Wilshaw Grove, Waterloo which could explain his inclusion on the Christ Church Memorial.

**\*HIGGINBOTTOM John 1920-1942    Service Number: FAA/SFX 2048**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy**

John was born Jack Higginbottom on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1920, son of Joe Higginbottom and Minnie Rossbottom. Joe and Minnie had married on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1909 at St Peter's church, Ashton-under-Lyne. They had three other children as well as Jack: Mary born 1911, Nora born 1913, and Vera born 1917. In the 1921 census Jack was only 11 months old living with his parents and three older sisters at 147 Blandford Street Ashton.

In the 1939 Register he was an apprentice fitter, living with his widowed mother, Minnie (his father, Joe, had died in 1932) and an older sister Nora at 24 Wilshaw Grove, Waterloo.

Jack Higginbottom of Waterloo was killed at sea on 15 Nov 1942 aged 22. He was a fitter on board H.M.S. Avenger. The ship was an Escort Aircraft Carrier, built by the Americans and transferred to the Royal Navy. The ship had taken part in Operation Torch which was part of the Allied Invasion of North Africa. She was lost when torpedoed by a U-Boat (U-155) at 3.20 am, nine hours after leaving Gibraltar whilst en route for Britain. 561 men lost their lives when the ship was sunk. Higginbottom is also named on the Lee on Solent War Memorial which commemorates over 1900 service personnel of the Fleet Air Arm who have no known grave.

**HOGG Walter (Alexander) 1902-1992 Service Number: 3518085**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Walter Alexander Hogg was born on 2 Nov 1902 in Liverpool, son of Walter Austin Wesley Hogg and Maud Ellen Lyon. Baptised 21 Dec 1902 at St Saviour's church in Everton, Liverpool.

In the 1911 census Walter was living at 8 Elmore Street, Everton, Liverpool with his parents and four siblings. In the 1921 census Walter was aged 18 living in Everton at 64 Morland Street. He was working as a carter of milk.

Three years later Walter Alexander Hogg married Phyllis May Entwistle in 1924 in Ashton. Phyllis was born 16 Jun 1905 and baptized on 12 Jan 1906 at Christ Church. Her parents were William Royle Entwistle and Jane Merchant. They lived in Waterloo in 1911. In the 1921 census, Phyllis lived on Williamson Street in Waterloo with her parents and siblings.

Walter and Phyllis were living in Ashton until at least 1932 when their youngest daughter was born. After that they must have moved to Liverpool.

Walter served in Palestine in the 1930s. There is a Prisoner of War record dated 15 Feb 1942 for Sgt Walter Alexander Hogg, born 2 Nov 1902 in Anfield, son of Walter Wesley and Maud Ellen Hogg. He was captured in Malaya.

Walter seems to have survived the War. He and Phyllis appear on the Electoral Register for 98 Landseer Rd Liverpool 5. He was granted probate on the death of his wife, Phyllis May Hogg who died 4 Jun 1967. Address 98 Landseer Rd Liverpool 5. Probate to Walter Alexander Hogg, hospital head porter

There is a possible death of Walter Alexander Hogg in St Helen's 1992. His address was 12 Bridle Court, Robins Lane, St Helen's.

**HOUGH Joseph 1908-1944 Service Number: 3532150**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 67 Field Company**

Joseph Hough was born on 20 December 1908, son of Herbert Hough and Ann Oliver. He was baptised on 22 Jan 1909 at Christ Church, child of Herbert and Ann of 13 Earnshaw Street, Waterloo by J.W.Wragg. His father, Herbert Hough, was employed as a collier (coal miner). His parents were both from Staffordshire but had married in Stockport in 1897.

Joseph first appeared in the census in 1911. He was 2 years old and living with his parents, and five older siblings at 15 Hope Street, Monks Bretton, near Barnsley, Yorkshire. His father states he is a colliery labourer, underground, had been married for 13 years and had eight children, two of who had died before 1911. By 1921 the family lived in Ashton at 21 Turner Lane. Herbert Hough was working at the New Moss Colliery. Twelve-year-old Joseph was working part-time at Fishers Cotton Mills. He was probably a 'half-timer' meaning he spent half his time at school and the other half spinning cotton. In addition to his five older siblings, he now had 3 younger siblings too. Along with his older sister Mary Ellen's husband, Harry Ollier and their daughter, Olive, aged four months, it must have been a very crowded household.

Herbert Hough died in 1926 in very tragic circumstances. His widow, Ann, was awarded £50 insurance after Herbert was caught up by shafting and fatally injured at a garage owned by Messrs Williamson of Cotton Street, Ashton.

By 1939 Joseph lived alone at 82 Hope Street, Ashton. He was a general labourer.

Joseph Hough enlisted on 2 September 1939. He joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper, meaning he was involved in building bridges, repairing roads, and digging trenches. A Casualty Card from WW2 indicates that Joseph was admitted to the Military Hospital at Edinburgh Castle on 10 Sept 1941 with varicose veins and a bronchial cyst. He was discharged ten days later on 20 Sept 1941. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1943, he was reported missing. He was out in India at that time. On 18 March 1944 his next of kin were informed that Joseph was missing, feared drowned. His mother was named as Mrs A. Hough of 318 Katherine St Ashton. The Manchester Evening News of 3 April 1944 contained a short article headed "Missing, Believed Drowned". Sapper Joseph Hough of Katherine Street, Ashton under Lyne in the Indian War Theatre, was employed by an Ashton firm of cotton spinners". Joseph Hough's CWGC Certificate gives a date of death as 17 March 1944 aged 35, son of Herbert and Ann Hough. Joseph was commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial Face 3.

**HOWCROFT Fred Batty 1920-1944 Service Number: 549616**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 211 Squadron**

Fred Batty Howcroft was born in 1920. The birth was registered in Audenshaw and his mother's maiden name was Booth.

In the 1921 census Fred was aged 8 months living with his parents John William and Mary Jane and five siblings at 103 Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

In the 1939 Register at 214 Lumb Lane Littlemoss were John W Howcroft born 1883 and Mary Jane born 1886 with eight children. Only John William Howcroft Junior born 5 Sept 1914 is named; all the rest of the names are redacted.

Sgt. Fred Batty Howcroft aged 24 died on 21 Sept 1944. Fred had been taken prisoner when Java fell. He died as a Prisoner of War. Fred Batty Howcroft was commemorated on the Singapore Memorial Panel 436 in Kranji War Cemetery, son of John William and Mary Jane Howcroft of Littlemoss, Lancashire. Fred B. Howcroft is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial on Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

Probate Record: Fred Battye (sp) Howcroft 48 Lumb Lane Littlemoss £315/13/5  
Probate granted to John William Howcroft, engineers' fitter (brother).

**HUNT Kenneth**

Possible Death 3 Jan 1944 crashed en route to raid on Berlin. 156 Squadron Bomber Command. #1582257 buried Berlin War Cemetery. Collective grave 5 F.9.13

Military Base Warboys, Huntingdon but nothing to link him to Ashton

**JONES Arnold 1910-1945    Service Number: T/1826104**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps. Driver**

Arnold Jones was born on 11 March 1910 in Ashton under Lyne, the son of Frank Jones and Ada Jane Smith. His father was killed in 1918 whilst fighting in World War One. Ada Jane Jones was left with three young children: Arnold, Frank born 1912 and Doris Alfreda Jones b 1913. Ada remarried in 1920 to George Harry Johnson. In the 1921 census George Harry Johnson, a stonemason, was living with his wife, Ada Jane, a daughter Mary Johnson and three stepchildren: Arnold, Frank and Doris Alfreda. The Johnsons were living at 21 Victoria Street in Ashton. Arnold Jones married Marion Goostrey in 1936 in Ashton and by 1939 the couple lived at 36 Corkland Street. Arnold was employed as a stonemason. They had two children: a son Peter Arnold b 1937 and a daughter Veronica Dorothy born in 1942.

Arnold was a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps when he was killed in Greece on 17 Oct 1945. He was aged 35. Arnold Jones was buried in the Phaleron War Cemetery. Grave Reference 20.B.4.

**KENWORTHY James    1919-1944    Service Number: 3531565**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

James Kenworthy was born in Ashton on 22 Feb 1919, son of James Kenworthy and Mary Ellen McCarthy or McCartney. His parents had married in Ashton at St Michael's church in 1916. By 1921 James and Mary Ellen were living at 15 Sarah Moor, Royton with two young sons, James aged 2 and Joseph aged 4 months. In the 1939 Register the family lived at 269 Oldham Rd Royton. Alongside James' name it says "Gunner Kenworthy 14447 Searchlight battery, Failsworth."

James Kenworthy married in Stirling, Scotland to Jean Elizabeth Roach. James was a Lance-Corporal in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He was killed in Italy on 10 Sept 1944 and was buried in Bari War Cemetery in Puglia. Grave reference XI.B.1. His obituary appeared in the Stirling Observer. Probate was granted to Jean Elizabeth Kenworthy, widow and Margaret Matthews, married woman. The address given in the probate record was 74 Beaufort Road, Ashton Under Lyne.

**KENWORTHY William 1884-1942 Service Number: 1216**

**Regiment and Unit: Middlesex Regiment 18<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Public Works) Battalion**

William Kenworthy was born on 9th May 1884 in Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire, son of John and Annie. He was baptised at Christ Church on 28 May 1886. His parents John Kenworthy and Annie Cummings (variously spelled Commins and Cummins) had married in 1881. In the 1891 census William, aged 6 was living with his parents and four siblings at 37 York Street Ashton. His father was employed as a coal miner. By 1901 the family had moved to 10 Water Street, Ashton. William aged 16 was working as a coal miner (underground).

William married Sarah Ann Schofield in Ashton on 15 April 1903 and they had four sons, the youngest, Norman, born the year before William joined up on 8 April 1915 in Ashton Under Lyne. His address at this time was 33 Tatton Street, Ashton. He was 30 years old and a coal miner. He was attached to the 18th (1st Public Works) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment in 1915 and served in France. William was wounded on 17 Dec 1916 by a gunshot wound to the face. He was hospitalised with myalgia in 1917 but returned to his Battalion. The letters MM have been added to his attestation record at a later date. A note says he was made Sergeant on 17 April 1918 and transferred to Army Reserves in 1919. A letter to William from the Infantry Record Office in Hounslow in 1923 addresses him at Mr W. Kenworthy M.M. of 7 York Street, Ashton. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The Military Medal was also awarded to William (*Ref London Gazette 19/8/1919*). I have searched the London Gazette for dates in 1919 but so far have not traced the record. The 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment provided support to the Front Line in France during 1915 and the Battles of the Somme 1916.

In 1921 William and Sarah Ann and their four sons were living at 7 York Street Ashton. William was a coal miner working at the New Moss Colliery.

William's first wife died in 1929, and he remarried a widow Fanny Taylor/Strudgeon in 1932. William and Fanny were living in Ashton under Lyne in the 1939 register at 16 Latchford Street, off Oldham Road. Fanny Kenworthy died in 1941 the year before her husband. William Kenworthy died in 1942 of a cerebral haemorrhage aged 58. The account of his funeral does not mention the Military Medal which was only awarded for outstanding gallantry and bravery. His address at the time of his death was 71 Timperley Road, off Broadoak Road, Ashton. William had worked for the Ashton Corporation Electricity Works.



**KNIGHT Harry "Jack" 1920-1945 Service Number: 1077069**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Artillery 5th Survey Regiment**

Harry Knight was born on 26 May 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, son of Harry Knight and his wife Maria Ward. His parents had married in Ashton in 1910 at Stamford Street Wesleyan Methodist Church. They must have emigrated to Canada soon afterwards as their eldest child, Stephen was born in Toronto in 1913. Harry joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WW1.

By 1921 Harry and Maria were back in Ashton. Harry Knight senior was a Fried fish and chip salesman on his own account. They were living with three children: Stephen aged 8, Phyllis aged 6 and Harry aged 1 year at 74 Warrington Street. In the 1939 Register, the Knight family were still living at 74 Warrington Street. Harry, senior was a shopkeeper (fried fish). They had two other daughters, Ruth, born in September 1922 and Margaret born March 1924. Harry Knight Junior and his sister Ruth were shop assistants, helping their father. Stephen, their older brother, was working as an electrician. Knight's fish and chips were rather an institution in the 1940s and 1950s in Ashton.

Harry Knight, junior, joined the Royal Artillery and was part of the 5th Survey Regiment. Gunner Knight was killed in action on 18 August 1945. His body was returned to the UK as he was buried in Hurst Cemetery, Ashton. Grave reference Section O Grave 50. Probate was granted to his father, Harry Knight, fish fryer.

### **LEE Reginald 1904-1940 (civilian death)**

Reginald Lee was born on 23 Aug 1904 in Stalybridge, son of Albert Lee and his wife Dorothy Elizabeth Benson. His parents had married in 1904 at Droylsden St Mary's. Reginald was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1904 at St Michael's parish church, Ashton.

Reginald was the eldest of three children. His younger brother Harold was born in 1905 and his sister Clara Ella was born in 1907. In the 1911 census Reginald, aged 6, was living with his parents and siblings at 3 Dean Street Ashton. His father Albert Lee was an insurance agent. In the 1921 census the family were still living at 3 Dean Street. Reginald was employed at Joshua Heap & Co. Boodle Street, Ashton, as an apprentice turner.

Reginald married Nellie Smith in 1939 at Christ Church, Ashton. In the 1939 Register Reginald and Nellie were living with Nellie's mother, Sarah Smith, at 21 Springbank Street. Stalybridge.

Reginald was working for Rolls Royce in Crewe when two bombs fell on the factory in December 1940. Rolls Royce were making Merlin engines for the R.A.F. so the factory was an obvious target for the Luftwaffe. There was no warning of an air-raid. Seventeen employees were killed and hundreds injured. Reginald Lee, aged 36, son of Albert Lee of 3 Dean Street, Ashton under Lyne and the late Dora Lee, husband of Nellie Lee of 21 Springbank St Stalybridge was killed on 29 December 1940 at the Rolls Royce Works.

**LENTON Thomas Leslie 1923-1945 Service Number: 1622714**

**Regiment and Unit: RAF Volunteer Reserve 186 Squadron**

Thomas Lenton was born 16 Jun 1923 in Ashton, son of Joseph Lenton, iron worker at Hannah Lees and sons and his wife, Jessie Hamilton. In 1939 Joseph and Jessie with two children, Thomas and his older sister Amy, were living at 58 Keane St Ashton Under Lyne. Thomas Lenton was employed as an electrical engineer (motor balancing).

Thomas joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve based at Stradishall, Suffolk. Thomas was killed on 16 Jan 1945 when the aircraft he was flying in crashed at Kedington, Suffolk, soon after take-off as they were setting out for a raid on a synthetic oil plant at Wanne-Eickel in the Ruhr area of Germany.

**LOMAS Sam 1919-1940 Service Number: 3529319**

**Regiment and Unit: Gordon Highlanders 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Samuel was born on 13 Jan 1919 in Ashton and baptised on 21 Feb 1919 at Christ Church, Ashton, son of James Lomas and his wife Sarah Ann Dunstan. His parents had married in Ashton in 1904. Samuel had at least six older siblings. James Lomas, Samuel's father, was killed in 1918 on war service so Sarah Ann was left a widow with six children and pregnant with a seventh. The family were living at 49 Wellington Street, Ashton in the 1921 census with 2-year-old Samuel as the youngest child of seven. By 1939 Sarah Ann Lomas, a widow was living at the same address with two of her sons: James born 1907 and John born 1912.

Samuel Lomas was a Private in the Gordon Highlanders. He was killed on 8 June 1940, aged 21. Samuel was buried at Escoublac –La Bailey War cemetery, Pays de Loire, France. Grave reference I.A.3. A short piece in the Manchester Evening News said "Born a few months after his father died from wounds in the last war, Signaller Samuel Lomas (21), of Wellington Street, Ashton, has died in a French hospital"

**MAILE Herbert 1902-1940 Service Number: 3513516**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Herbert Maile was born on 6 June 1902, son of Francis George Maile and his wife Hannah Cookson. Herbert's parents married in 1901 in Ashton. In the 1911 census Herbert was aged 9 living with his parents at 1 Jackson Street, Ashton under Lyne. Herbert's father was working as a carter and his mother worked in a cotton mill. By 1921 Francis and Hannah Maile had moved to 101 Minto Street, Ashton but Herbert was not with them. Herbert married Nellie Adshead in 1928 at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne. In the 1939 Register Nellie Maile born 1901 was living at 23 Wellbank Avenue, Ashton. The record at the same address is redacted.

Herbert Maile was killed in France on 28 May 1940 aged 37. He was commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Column 119. Herbert's widow Nellie Maile nee Adshead married Harold Rhoades in 1945 in Ashton.

**MAKIN Dennis 1914-1943    Service Number: 128577**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. 199 Squadron    Flying Officer (Pilot)**

Dennis Makin was born in 1914 in Ashton, son of Frederick Arthur Makin and his wife Hannah Jane Ogden. In the 1921 census Dennis aged 7 was living with his parents and six older siblings at The Nest, Taunton Road, Ashton. His father Frederick was working for a soda water manufacturer, R. Barratt and Co. Ltd. By 1939 his father had died and his widowed mother, Hannah, was living with one of her sons, Frederick, at 81 Wilshaw Grove.

Dennis married Doris Constance Tovee in 1941 in Ashton and they had a son born in 1943. Dennis Makin was a pilot in Bomber Command based at Ingham in Lincolnshire which was a satellite airfield of RAF Hemswell. In The Manchester Evening News of 31 May 1943 Flying Officer Dennis Makin, formerly of Wilshaw Grove was listed as 'Missing'.

He was killed in action on 26 May 1943 when his plane was shot down by a night fighter at Caberg, two miles northwest of Maastricht, en route for a raid on Dusseldorf in Germany. The navigator survived and was captured. Dennis Makin was buried in the Junkerbos War Cemetery Nijmegen, Netherlands.

**\*MARSHALL Norman 1921-1943    Service Number: 549755**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 106 Squadron**

Norman Marshall was born in 1921 in Ashton, son of William Harold Marshall and Bertha Annie Pine. He was the youngest of five children.

In the 1921 census the Marshall family were living at 82 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Norman was just four months old. In 1939 Norman's parents were living at 75 Oldham Road, Waterloo. They had two unmarried daughters living with them- Alice and Marie, Norman's older sisters. However, Norman was not at the same address, nor was he living with his married siblings, Harold and Eileen.

Norman was a Sergeant Flight Engineer in the RAF. He served in the 106 Squadron which flew Lancaster bombers, based at Syerston in Nottinghamshire. His service number was 549755. Norman was killed in action on 31 Jan 1943 when his plane was shot down by flak near Imsum during a raid on Hamburg. He was aged 22, son of William and Bertha Marshall of Waterloo. Norman was buried in Becklingen War Cemetery which is in Northern Germany on the Luneberg Heath.

#### **MARTIN Arthur 1910-1945 Service Number: Captain**

##### **Regiment and Unit: Royal Marines 44 RM Commando**

Arthur Martin was born on 4 September 1910 in Bardsley, son of John Martin and his wife, Bertha Ashton. His parents had married in 1903 at Bardsley Holy Trinity.

Arthur first appeared in the census in 1911 when John and Bertha and two sons, John born 1908 and Arthur born 1910 were living at 404 Oldham Road, Bardsley. John Martin was a commercial traveller working for Thomas Kerfoot & Co. Manufacturing Chemist. He states he has been married for eight years and has two children.

In the 1921 the family were living at 5 Cavendish St Waterloo. John Martin, the father of Arthur, was still working as a commercial traveller for Kerfoot's.

Arthur Martin married Marion Kay in 1935 at Christ Church. By 1939 Arthur and Marion were living in Sale, Cheshire at 29 Fieldvale Road. Arthur was employed as an umbrella salesman. Arthur's parents were still living on Oldham Road at number 246.

Arthur was a Captain in the Royal Marines. He died on 24 January 1945, aged 34.

Captain Arthur Martin, Signals Officer, was one of the original 3rd RM Battalion officers. He died of wounds during operations at Kangaw, Burma. Mentioned in Despatches for distinguished service while operating with the Army in Burma and on the Eastern Frontier of India. He was commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 95 Column 2.

Arthur's widow, Marion, remarried in 1950 to Cyril Knott.

### **MEADOWCROFT Ethel 1918-1945**

#### **Regiment and Unit: Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Ethel Meadowcroft was born on 13 Dec 1918 in Ashton, daughter of Harold Meadowcroft and his wife Ethel Brooke. Her parents married at Christ Church in 1916. In the 1921 census, Harold and Ethel with their daughter, Ethel, aged 2 were living at 13 Latchford Street, Ashton. Harold worked at The Rock Mill in Waterloo as a cotton spinner. By 1939 Ethel had a younger brother Harold, junior born 3 Sept 1926 and the family lived at 15 Latchford Street. Ethel was working as a biscuit packer and was described as an invalid. Ethel Meadowcroft died on 22 November 1945 of phthisis, which we would now call T.B. She was 26 years old and was buried at Hurst Cemetery on 27 Nov 1945. Grave reference 186. E

Ethel's obituary in the Ashton Reporter says she was associated with Christ Church from "infancy". Before her illness she had been a serving member of the A.T.S. (the Auxiliary Territorial Service – the women's branch of the British Army.)

**\*MOLYNEUX Keith 1922-1944 Service Number: 1436972**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force 467 Squadron**

Keith Molyneux was born on 19 April 1922 in Ashton, son of George Leonard Molyneux and Florrie Bailey. In the 1939 Register Keith was living with his parents at 93 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. He was working as a clerk in a petroleum office. Keith's father had been in the R.A.F. in World War One so it must have seemed almost natural for Keith to join the Air Force. Keith was a wireless operator and air gunner on a Lancaster Bomber in 467 Squadron Bomber Command flying out of Waddington, Lincolnshire. His service number was 1436972.

Keith was killed on 27 January 1944 when his plane crashed at Ziegenhagen, four miles northwest of Witzenhausen during a raid on Berlin. He was just 21. He was buried in the Hanover War Cemetery.

**MOORHOUSE William 1902-1945 Merchant seaman**

William Moorhouse was born on 26 Oct 1902, son of William Channing Moorhouse and his wife Jessie Lawrance (sometimes spelled Lawrence). William was baptised on 14 November 1902 at Christ Church. His parents married at St Peter's in Ashton on 29 August 1893. In the 1911 census William was eight years old, living with his parents and four older siblings and a younger brother at 164 Turner Lane, Ashton. His father William Channing Moorhouse was employed as a self actor minder in a cotton mill.

By 1921 the family had moved to Henrietta Street, Ashton. William Channing Moorhouse was a Cotton Mill Manager at Atlas Mill, Waterloo, Ashton. William, now aged 18, was employed as an electrical fitter at the Electrical Generating station, Ashton under Lyne and District Joint Board. Four of his siblings were still living at home.

William joined the Merchant Navy. He was on board S.S. Pachumba. He was living at 19 Condoes Avenue, Garrett Bank, Liverpool at the time of his death but the casualty card also gives his place of birth as Ashton Under Lyne. William was taken ill with haematemesis (vomiting blood which can be caused by a peptic ulcer). He died in the Royal Naval Hospital in Massawa on 27 August 1945 aged 42. Massawa or Mitsiwe is a Red Sea port, in Eritrea. Eritrea had been an Italian colony until it was occupied by the British in 1941. William Moorhouse was buried at Asmara, the capital, on 29 August 1945.

The Probate Record gives his address as Iddesleigh, 161 Henrietta Street, Ashton and probate was granted to his father William Channing Moorhouse.

A short piece in "The Daily Despatch" 4 Sept 1945 reads: On Monday, 27 August, at the Royal Naval Hospital, Massawa, First Radio Officer, William Moorhouse, dearly loved son of Mr W.C. Moorhouse and the late Mrs Moorhouse of 161 Henrietta Street, Ashton under Lyne. Interred at Asmara 29 August.

**\*MOTTRAM Harry 1912-1943 Service Number: 4463389**

**Regiment and Unit: Durham Light Infantry 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harry Mottram was born on 10 Jul 1912 in Oldham, son of James Mottram and his wife Edith Lord.

In the 1921 register, Harry was living with his parents and five siblings at 8 Blackburne Street, Oldham. His father was employed as a firewood dealer. Harry married Elsie F. Hone in 1935 in Ashton. By 1939 they were living at 8a Earnshaw Street off Newmarket Road. Harry was working as a builder's labourer and Elsie worked as a cotton piecer.

Harry was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. His service number was 4463389. Three battalions of the Durham Light Infantry took part in the Allied invasion of Sicily in July-August 1943. Harry was killed in action in Italy on 17 July 1943 aged 31, probably at the battle of Primasole Bridge where there was a fierce battle with German paratroopers from 16-19 July 1943.

He was buried in the Catania war cemetery in Sicily, son of James and Edith, husband of Elsie Mottram of Waterloo. His epitaph reads "He peacefully sleeps, free from pain. We would not wake him to suffer again."



**NORRIS Harold 1913-1942 Service Number: 13062197**

**Regiment and Unit: Pioneer Corps (secondary regiment 1/5<sup>th</sup> Batt Leicestershire Regiment)**

Harold Norris was born on 13 June 1913, son of William Norris, a foreman printer, and his wife Lily Walker. His parents married on 14 Jan 1913 at Christ Church, Ashton under Lyne. In the 1921 census Harold, aged 8 was living with his parents at 7 Park Street Droylsden. The family were still living at 7 Park Street by the time of the 1939 Register. Harold was working as a Brewery accounts ledger clerk. Harold married Bessie Hopley in 1941 at Droylsden St Mary.

Corporal Harold Norris was killed whilst on war service on 29 Sept 1942, aged 29. His death was registered in Chatham Kent. He was buried in Droylsden Cemetery. Grave reference Section G Grave 120. His probate record gives his address as 58 Aldwyn Park Road, Audenshaw. Probate was granted to his widow, Bessie.

**OGDEN Fred 1908-1943 Service Number: 7670**

**Regiment and Unit: Penang and Province Wellesley Volunteer Corps 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion**

Fred Ogden was born on 9 Dec 1908 in Ashton. He was baptised on 17 Jan 1909, son of Harry and Minnie Ogden. His parents had married in 1907 at All Saints, Heaton Norris. In 1911 census Harry and Minnie and two-year-old Fred were living at 11 Miller Street, Hurst, Ashton Under Lyne. Harry was a master tailor. By 1921 Fred had a younger sister, Mary Beatrice born Aug 1911. The family were still living at 11 Miller Street, Hurst. Minnie's mother, Mary Pakeman was living with them. Harry Ogden, Fred's father was a tailor's cutter working for Tom Ogden & son of 224 Stamford St Ashton.

In the 1939 register Minnie Ogden and her daughter, Mary Beatrice were living at 2 Oakwood Avenue, Audenshaw. Minnie's husband, Harry Ogden was a patient in hospital in Preston (occupation Tailor). There is no sign of Fred in the 1939 Register (he may have already joined the Army).

Private Fred Ogden, son of Harry and Minnie Ogden of Audenshaw, was killed on 9 Aug 1943 aged 34 in Burma, now Myanmar. He was buried in the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery. Grave reference B4.D.4.

**PICKUP James 1912-1945 Service Number: 191702**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron**

James Pickup was born in Ashton on 22 November 1912, son of James Pickup and Ada Gabbitas. He was baptised on 29 Dec 1912 at the Wesleyan chapel in Dukinfield. His parents married in 1911 at Holy Trinity church in Ashton. In 1921 James was living with his parents and two younger siblings at 2 Russell Street, Dukinfield. His father was a manager for a yeast merchant. James Pickup married Jean Mellor in 1939 at Christ Church in Ashton. They were living at 4 Firs Avenue, in Ashton in the 1939 Register. Jean was a housewife and James was employed as a wholesale provisions merchant.

James was part of the 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was based at Spilsby in Lincolnshire. James was killed on 7 March 1945, aged 32. His plane, a Lancaster bomber, was shot down by flak off Bornholm Island in the Baltic Sea during a raid on Sassnitz harbour on the German island of Rugen. His wife, Jean, was left a widow with two small children.

James Pickup is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial Panel 268

**\*POSTLE Harold Wright 1906-1944 Service Number: 10600648**

**Regiment and Unit: Kings Regiment Liverpool 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Harry Wright Postle was born in 1906 in Ashton, son of Harold Postle and Sarah Ann Wright.

In 1911 Harold was aged 4 and living at Ingleside, Taunton Road, Waterloo with his parents. In the 1921 census Harold was aged 15 and living with his parents Harold and Sarah Ann plus two siblings, Nora and Derek at 41 Taunton Road. Harold Postle senior died in 1922. By 1939 Sarah Ann Postle, a widow was living with her son Derek at 98 Cranbourne Road, Waterloo. There is a redacted record which could be Harold Wright Postle as there is no trace of him elsewhere in 1939 although he appears on the Electoral Roll for 98 Cranbourne Road in 1934.

Harold Wright Postle died on 30 May 1944 on war service, aged 38. His service number was 10600648 and he was a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Kings Regiment, Liverpool. Postle is buried in the Kirkee War Cemetery in the Pune district of India. The probate record gives his address as 98 Cranbourne Road and says probate granted to his wife Sarah Ann. As there is no indication that Harold married, this is probably his mother Sarah Ann Postle nee Wright.

Harold's younger brother Derek, born 2 May 1911 was captured by the Japanese during WW2. He survived and was married in 1946. Derek died in Oldham in 2000.

**POTTER Ernest 1918-1940 Service Number: 1904765**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Engineers 673 Artisan Works Co.**

Ernest Potter was born on 29 May 1918 in Ashton, son of Albert Potter and his wife Emily Stansfield. His parents married in 1913 at Christ Church. In the 1921 census Ernest was living with his parents and an older sister, Mary, at 47 Turner Street, Ashton under Lyne. Ernest married Alice Dalglish in 1936 at St James church in Ashton. In the 1939 Register Ernest and Alice Potter were living at 39 Turner Street. Ernest was employed as a motor driver and mechanic, Alice worked as a ring spinner in a cotton mill. They had a small daughter.

Ernest was a Driver in the Royal Engineers and was killed on 27 May 1940 in France during the evacuation of Dunkirk. He was commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial.

**REANEY Edward 1911-1942 Service Number: 7639423**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Ordnance Corps Rank: Corporal**

Edward Reaney was born on 30 July 1911 in Lees near Oldham, son of Percy Reaney and his wife Beatrice Emma Elliott. His parents had married in Sheffield in 1905. In the 1921 census Edward was living with his parents and two siblings, Marion and Philip at 9 Taunton Rd Ashton. His father was a foreman at Hannah Lees and Sons, Iron Works in Park Bridge. Edward married Nancy Blackburn in Barton, Lancs in early 1939. In the 1939 Register taken in September of that year, Edward and his wife Nancy are living with Edward's parents at 242 Oldham Road. Edward was employed as an insurance broker. Corporal Edward Reaney was killed in Singapore on 13 Feb 1942 aged 30. He is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial Column 108. Probate was granted in 1946 to his widow, Nancy of 25 Western Road, Flixton, Lancs.

**\*RICHARDSON Arthur 1905-1945    Service Number: T/253318**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Service Corps    19<sup>th</sup> General Transport Company**

Arthur Richardson was born on 30th January 1905, in Oldham, son of William Richardson and Mary Ann Cole.

He first appears in a census in 1911, aged 6, with his parents, William and Mary Ann and his siblings: Clara aged 12, William Henry (10), Roselia (8) and John Harmond (1) living at No 2 Court, off Oldham Road, Waterloo. By 1921 Arthur was 16 and working as a general labourer, living with his widowed father and siblings at 4, No. 2 Court, Off Oldham Road, Waterloo. Arthur married Sarah Lomas in 1934 at St James' church, Ashton under Lyne.

In the 1939 Register Arthur and Sarah Richardson were living at 4, No.2 Court, Oldham Road, Waterloo. Arthur was working as a general labourer in a cotton mill.

Arthur Richardson was a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. 19<sup>th</sup> General Transport Company. His service number was T/253318. Arthur was killed in Germany on 2 April 1945 aged 40. He was buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Germany, son of William and Mary Richardson of Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne and husband of Sarah Richardson of Waterloo. Sarah Richardson, Arthur's widow, married Sam Ridgway in 1961 in Ashton and she died in 1990 aged 81.

**\*RICHARDSON William Henry 1901-1946    Service Number: 1511095**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force    Technical Training Command**

William Richardson was born on 8 February 1901, in Ashton under Lyne, son of William Richardson and Mary Ann Cole.

In 1901 William Henry was two months old living with his parents and two older sisters, Gladys and Clara in Higham Fold in Ashton. By 1911 the family had moved to Waterloo and were living in No.2 Court which was off Oldham Road almost opposite the war memorial. William Richardson, senior was a cotton weaver. He and his wife Mary Ann had five children living with them: Clara (12), William Henry (10), Roselia (8), Arthur (6) and John Harmond (1).

In 1921 census William was aged 20 and working as a general labourer. He lived with his widowed father, William (54) and three siblings: Roselia aged 18, Arthur aged 16 and John aged 12 at 4, No.2 Court off Oldham Road, Waterloo.

William Henry married Edith Howard the following year. In the 1939 register William H. Richardson, his wife Edith and two children: Mary A Richardson born 1923 and Harmond born 1929 were living at 2, No.2 Court, off Oldham Road. William was an unemployed road labourer and Edith was also unemployed as a cleaner in a cotton mill.

Leading Aircraftman William Henry Richardson died on 28 January 1946. He was aged 44. His service number was 1511095. He was based at Innsworth in Gloucestershire in the Technical Training Command.

*From the Sutton & Epsom Advertiser 7 Feb 1946*

### ***DIVED IN FRONT OF BUS***

*Airman dies instantly*

*A driver's experience of seeing a man suddenly raise his hands and dive immediately in front of a bus was told to the East Surrey Coroner at an inquest at Sutton on Tuesday on L.A.C. William Henry*

*Richardson (44), R.A.F. who had been a patient at Banstead Military Hospital and who lived at Oldham Road, Ashton under Lyne. The driver of the bus gave his account: "When I was about 10-12 feet from the man, he raised his arms above his head and dived in front of the bus. He gave me no chance. I swerved and braked immediately and stopped in just over a bus length. (There were other witnesses).*

*The Medical Officer at the Military Hospital stated that Richardson was admitted to a sick station in the Middle East in October last. He was suffering from acute anxiety and was convinced he had venereal disease but this was not the case. At one hospital it was observed he had suicidal ideas.*

*Verdict: Took his own life whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed. Richardson had a history of a chronic mental state.*

William Richardson was buried in Hurst Cemetery in Ashton under Lyne.

**ROBINSON Leslie 1923-1942 Service Number: 1128848**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 97 Squadron**

Leslie Robinson was born on 19 April 1923 in Openshaw, Manchester, son of Alfred Llewellyn Robinson and his wife Doris McGarry. His parents had married the year before in Nantwich. In the 1939 Register Alfred and Doris with two children (names redacted) were living at 107 Stamford Street, Ashton under Lyne. Alfred was the manager of a grocery and provisions shop.

Sergeant Leslie Robinson was killed on 14 July 1942 aged 19. He was an Air Gunner. He was buried back in Ashton in Hurst Cemetery. Grave reference Section P, Grave 165. The text on his tombstone is "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also".

**ROGERS Aaron 1920-1943 Service Number: 3530087**

**Regiment and Unit: Manchester Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**

Aaron Rogers was born in 1920 in Ashton, son of James Frederick Rogers and his wife Eda Jones. His parents married at Christ Church in 1910. In the 1921 census James Frederick and Eda Rogers were living at 34 Jermyn Street, Ashton with two young children: 6-year-old Mary Ellen and 1 year old Aaron. James was working as a motor driver, a carrier for Great Central Railways, based at Park Parade station, Ashton.

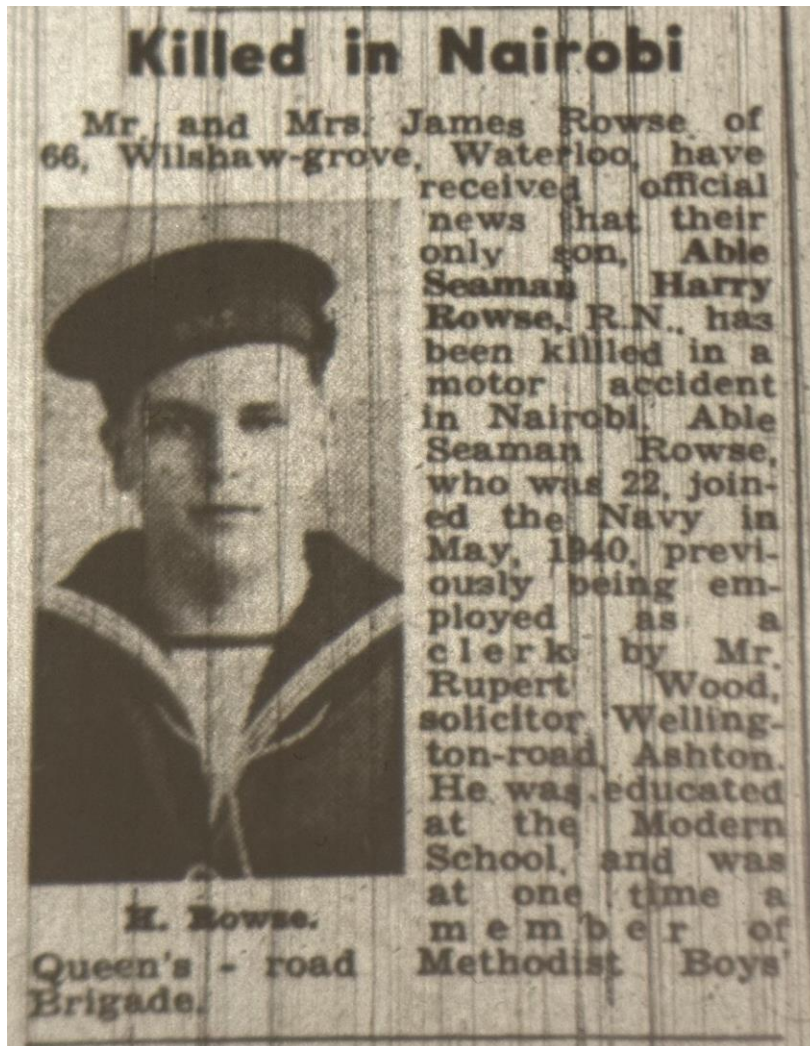
James, Aaron's father died in 1927. His mother re-married in 1930 and in the 1939 Register she is with her second husband John Jones, a retired miner, at 49 Jermyn Street. Another daughter from her first marriage, Dorothy Rogers, (born Dec 1921) is living there too but there is no sign of Aaron.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment were sent to work on the notorious Burma railway. By July 1943 there was a serious outbreak of cholera which, added to the malaria which was already rife, further weakened the men.

Aaron Rogers died in a Prisoner of War Camp (Tha Khanun) in Thailand on 1 July 1943. There were three POW camps at Tha Khnun, along the notorious Burma railway. He was buried in a collective grave in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. Grave Reference 6B, 70-74. He was 23 years old, son of James Frederick and Eda Rogers of Ashton under Lyne. His memorial says "*Tears of love can never awake you. Goodnight, my son. R.I.P.*"

**\*ROUSE Harry (spelling ROWSE) 1919-1942 Service Number: D/JX 193649**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy**



Harry Rowse was born on 22 October 1919, son of James Rowse and Lilian Wood.

In the 1921 census Harry was aged 1 and living with his parents at 33 Margaret Street in Ashton. By 1939 the family had moved to 66 Wilshaw Grove, Waterloo. "Henry" was working as a solicitor's clerk and living with his parents.

He served as an Able Seaman on board H.M.S. Decoy. Service number D/JX 193649. This indicates that his home port was Devonport, J means he was a long service seaman and X indicates the rating was engaged after a new pay code was introduced in 1932. His ship was part of the Eastern fleet in the Indian Ocean between February and September 1942. Harry Rowse died on 25 July 1942 aged 22. He was killed in a road accident, perhaps whilst on shore leave. He was buried in Nairobi War Cemetery. Grave Reference 2.G.7

**RUSHWORTH Norman 1919-1942    Service Number: 7596159**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Army Ordnance Corps    Z Army Ordnance Workshop**

Norman Rushworth was born on 14 October 1919, the son of William Rushworth and his wife Ethel Howard. His parents had married at Christ Church in 1919. In the 1921 census William and Ethel and 1 year old Norman were living at 105 Minto Street, Ashton. William was a cotton bobbin carrier. By 1939 the family had moved further along Minto Street to number 99. Norman was living with his parents- he was their only child. Alongside his name is written his service number and "Private RAOC".

Norman was killed on 13 Feb 1942 aged 22 and he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial Column 110.



**SMITH Benjamin 1924-1944    Service Number: 3530260**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Artillery    80 Field Regiment**

Benjamin Smith was born in 1924 in Ashton, the son of Albert Cooke Smith and his wife Lucy Ellen Knowles. Benjamin may be listed on the 1939 Register at his parents' house 78 Welbeck Street but there is a redacted name. His siblings, Irene born 1918 and Albert Cooke Smith born 1920 are shown. Benjamin's father was working as a labourer in a jam works which is mostly likely to be Robertson's jam works in Droylsden.

Benjamin was only 20 when he died on 3 Nov 1944. He was buried in the Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery in the Netherlands. Grave Reference 7.B.9. He is named as the son of Albert C Smith and Lucy E. Smith. The personal inscription on his grave reads: "Memories of when we were all together will linger in our hearts forever"

**SPEAKMAN Walter 1915-1944    Service Number: 1702085**

**Regiment and Unit: Parachute Regiment A.A.C. 12<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> Bn Green Howards Yorkshire Regt) bn**

Walter Speakman was born on 20 January 1915 in Ashton, the son of Harry Speakman and his wife Jane Mitchell. His parents had married at St Michael's Parish Church in 1912. In the 1921 census Walter is aged 6 and living with his parents and three sisters at 92 Hill Street, Ashton. Harry, Walter's father was employed as a coal carter by Ashton Co-op.

Walter married Alice Maher in 1938 at St Michael's. By the time of the 1939 Register, they were living at 21 Cotton Street, Ashton and they had an infant son, born 1938. Walter was employed as a window cleaner.

Walter Speakman died on 12 June 1944 aged 28 and was buried in Ranville War Cemetery in France. Grave Reference IVA.N.16. The personal inscription reads: "*In loving memory of a dear husband and daddy. Always remembered. Sadly missed.*"

**STRINGER Arthur 1919-1941 Service Number: 986905**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve 59 Squadron**

Arthur Stringer was born on 10 Dec 1919, the son of James Arthur Stringer and his wife Florence Hall. His parents had married in 1915 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton under Lyne. Arthur had two brothers: Ralph was born in 1916 and Geoffrey was born in 1918. In the 1921 census James and Florence with their three sons were living at 66 Carlton Road, Ashton under Lyne. James Stringer was Assistant Secretary and cashier at Whittaker's cotton mill in Hurst. By 1939 the family had moved to 304 Parrs Wood Road in Didsbury, Manchester where James Stringer was a shopkeeper. Two of their sons, Geoffrey, who was a bank clerk, and Arthur who was a travelling salesman in chemicals, were at the same address.

Sergeant Arthur Stringer of the R.A.F. Volunteer Force died on 24 Oct 1941 aged 21. He was buried in Cherbourg Old Cemetery. Grave reference Plot 6, Row B, Grave 8. Son of James Arthur and Florence Stringer of Didsbury, Manchester. The personal tribute reads: "Yet, O Stricken Heart, remember how of human days, he lived the better part".

**STRINGER Ralph 1916-1942 Service Number: 7685350**

**Regiment and Unit: Military Police 204 Provost Company**

Ralph Stringer was the older brother of Arthur. In 1921 he was living with his two brothers and his parents at 66 Carlton Road. There seems to be no record of him in the 1939 Register. It is possible that he was already abroad. Ralph Stringer died on 27 May 1942 aged 26 and he was commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt on column 84.

An article in the Manchester Evening News of 22 June 1942 was headed:

### **THEIR TWO SONS ARE MISSING**

*Mr and Mrs J.A. Stringer of Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury and formerly of Ashton under Lyne have received official notification that the eldest of their three sons, Lance Corporal Ralph Stringer (26) of the Military Police has been reported missing, believed killed in Libya. He was on the staff of the Manchester and Salford Savings Bank before joining the Army. The youngest son, Sgt Arthur Stringer, R.A.F. was reported missing after a bombing raid while their other son, Driver Geoffrey Stringer RASC serving in the Middle East was recently in hospital suffering from diphtheria.*

**\*SUTTON Stanley 1919-1945 Service Number: 7914236**

**Regiment and Unit: 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars Royal Armoured Corps**

Stanley Fraser Sutton was born on 2 December 1919, son of Fraser Sutton and Alice Leek.

In the 1921 census, Stanley was living with his mother, Alice and four siblings at "Thornhill", Hale Road, Hale, Cheshire. His father, Fraser Sutton, a Manchester solicitor, was shown as a visitor at an address in the Isle of Man in the same census. By 1939, Stanley's parents had died. His mother Alice died in 1930 at 'Tiverton' Hale Road and his father died of pneumonia in a nursing home in Bowden in 1932. Fraser Sutton had served in the Tank Corps in World War One and had been seriously injured by a shot to his left lung.

In the 1939 Register, Stanley Sutton was the sole occupant of the Borough Police Station in Macclesfield. He was described as a soldier but gives his date of birth as 2 December 1918, adding a year to his age. In 1937 Stanley's sister Bertha had married a solicitor John Green and they were living at 4 Vicarage Road, Waterloo in the 1939 Register. The probate record for Stanley shows his address as 4 Vicarage Road, hence his name on the Waterloo and Taunton Memorial.

Stanley Fraser Sutton was killed on 5 April 1945 when he was 25 years old. His service number was 7914236. He was a corporal in the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars, the Royal Armoured Corps. The 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars were involved in the Italian campaign at that time.

Stanley, son of Fraser and Alice Sutton, was buried in the Ravenna War Cemetery. Grave reference 1.B.16. The epitaph on his gravestone read:

*"To live in the hearts of those who live is not to die, brother and sisters"*

**SWEENEY James 1920-1942 Service Number: 1113304**

**Regiment and Unit: R.A.F. Bomber Command 10 Operational Training Unit**

James Sweeney was born on 9 April 1920, son of James Sweeney and Eliza Mellor. James was baptised at St John the Evangelist, Dukinfield on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1920. His parents had married in 1914 at Droylsden St Mary.

In the 1921 census James, aged one, was a visitor with his mother Eliza and his sister Kathleen aged 6 to a boarding house in Blackpool.

James' mother Eliza died later that year. His father, James, married Florence Emma Cuff in 1925. James Sweeney senior died in 1936. In the 1939 Register, James was living with his step-mother, Florence Sweeney at 129 Henrietta St, Ashton. James was working as a clerk, CWS Drugs (CWS= Cooperative Wholesale Society).

James was killed when the aircraft in which he was navigator crashed at Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire on 11 September, 1942. The aircraft, an Armstrong Whitley Whitley V had taken off from Stanton Harcourt for a night-time operation over Dusseldorf, Germany. On its return the aircraft crashed killing the crew of four. James Sweeney was commemorated on the Manchester Crematorium Memorial, Panel 21 as well as Christ Church War Memorial. James Sweeney was 22.

**\*TAYLOR Ernest J. 1925-1941 civilian death**

Ernest Joseph Taylor was born on 15 February 1925, son of Ernest Joseph Taylor and his wife Nellie Cumberbatch. Ernest first appears on the 1939 Register with his parents, living at St Luke's School House, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester. His father was verger, grave digger and caretaker. By 1941 the family had moved to 11 Incline Road, Oldham. Ernest was aged 16 and a fire watcher. On the night of 12-13<sup>th</sup> October 1941, Oldham suffered a two-hour long bombing raid, and 27 civilians lost their lives. Ernest was one of those. 11 Incline Road was bombed, and he was killed. He is remembered on the war memorial at Christ Church Oldham Road as well as the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial and a record on the CWGC site states "In memory of civilian Ernest Joseph Taylor, Civilian War Dead who died on 12 Oct 1941 aged 16."

Despite the fact that Ernest lived in Oldham, his parents married at Christ Church, Waterloo in 1920; his father was born in Bardsley, and his mother was a Cumberbatch, a well-known Waterloo family.

**\*TETLOW Harry 1915-1944 Service Number: 3528974**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

Harry Tetlow was born in 1915 son of James Stafford Tetlow and Mary Ann Burgess. In the 1921 census Harry was the eldest of two children. He and his younger brother Ralph lived at 23 Peel Street, Ashton with their parents. Harry married Mary Wild of Bardsley in 1938. In the 1939 register the couple were living at 14 Ney Street, Waterloo. Harry served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. His service number was 3528974. His regiment advanced through Aquino, Italy in 1944. Harry died on war service in Italy on 2 April 1944 aged 28. He was buried in the Cassino War Cemetery.

**THORPE Joseph 1921-1941 Service Number: PO/X 3817**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Marines**

Joseph Thorpe was born on 15 May 1921 in Ashton, the son of Joseph Thorpe and his wife Susannah Hodgett. His parents had married in 1919 at St Peter's church, Ashton.

In the 1921 census Joseph was a five-week-old baby living with his parents and an older half-brother Harry Morris Thorpe (actually Harry Maurice Hodgett b 1919) at 51 Peel Street, Ashton. His parents were both employed in the cotton mill owned by Abel Buckley in Ryecroft. In the 1939 Register Joseph, senior, his wife Susannah and Harry M Hodgett are living at 45 Kenyon Street. There is no record of Joseph so he may have already joined the Marines.

Joseph Thorpe died at sea on 24 May 1941. He was on board HMS Hood. H.M.S. Hood was a battle cruiser of the Royal Navy. The ship was sunk by the Bismarck on 24 May 1941 during an interception to try to prevent the German battleship from reaching the Atlantic where they were to attack convoys. The Hood was struck by several German shells and sank with the loss of all but three of her crew of 1,418.

**TOPHAM Gerald 1924-1944 Service Number: 14531118**

**Regiment and Unit: Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment – 1st Battalion**

Gerald Topham was born on 17 June 1924 in Ashton, the son of Vincent Edgar Topham and his wife Florence Ball. His parents married in 1903 at St Michael's Church in Ashton. His father was a dealer in antiques and later owned a clock shop at 72 Warrington Street. Gerald was living with his parents at that address in the 1939 Register. He had three older sisters living there too: Diana born 1916, Judith born 1921 and Enid born 1918. An older brother Vincent Friend Topham was born in 1908.

Gerald had joined the Army and was in the Kensington Regiment when he was killed in Italy on 22 June 1944 just after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was buried in the War Cemetery in Orvieto, Italy. Grave reference I.D.7. The casualties who were buried at Orvieto came from the battles on the Trasimene line.

The personal inscription on Gerald Topham's grave reads: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them "

**TUNNICLIFFE Leonard 1920-1944 Service Number: 2620662**

**Regiment and Unit: Grenadier Guards 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Leonard Tunnicliffe was born on 1 June 1920 in Ashton, the son of Alfred Tunnicliffe and his wife Edith Annie Etchells. His parents married in 1917 at St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton. In the 1939 Register Leonard was living with his parents and four siblings at 10 Massey Avenue, Smallshaw, Ashton. His father was working as a coal miner and Leonard was a ring spinner in a cotton mill. Leonard married Lilian Schora in 1943.

Leonard was a Guardsman in the Grenadier Guards when he was wounded in fighting in Italy. He died of his wounds on 5 October 1944 aged 24. In the obituary in the Ashton Reporter of 20 Oct 1944, it mentions that Leonard attended Christ Church School and worked as a piecer at Queens Mill in Dukinfield. His wife Lilian was living at 160 Oldham Road, Ashton. His brother Alfred was in the Royal Navy.

In November 1944 Leonard Tunnicliffe was awarded the Military Medal posthumously for his bravery in the fighting in Italy. (Press cutting)

Leonard Tunnicliffe was buried in the Naples War Cemetery. Grave Reference I.K.8

**\*WALKER Harold 1923-1944 Service Number: 3607336**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion/ The Royal Scots Fusiliers 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

Harold Walker was born on 14 June 1923 in Ashton under Lyne, son of Bertram Walker and his wife Jane Brierley Hilton. In the 1939 Register the family were living at 71 Queens Road, Hurst, Ashton under Lyne.

Harold had two brothers - Arthur born 17 June 1921 and George born 5 Jan 1927. Arthur died in Bude, Cornwall in 2001 and George died in Ashton in 2000.

Harold joined the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers; service number 3607336. The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers was a territorial unit, reformed in 1939. The men served with the 197<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade 66<sup>th</sup> Division until June 1940 when they transferred to 59<sup>th</sup> Division. His unit landed in Normandy on 29 June 1944, as part of Operation Overlord. The battalion first saw action in early July at Maon near Caen as part of Operation Charnwood where they suffered 121 casualties. Harold survived this experience but, on 21 Aug 1944, General Lewis Lyne, late of the regiment, visited the battalion to inform them that the 59<sup>th</sup> Division was to be disbanded and the men were to provide replacements for other infantry units which were severely depleted after heavy fighting. Harold Walker was rebadged from 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers to 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The Royal Scots Fusiliers. The battalion took part in 'Operation Market Garden' an Allied military operation fought in German occupied Netherlands from 17-25 Sept 1944.

On 27 September 1944 the battalion went into battle against the Germans near Nijmegen; they were ordered to attack and capture Fratershoef. The attack began at 21.00 hours. Within an hour their objective had been achieved but not without some loss of life. Harold was one of four men killed that day.

Harold Walker was buried in Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands.

**\*WELLENS Thomas 1917-1943 Service Number: D/MX 74832**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Navy**

Thomas Wellens was born on 19 Oct 1917, son of Robert Wellens and Mary Ellen Clough.

In the 1921 census, Thomas, aged 3, was living at 56 Taylor Street Dukinfield with his parents and siblings – Robert (16), William (14), Rebecca (12) and Harold (8). In the 1939 Register Thomas was a “boarder” at 3 Railway View, Ashton under Lyne. He was single and his occupation was Millwright. Thomas married Annie Wilde of 10 Langham Street, Waterloo on 4 June 1941 at Christ Church, Waterloo. Thomas joined the Royal Navy and was on board H.M.S. Charybdis, a cruiser, when it was sunk by German torpedoes off the north coast of Brittany on 23 Oct 1943. There was a heavy loss of life as the ship sank within 30 minutes of being hit. Twenty-one bodies were washed up on Jersey or Guernsey beaches.

Thomas Wellens D/MX 74832 ERA (Engine Room Artificer) was buried on 17th November 1943 in St Helier War Cemetery, Jersey.

**WHITE John 1919-1940 Service Number: 34651870**

**Regiment and Unit: Lancashire Fusiliers 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

John White was born on 29 Dec 1919 in Ashton, the son of John Richard White and his wife Alice Evelyn Illingworth. His parents married at St Michael’s church in Ashton in 1913. In the 1921 census John Richard and Alice Evelyn White were living at 6 Enville St Ashton. John was aged 2. He had two older brothers: Horace born 1914, William born 1916 and a younger brother Frank born in 1920. By 1939 John Richard White and his wife were living at 3 Fletcher Street. John White is listed with his parents. He was working as a cloth maker-up in a cotton mill. There were six other members of the household and two records are redacted. Three of the names are John’s siblings (mother’s maiden name Illingworth)- William born 1916, James born 1922 and Walter born 1925.

John was a Fusilier in the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. On 18 May 1940 the battalion took up position on the River Dendre. The Battalion was subjected to heavy fire from mortars and light guns. It is likely John White was killed during this onslaught. John White’s name is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial Column 51.



He died on 22 May 1940, son of John Richard White and Alice Evelyn White of Ashton Under Lyne.

**\*WILDE Roy 1916-1944    Service Number: D/MX 74832**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Air Force**

Bernard Roy Wilde was born on 26 Sept 1916, son of William Wilde and Elsie Gertrude Lawton.

In the 1921 census Bernard Roy was aged 4 and living with his parents at 139 Taunton Road, Waterloo. His father, William, was working at the National Gas and Oil Engine works in Ashton. By 1939 the family were still at the same address. Bernard Roy was working as a commercial artist. Wilde was killed when attempting a "wheels-up landing" at Tortorella, Italy. Tortorella was a USAF/RAF base near Salerno, South West Italy. He was a pilot. A 4,000lb bomb exploded in an emergency landing soon after take-off destined for a raid on Padua. Sergeant Roy Wilde aged 27, service number D/MX 74832, died on 8 February 1944. He was buried in the Bari War Cemetery, Italy.

**\*WILLIAMS D. Adam 1912-1945 Service Number: 3392914**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Norfolk Regiment**

David Adam Williams was born on 10 Aug 1912, son of Adam Williams and his wife Florence Bamford Carr. In 1921 the family were living at 120 Oldham Road, Waterloo. Adam Williams, senior, was employed on his own account as a fishmonger. Adam was aged 9 with three older siblings. By 1939 the family were still living at 120 Oldham Road. Adam listed as David A. Williams was assisting his father in the fish trade.

David A. Williams married Florence A. Dale in January 1941 in Ashton.

David Adam Williams was a Private in the Royal Norfolk Regiment. His service number was 3392914. He died on war service on 1 March 1945. His address at the time was 2 Holyoake Street, Droylsden. He was buried in the Reichswald Forest Cemetery in Northern Germany. Grave reference: 62.D.6.

**WILLIAMS Joseph 1913-1942 Service Number:553825**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Armoured Corps 8<sup>th</sup> Queen's Royal Lancers**

Joseph Williams was born on 9 March 1913 in Higher Broughton Manchester, son of Reginald Charles Williams and wife Sarah Elizabeth Deighton. He was baptised on 26 March 1913 at St Philip's Manchester. His parents had married on 1 October 1910.

In the 1921 census Joseph aged 8 was living at 18 Cryer Street in Littlemoss with his parents and two siblings: Agnes Nora born 13 Jul 1911 in Clayton and Violet born 8 Feb 1920 in Ashton. Joseph's father worked as a 'car cleaner' on the Manchester trams.

In the 1939 Reginald C Williams and wife Sarah E Williams were living at 18 Cryer Street, Littlemoss with their children: Violet born 1920 and Charles A. born 1923. Their married daughter Agnes N(ora) Haughton (nee Williams) was at the same address. (One redacted record- Joseph?).

Joseph Williams married Kathleen Broadley in Leeds in October 1939. Trooper Joseph Williams aged 29 was killed on 28 May 1942, son of Reginald and Elizabeth Williams and husband of Kathleen Williams of Armley, Leeds.

Joseph Williams is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt. Column 17.

Joseph is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial, Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

**WOOD Leslie 1912-1943 Service Number #7914544**

**Regiment and Unit: County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) Royal Armoured Corps**

Leslie Wood was born on 20 January 1912, in Ashton, son of Emma (his father had been killed in WW1). In the 1921 census Leslie aged 9 was living with his widowed mother at 153 Newmarket Road, Waterloo. Leslie Wood married Minnie Allen in 1937 in Barton, Lancs. In 1939 Leslie was married to Minnie and the couple were living at 18 Pickmere Rd South Shore, Blackpool. Leslie was working as a butcher. In the 1939 Register, Minnie Wood's name has another surname, Abbott, added above. This is likely to be her new married name after Leslie's death. A short article in the Manchester Evening News announced the death of Trooper Leslie Wood, Pickmere Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool, formerly of Newmarket Road, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne (in Italy).

The record on the Commonwealth War Graves site gives Trooper Leslie Wood's death as 5 October 1943 aged 32. Son of Emma, and husband of Minnie Wood of Blackpool. Leslie was buried in the Sangro River War cemetery. Grave reference XIV.D.3. There are 2,542 soldiers from the UK and British Commonwealth buried there. They were defending the shoreline near the Sangro River against retreating German soldiers.

**WOOD Thomas Hatton 1916-1941 Service Number: 3054175**

**Regiment and Unit: Royal Scots 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

A short article in the Manchester Evening News of 14 February 1942 announced "Official news has been received that Lance-Corporal Thomas Wood Hatton (notice the arrangement of names) (26) of Clive Street, Waterloo, Ashton under Lyne, was killed in action in Hong Kong on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The record on the CWGC website omits a middle name. He is named as Thomas Wood aged 25 and he was killed on 15 December 1941 during the Battle of Hong Kong. The Battle was one of the first battles of the Pacific War. The Japanese bombardment of the island resulted in every officer and man killed, wounded or captured. The Japanese attack began on 8<sup>th</sup> December just hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The record of his death on the CWGC website indicates his place of birth as Bolton.

A possible birth date of 1915/1916 gives many possibilities for the correct Thomas Wood. The 1939 register for Clive Street reveals no Woods: there is a Reuben and Grace Hatton living at 16 Clive Street, but they had no children. His family history remains a matter of speculation. Grace Hatton nee Hoyle was born in Bolton. There is a birth of Thomas Wood in Bolton on 26 Mar 1916 (source Birth Cert. Mother: Alice Wood of Fairfield St Bolton.) An enquiry to Bolton Archives revealed that this Thomas was

born illegitimate in the Fishpool Institution. The address on his birth certificate 10 Fairfield Street was listed as The Parish Home for Girls. In the 1921 census there is a likely Thomas listed at Hollins Cottages, Bolton aged 4. This was part of the workhouse. It is possible that Thomas was adopted by Grace and Reuben Hatton of Waterloo before adoption was formalised by the Adoption Act of 1926.

**\*WRIGHT JAMES E. 1914-1944    Service Number: 2989714**

**Regiment and Unit: Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders    2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

James Edward Wright was born on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1914, son of James Edward Wright and Margaret Leech. James' father died in the First World War and is also commemorated on the War Memorial in Christ Church and the one at Littlemoss. In 1911 James, senior and his wife, Margaret, were living at 21 Mary Street, off Newmarket Road, Ashton. Widowed Margaret Wright and her two children were still at 21 Mary Street in 1921. However, James E Wright was living in the household of Robert Leech and his wife Dorothy in 1939. Mr and Mrs Leech are likely to be relatives of his mother. James was working as a cotton spinner and lived at 244 Newmarket Road, Waterloo.

Sergeant James Edward Wright joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (service number 2989714). He had married a Scot - Margaret Harris of Edinburgh. The 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (2 ASH) fought in Operation "Epsom" on June 26, 1944, as part of the 15th (Scottish) Division and the 227 Brigade. The operation was a major offensive on Caen that began with the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944.

James died on 29 June 1944 aged 29 and he was buried at Banneville-La-Campagne War Cemetery in France. Grave reference II.E.12. His gravestone reads "Love and Esteemed. In All Things shewing thyself, a pattern of good works". James E Wright is also commemorated on the Littlemoss War Memorial, Lumb Lane, Littlemoss.

**Sources:** Ancestry and Find My Past for census records and military information

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Imperial War Museum - Register of War Memorials

Manchester Family and Local History Society

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