

Church Eaton

In memory of those of this village
who gave their lives to defend our country

Lest We Forget

**When you go home, tell them of us and say:
'For your tomorrow we gave our today.'**

Amendments

If any errors are found please bring this to the attention of Graham Bone so that this document can be updated. He may be contacted on 01785 822623 or EdithaRecords@hotmail.com. Alternatively speak to either of the Churchwardens, Daphne Rutherford or Ralph Howarth.

William Allman
William Leonard Amos
John Allen Brereton
Herbert Broome
Francis Charles Buckley
George Alfred William Danby
George Davies
Thomas Henry Everall
Alfred Cecil Garner
Sydney Donald Harrison
William Charles Hodson
Frederick Holland
Fred Huffadine
William James
Cyril Arthur Osborne
Richard Sedgley
John Shutt
Alexander Walters

Commemorated in their home towns
but died in
Church Eaton

William Alfred George
Francis Charles Haglund
Neil Willoughby Harnett
Bruce Allan Hogg
Matthew Henry Walton
Crafteron Dudley Wong

In Memory of
Corporal WILLIAM ALLMAN

56816, 2nd Battalion, The Welsh Regiment
who died aged 22 on 17 November 1917

Son of William and Sarah Ann Allman
of Marston, Church Eaton

Remembered with honour
POELCAPPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY, BELGIUM



Poelcapelle British Cemetery is located 10 kms north-east of Ieper town centre on the Brugseweg (N313), a road connecting Ieper to Brugge.

According to his medal index card William enlisted in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (Regimental Number 19330) before transfer to the Welsh Regiment.

Battalion War Diary Extract.

* **15 November.** "The battalion leaves HILL TOP at 3.30pm to relieve the 1st Northampton ... Relief complete by 9pm. The line is merely shell holes and very wet. Owing to a stream called the Paddebeek being in front of the line it is almost impossible to attack. The line is held by 5 platoons only with the remainder of the Battalion spread about in support and reserve all over the country."

* **16 November.** "Very misty in the morning up to about 11am. 2Lieut H. M. Swift is killed, 2 other ranks wounded. Enemy aeroplanes are very active especially over our front line. The Bosche does a good deal of promiscuous shelling during the whole day."

* **17 November.** "Much the same sort of day as yesterday with the same amount of shelling. 10 other ranks killed, 2 wounded. The 18th Highland Light Infantry relieve our two front line companies at night."

* **18 November.** "(IRISH FARM) The Battalion arrives in camp about 2am."

It is presumed that William was one of the 10 other ranks killed by shelling on the 17 November.

The 1911 Census shows both William and his father as farm labourers living in Pave Lane, Newport, Shropshire. At the time he is shown with an 11 year old younger brother, John Thomas, and 4 younger sisters, Elsie Maud (9), Lily (6), Lucy (3) and Bertha (6 mths).

In Memory of
Private WILLIAM LEONARD AMOS
241545, 2nd / 6th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment
who died aged 23 on 8 May 1917

Son of William and May / Mary Amos
of Onn Farm, Church Eaton

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, FRANCE



The Thiepval Memorial is just off the D151, close to the main crossroads with the D73 in the village of Thiepval. The Memorial bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave.

Battalion War Diary for 8 May 1917. The battalion was located at Nobescourt Farm about 3 km south west of Roisel. "21.50. Battalion attacks German trenches ... A & B Coys and one platoon C Coy. ... Attacking troops were met by very heavy M.G.¹ fire, one platoon B Coy under Lieut P. G. Coleman with 15 ORs² reached their objective and consolidated it, meeting several bombing attacks from both flanks. 24.00. A & B Coys less 1 platoon did not reach their objectives. UN-NAMED FARM occupied by C Coy after very heavy shelling. Casualties. Missing believed killed: Off - Lieut M.B. Grace, 2/Lieut C.S. Couchman; ORs - 28. Killed: Off - nil; ORs 2. Died of Wounds: Off - NIL; ORs 1. Wounded: Off - " 4 "; ORs 42." William will almost certainly have been one of those listed as 'Missing believed killed' given his body was not found.

The 1901 Census shows the family in Brewwood but by the 1911 Census they had moved to Church Eaton. The record shows that William was born at Bridgnorth, Shropshire and had 2 younger brothers, Charles and Thomas. His father is shown as a waggoner on a farm.

¹ Machine Gun

² Other Ranks

In Memory of
Signalman JOHN ALLEN BRERETON

2367472, 28 Wing Section, Royal Corps of Signals
who died aged 31 on 24 June 1944

Son of John Leonard and Alice Brereton; and
Husband of Mary Barbara Elizabeth Brereton of Church Eaton

Remembered with honour
SINGAPORE MEMORIAL



The Singapore Memorial bears the names of over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth land and air forces who have no known grave.

John was born in Bishops Castle, Shropshire on 15 March 1913, the descendant of a long line of Breretons in the Shropshire and Cheshire region. In the 1930s he moved to Staffordshire as a general labourer for public works. Here he met and married Mary Barbara Elizabeth Spencer in 1938. They then lived at Park Hall, Church Eaton. They had two daughters, Barbara born in 1939 and Mary in 1941.

Joining the Army at the beginning of the war John was posted to Singapore but was then sent around February 1942 as part of an allied force to support the Dutch force on Java. The British forces were predominantly anti-aircraft units and just one squadron of light tanks. Two British ant-aircraft regiments without guns were sent as infantry to defend airfields. The British also had transport and administrative units. On 1 March 1942 the Japanese landed at three points on the island with two divisions. The allied forces were quickly overwhelmed and surrendered on 8 March when John became a Prisoner of War (PoW) and was set to work in Batavia Camp as POW Number J-3391.

On 19 May 1944 he sailed from Java for Singapore with 771 prisoners (Java Part 20) on the Miyo Maru. Here the ship joined 11 other ships, including 4 escorts, to form convoy HO-02, also known as the

Bauxite Convoy because of its cargo, bound for Japan. The convoy sailed from Singapore on 3 June via the Philippines.

On 6 June the convoy was attacked by the USS Raton, a submarine, which sank one escort but was itself damaged and broke off the engagement. Sailing on the convoy arrived at Manila in the Philippines on 11 June. Here it was joined by the Tamahoko Maru laden with 7500 tons of copper ore before sailing on 14 June as a convoy of 6 ships. The next day the convoy ran into a typhoon and John's ship, the Miyo Maru was damaged. Once the convoy reached Taiwan (Takao) the PoWs from the Miyo Maru were transferred into two holds on the Tamahoko Maru. Convoy HO-02 the sailed from Taiwan, via Keeling on 21 June, for Japan. Besides the 772 POWs the Tamahoko Maru had 500 Japanese soldiers on board.

On 24 June at 1150 pm, 40 miles south west of Nagasaki, the convoy was attacked by three United States submarines, the Shark II, Tang and Tinoso. In this engagement the Tamahoko Maru was torpedoed by USS Tang and sank in less than 2 minutes. An escort picked up the Japanese survivors but left the PoWs in the water, to be picked up the next morning by a small whaling ship, which brought 212 survivors to Nagasaki. The other 560 prisoners, including John, were lost.

John's wife, Mary, remarried and died in 2009.

In Memory of
Private HERBERT BROOME

18828, 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
who died aged 18 on 25 September 1916

Son of Annie Broome of Eaton Green, Church Eaton
and the late Charles Broome

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, FRANCE



The Thiepval Memorial is just off the D151, close to the main crossroads with the D73 in the village of Thiepval. The Memorial bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave.

Battalion War Diary Extract. “Zero hour for the attack of the 6th Division fixed at 1235pm” (25 September 1916) “The Battalion leave their assembly trenches at 2.10pm and advance in artillery formation³ to the attack of the final objective, the high ground on top of the ridge between the villages of Morval and Les Boeuffs ... and follow in close support to the 2nd York & Lancaster Regt. All objectives captured by 3pm with little loss and the consolidation of the ground captured started. 2 platoons ... dig a forward line of posts ... 200 yards in front of the main position on the line Morval Mill. Communications established with the Guards Division on the left and later with ... the 5th Division on the right. ... Numerous eye-witnesses of the attack commented on the magnificent steadiness of the battalion as they advanced over the open to the attack. The night passed without incident.” Casualties are not recorded but it is likely that Herbert was killed during this action.

Herbert Broome was the eighth of eleven known children born to Charles and Annie Broome (née Gregory). His father's family was from Blymhill and Gnosall; his mother's from Derbyshire. Charles and Annie lived mostly in Church Eaton, however in 1911 they were living in Moreton at Dyke's Bank. Herbert is also named on plaques in St Lawrence Church and in Gnosall Memorial Village Hall.

³ The attackers advanced behind a creeping artillery barrage, a new tactic which was very effective.

In Memory of
Sergeant FRANCIS CHARLES BUCKLEY
1181515, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
who died aged 25 on 30 April 1946

Son of John and Mary Florence Buckley;
husband of Louisa Emily Buckley of Norbury

Remembered with honour
ST EDITHA'S CHURCHYARD, CHURCH EATON



Francis Charles Buckley Francis Charles Buckley was wounded in 1945 by shrapnel from the explosion of stored ordnance. Sent on demobilization leave, after 6 years serving in the Royal Air Force, he was taken ill at his home, Norbury Park and died in Staffordshire General Infirmary. According to an attached note in the register he was buried in his mother, Mary Florence's grave in the graveyard at Church Eaton (Plot EC42).

The Staffordshire Advertiser of May 11th 1946 reported "Funeral of Sergt. F. C. Buckley - the funeral took place at St. Editha's, Church Eaton, on Saturday, of Sergt. Francis Charles Buckley, R.A.F., whose death occurred in the Staffordshire General Infirmary. Twenty five years of age, he had served for six years in the R.A.F. and was wounded last year. He was spending his demobilization leave at his home, Norbury Park, near Gnosall when he was taken ill. He leaves a widow and one child."

The General Registry Office records show that he married Louise Emily Bailey in 1941.

His grandson, seeking more information, wrote in 2013 that he had some connection with the Lancaster bomber and possibly training.

In Memory of
Gunner GEORGE ALFRED WILLIAM DANBY

**805456, 231st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
who died aged 25 on 20 October 1918**

**Son of Thomas William and Mary Ann Danby
of Park Hall, Church Eaton**

**Remembered with honour
VADENCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY,
MAISSEMY, FRANCE**



Vadencourt British Cemetery was begun in August 1917, by fighting units, but when Alfred died it was used by the 5th, 47th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations as well as by Field Ambulances. His Medal Index Card shows that he died of wounds probably at one of the Clearing Stations.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission records show that he was a shoeing smith, a vital role when guns were horse drawn with typically 6 horses for an 18 pounder gun and limber with a second team of 6 horses drawing an ammunition wagon.

War Diary Extract. The unit's war diary for October 1918 records two dates the Wagon Lines were both in exposed positions and other ranks recorded being sent to hospital plus a multiple wounding on 19 October in the Wagon Lines when hospitalisation was more than likely:

* **4 October.** "Harassing fire carried out during the night 3rd/4th on Montbrehain. Counter preparation put down from S.O.S. lines with 5 lifts of a hundred yards. 2 minutes on each lift at 5.30am. ... We hold Ramicourt but enemy have retaken Montbrehain. ... Harassing fire carried out during the night. HQ Wagon Lines move forward ... 7 OR" (Other Rank) "wounded to hospital, 3 OR wounded remaining on duty."

* **10 October.** "Brigade moved up to positions E of Seboncourt, Bohain Rd ... The Wagon Lines are actually at the guns with each battery. Water for horses found E. of Fresnoy. 1 OR wounded to hospital.

* **19 October.** "C/231 Battery Wagon Lines receives a direct hit from a H.V." (High Velocity) "Gun killing 2 and wounding 18 OR." Given this is only the day before Alfred died it seems likely this was the incident in which he was wounded.

The Roll of Honour in St Editha's records just Danby A suggesting that he was known by his second name, Alfred. The 1901 Census also shows him as Alfred with an older and younger sister, Marie and Nellie. His father, at that time, was an agricultural labourer.

In Memory of

Private GEORGE DAVIES

**41873, 11th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment
who died aged 18 on 12 May 1918**

**Son of Joseph and Sarah Jane Davies
of Swan Cottage, Church Eaton**

**Remembered with honour
BOULOGNE EASTERN CEMETERY, FRANCE**



Boulogne, was one of the three base ports most extensively used by the Commonwealth armies on the Western Front throughout the First World War. Until June 1918, the dead from the hospitals at Boulogne itself were buried in the Cimetiere de L'Est, one of the town cemeteries, the Commonwealth graves forming a long, narrow strip along the right hand edge of the cemetery.

From the War Diaries. While resting in the Monchy-Breton area 11th Battalion's brigade received large numbers of reinforcements, mainly under the age of 19, George possibly being one of these. The bombardment for the second phase of the German spring offensive opened on 7 April, and by 11 April the Brigade had been called forward in ex-London buses to form a defensive line near Estaires through which retreating troops could withdraw. Next day the Germans threw in all their reserves to try to take Hazebrouck. After both flanks were again left exposed. 10th and 11th Bns were forced to retire across watercourses and hedges, pursued by the enemy (and subject to aerial activity, shelling and gas) until they reached a railway embankment at Méteren which was held until 14 May. From 9 to 14 May the Battalion was in reserve in the Meteren Sector with billets at Thieushouck doing salvage work by day and working on the Reserve Line. At some point in one of the above actions it appears George was wounded and died in one of the Boulogne hospitals.

Obituary. The Staffordshire Advertiser printed the following article, “Mr and Mrs Joseph Davies, of Church Eaton, have lost their only son, Pte George Davies, who died a few days ago at a hospital at Boulogne from wounds received in action. Pte Davies joined the Army in July 1917, when he had just turned 18 years, and went out to France on April 3 of the present year, where he was transferred from the West Yorks to the East Yorks. He was formerly employed in the gardens at Little Onn Hall and was a keen member of the Stafford Volunteer Company for two years before joining the Army. He was present on the occasion of the inspection of the company by General French. Mr and Mrs Davies were permitted to travel to Boulogne to see their son. They speak very highly of the care and attention they received at all stages of their journey. They were rewarded with a sight of their son, who appeared very cheery. They remained with him for two hours, and then went to their lodgings at the Hostel near by. During the night they were hastily summoned but he was dead before they got to the bedside. The parents remained for the funeral on Tuesday, at which the Rev F B Corfield, vicar of Church Eaton (who is acting as a chaplain in France) was present.”

Born in Church Eaton, the 1911 Census shows the 11 year old George at Little Onn with his parents and 4 year old sister, Mabel. His father is recorded as a domestic gardener. The 1901 Census also shows that George had a brother, Arthur, who was 3 years older.

In Memory of
Private THOMAS HENRY EVERALL

203103, 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
who died aged 31 on 25 April 1918

Son of William and Sarah Everall
of Church Eaton

Remembered with honour
ST SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, FRANCE



St Sever Cemetery Extension is located within a large communal cemetery situated on the eastern edge of the southern Rouen suburbs of Le Grand Quevilly and Le Petit Quevilly. During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen.

Formerly of the Northumberland Fusiliers (No 23156) and then the Royal Field Artillery (No 144912), Thomas was transferred to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Battalion Diary Extracts. Although Thomas died in a hospital the cause is not clear although the war diary extracts below give an indication of his experiences in the days before.

* **10 April.** "... 5.30am: Operation Order received for the Battalion to move by bus. 9am: Battalion left Ontario Camp and embussed on the Reninghelst – Cuderdom main road ... Owing to the advance of the enemy the Battalion debussed about 1 mile West of Neuve Eglise and encamped in adjacent fields. The Battalion formed a line of outposts in the immediate vicinity. Several German stragglers were brought in. ... Orders were received for the Battalion to be ready to move at half an hour's notice."

* **11 April.** "11.30am - Battalion ordered to proceed and hold the Army Line on the left of Neuve Eglise. Battalion moved off at about 1.30pm. ... Patrol report reads as follows, 'I took a patrol of 1 Platoon through Wulverghem village. I found at North Midland Farm ... advanced Brigade Headquarters of the 108th Brigade, 36th Division. The Lieut Colonel Commanding informs me that ... some Worcesters and a Royal Engineer Company were on their right. He knew nothing about our Brigade. They are falling back from Messines. ... I saw no troops on our left and our flank is apparently in the air. I met between 200 and 300 Wilts, Cheshires, Staffords and Shropshires, 25th Division ... all falling back. There is also a Machine Gun Company at Wulverghem. The Divisional Bombing Officer of the 19th Division also at Wulverghem but knows nothing of his Division. ... Situation quiet.' ... About 6.30pm the 2nd Worcesters arrived and took over a portion of the line across the Neuve Eglise – Kortepyp Road.

The Battalion sideslipped to the left ... and dug in on a line about 100 yards in advance of the prepared Army Line.

* **12 April.** "Line held by Battalion persistently shelled. A few casualties were sustained. Germans observed to be massing troops on the right of the Brigade Sector. 4.40pm – The enemy opened an intense bombardment and he was seen to be attacking under cover of his barrage on the right of the Brigade front. This attack was driven off by rifle and machine gun fire. During this attack the whole of the Battalion Sector was heavily shelled. ... About 9.30pm the enemy attacked under cover of darkness using machine gun and rifle fire only. W & Z Companies and 1/4th (H) Y&L Regt" (1/4th Hallamshire Battalion, York & Lancaster Regt) "on the left were driven into the Army Line."

* **13 April.** "7am – The enemy entered the right of the village of Neuve Eglise up the Nieppe Road. Headquarters Company and support Companies with the 1/4th (H) Y&L Regt and Worcesters Supports attacked and cleared the village. 17 prisoners were captured by this Battalion. ... 5pm – W & Z Companies reported that the enemy was attacking strongly and ... was slowly being driven back. X Company in Support were ordered to counter-attack ... the enemy being driven back a distance of 170 yards. At about 8pm the enemy was seen to be again in the village on the right in the neighbourhood of the square. ... Battalion Headquarters Details took up position on the railway embankment about 150 yards North of Neuve Eglise with Y&L on the left and formed a defensive flank on the right.

* **14 April.** "... B Echelon arrived at noon and dug in in support of details holding defensive flank. 10am – The enemy attacked the front line Companies and penetrated the line on both flanks. They then made ground up the trench by bombing. An attempt was made to stop their further progress but sufficient bombs were not available. ... Heavy shelling throughout the day shell positions behind Neuve Eglise. One shell penetrated the house adjoining Battalion Headquarters killing Capt J C Burrows and wounding the Regimental Sergt Major. ... At about 3pm the enemy attacked on both sides of Neuve Eglise after a Light Trench Mortar bombardment and penetrated the line on both flanks. Headquarters Company & Z Company formed a defensive flank and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. ... At about 6pm when almost surrounded by the enemy they withdrew to a position about 500 yards in the rear."

* **15 April.** "Early on the morning of the 15th the Battalion was relieved by the Notts & Derbys and marched to NE of Kemmel Hill to reorganise and rest. Battalion ordered to take over Kemmel Defences from the XXII Corps Mounted Regiment, and preliminary reconnaissances of positions completed for taking" over "at 4am on the 16th."

* **16 April.** "1230am – Orders were received to proceed to Brigade Assembly Point on the Locre – Bailleul Road South of Locre Chateau so as to be in a position for counter-attack. Battalion arrived opposite Locre Chateau at 3am ... About 1030am the Battalion took up position in line of posts from South of Locre Chateau stretching from Locre – Bailleul Road for about 800 yards to the West. Z Company dug in on a line of 150 yards behind the left of the posts as Battalion Reserve. ..."

* **17 April.** "The Battalion remained in the above position. Orders were received in the afternoon to take over from portions of the 100th Infantry Brigade in a line of posts on a 500 yards front North of Keersebrom. ... The Battalion was in position at 1130pm. Immediately after taking over the Brigade Major of the 88th Infantry Brigade stated that the 2 right companies were in positions allotted to his Brigade. As a result ... Y and Z Companies were withdrawn from front positions and dug in on a line in rear of X Company; finally completed at 3.30am. ..."

* **18 April.** "The day was quiet except for intermittent shelling. One incendiary shell fell on to the Battalion HQ and Hill Farm was burnt to the ground. No lives were lost. At night Y Company took over forward position from Right Company of 1/4th (H) Y&L Regt and Z Company moved up in support. Total front then covered was about 500 yards.

* **19 April.** "Very little enemy movement was seen, the principle incident being the shelling of the front line posts by enemy field gun which had been brought up into position about 500 yards from our posts. Casualties 3 killed and 15 wounded in W Company by fire from this gun. The Battalion was relieved ... and withdrew to bivouac North West of Westoutre near Hooggraaf."

Thomas was born in 1886 in Lilleshall, Shropshire. The 1891 Census shows his family living in Church Eaton with his father described as an agricultural labourer. In 1901 both the 14 year old Thomas and his father are described as waggoners on a farm and this has not changed by 1911. The Census returns show that he had 2 younger brothers, Francis William and Charles John, and 4 younger sisters, Martha, Jessie, Edith and Lilian Kate.

In Memory of

Private ARTHUR CECIL GARNER

**306119, 1st/7th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment
who died aged 21 on 16 August 1918**

**Son of Thomas and Lucy Helen Garner
of Goosemoor, Church Eaton
and late of Warwick**

**Remembered with honour
BARENTHAL MILITARY CEMETERY, ITALY**



The Italians entered the war on the Allied side in May 1915 when they declared war on Austria. In March 1918, XIV Corps (the 7th, 23rd and 48th Divisions) relieved Italian troops on the front line between Asiago and Canove, the front being held by two divisions with one division in reserve on the plain. Barenthal Military Cemetery is one of five Commonwealth cemeteries on the Asiago Plateau containing burials relating to this period. It contains 125 First World War burials.

The 1st/7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment was a unit of the Territorial Force with its drill hall in Coventry. They served with the Warwickshire Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division. Mobilised for war service on 5 August 1914 and, after training, arrived in France on the 22 March 1915. In 1916 They were in action in the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on 1 July in assaulting the Quadrilateral (Heidenkopf). They were also in action at The Battle of Bazentin Ridge, capturing Ovillers, The Battle of Pozieres Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights and The Battle of the Ancre. In 1917 the Division occupied Peronne during The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and were in action in the Third Battles of Ypres. On 21 November 1917 they entrained for Italy and were involved in the fighting on the Asiago Plateau from 15-16 June. Around the time of Arthur's death in August 1918 the 1st/7th Royal Warwicks were engaged in a series of raids on the Austrian trenches in the Gaiga area, west of Asiago. Arthur, who is recorded as being killed in action, may have died in one of these raids.

The 1911 Census shows the Garner family in Handsworth, Staffordshire. The 14 year old Arthur's father, William, is shown as a traction engine driver. The record shows that although both parents are shown as being born in Staffordshire all the children were born in Warwick. At the time Arthur is has one recorded older brother at home, William A, aged 18 and six younger siblings, Frank Lewis (12), Edgar Stanley (10), Walter Thomas (8), Charles Henry (6), Elsie (4) and Ada Ethel (2). By 1918 the family had moved to Goosemoor.

In Memory of
Flight Lieutenant SYDNEY DONALD HARRISON

151136, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
who died aged 21 on 7 September 1944

Son of Donald and Minnie Harrison
of Oxford

Remembered with honour
ST EDITHA's CHURCHYARD, CHURCH EATON



Sydney⁴ was killed on 7 September 1944 when his aeroplane crashed during pilot training. The accident report states that F/Lt Harrison (instructor) and P/O Cheale (Air Training Corps) took off for a night flying test from RAF Wheaton Aston in an Oxford I, LX509 of No 21 (Pilot) Advanced Flying Unit but the aircraft was seen to dive into the ground shortly afterwards, instantly killing both occupants. The crash location is given as being close to RAF Cosford (Grid OS765036 just south of Hatton Grange). The investigation does not state the cause of the accident.

Sydney enlisted between June 1940 and February 1941 and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in February 1943. The Times of 27 September 1944 recorded that he was killed on active service, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Harrison of Two Trees, Hernes Road, Oxford and grandson of Mr and Mrs T E Clarkson of The Villa, Rancliffe near Goole.

He is buried in St Edith's churchyard in Plot DH12.

⁴ Photo – Martin J Whiteley, www.findagrave.com.

In Memory of
Private WILLIAM CHARLES HODSON
9674, 8th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment
who died aged 44 on 27 September 1916
Husband of Edith Mary Hodson
of Church Eaton
Remembered with honour
ST EDITHA'S CHURCHYARD, CHURCH EATON



William Charles Hodson was born in 1872 in Woodseaves the son of William and Mary Ann Hodson. The 1891 census shows him still at home but come 1901 he is not shown, having enlisted for the 2nd Boer War (1899-1902) on 9 February 1901 into the Imperial Yeomanry. He was described as being 5 feet 5¼ inches tall, 9 stone 5 pounds, 35 inch chest, of fair complexion with grey eyes and mousey hair. He joined the 6th Company, 4th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry and with just 32 days training he moved to South Africa, landing on 13 March 1901 and served until 11 August 1902. Returning home he was discharged on 18 August 1902, his discharge certificate describing his conduct as Very Good.

On the 4 October 1905 he married Edith Mary Potham at Tettenhall Parish Church and as a result of the union they had 5 children William Richard Henry Hodson (1906 - 1973) Charles Thomas Hodson, (1907) Edward Walter Hodson (1908 - 1981), Agnes Ann Hodson (1910 - 1942) and Minnie Elizabeth Hodson (1914 - 1987). Like his father, William was a farmer.

On the outbreak of WW1, although 41 and not obliged to serve, William decided to enlist for a second time, this time with the South Staffordshire Regiment. He started his training with the 4th Battalion in Jersey, before being posted to the 8th. Put on the Special Reserve on 22 August 1914 he was called up and rejoined the 8th Battalion on 21 January 1916. By 29 April 1916 he was suffering with sciatica and chronic bronchitis due to exposure in the trenches to wet and cold weather. Considered to have Total Incapacity Permanently he was discharged on 10 August 1916 from the 11th South Staffords, awarded the British War, Victory Medal and Services Rendered Badge and received a pension. He died at Dolphin House just 7 weeks later on 27 September 1916 of oedema and cardiac failure.⁵

His wife, Edith, died on 10 February 1972 and is buried along with William at St Editha's (Grave EJ6).

⁵ Biography taken from one researched by Jeffrey Elson, former head of research at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum.

In Memory of

Private FREDERICK HOLLAND

**27566, 1st Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
who died aged 24 on 3 October 1918**

**Son of Herbert and Mary Holland
of Wood Eaton**

**Remembered with honour
LEVERGIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY, FRANCE**



Levergies is a village in the north-western sector of the Department of the Aisne, 10 kilometres north of St Quentin. It was captured by the 32nd Division on 30th September 1918 and holds the graves of those who fell on the 3 and 4 October 1918.

Frederick enlisted into the 6th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment (No 6619) but was transferred to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The Memorial Board records him as a North Stafford.

Battalion War Diary Extract.

* **2 October.** "Advance of the 9th Corps & French Corps continued. Battalion task to prevent any gap between the left division & the French on the right. ... About 6.30pm the troops of the left division holding Sequehart were heavily counter attacked & forced to withdraw to a line on the W side of the village. The line held by the Battalion was heavily shelled during the counter attack & some 50 casualties were sustained."

* **3 October.** "Previous day's operations were continued at ZERO 6.35am, companies moving forward in same formation & orders. About 7.45am the enemy, about 250 strong accompanied by light machine guns, advanced from Carise Wood. Under cover of heavy machine gun fire attempted to work round the village of Sequehart from the South. The troops of the left division in Sequehart withdrew. C, D & A Companies formed a defensive flank on the high ground in H35b, met the enemy and repulsed him at the point of the bayonet. The general advance not being continued, the companies reorganised & took up the positions held before ZERO. The Battalion was relieved during the night by 1st The Black Watch &

moved to the Canal Tunnel in Fleche Wood. Casualties during the period 1st – 3rd (inclusive) approximately 8 officers & 200 Other Ranks.”

Frederick is recorded as having been killed in action.

The 1901 Census shows Frederick aged 10 with his parents Herbert, a Groom of Entire Horses⁶, and Mary. He also has 7 siblings - Herbert (14), William (13), George (11), Flossie (6), Gladys (3), Dorothy (1) and an infant brother which the 1911 Census shows with the name Harold when Herbert is shown as a Stud Groom. Frederick is shown as being born in Gnosall, where he was baptised on 8 May 1891, and is no longer at home for the 1911 Census being found, still single, working as a cowman at Sheriff Hales in Shropshire on the Duke of Sutherland's estate.

⁶ Entire horses are stallions, entire because they have not been castrated.

In Memory of
Private FRED HUFFADINE

30488, 5th Company, 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment
who died aged 25 on 23 October 1918

Son of Henry and Sarah Huffadine of Bromstead, Newport
and husband of Frances Huffadine of Edgmond, Newport

Remembered with honour at
VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL, FRANCE



Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the main road from Arras to Cambrai about 10 kilometres south-east of Arras. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery and bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave.

Battalion War Diary Extract. On 23 October 1918 the War Diary shows the 1st Battalion was in the Bethecourt area. At 1800 the evening before it had moved into a support position and dug in. Overnight they were subjected to slight shelling resulting in the Chaplain being killed but with no record of any other casualties. During this period the Battalion took over a line from the Cheshire Regiment who withdrew to rest after heavy casualties. At 0900 on the morning of 23 October the Battalion advanced in artillery formation taking up a position north-east of the village of Beaurain. On the arrival of 112 Brigade at Beaurain the Battalion withdrew to billets at Caudry. Fred's record card shows that he was killed in action although the War Diary does not mention any other casualties.

The Census records of 1901 and 1911 show that Fred was born circa 1893 at Sutton Hill, Shropshire. His parents were Henry Huffadine, a Traction Engine driver on farm, born in 1858 approx and Sarah Ann Huffadine, born circa 1859. He also had a number of brothers: Harry 16 in 1901; Arthur, 20 in 1911 and a farm labourer; Bertie Huffadine, 14 in 1911 and also a farm labourer. In 1911 Fred himself was aged 18 and a farm labourer like his brothers.

In 1915 Fred married Frances Johnson who, at the time of his death, lived at High Onn and then later at 6 Turners Lane, Edgmond, Newport. They had one son, Arthur Henry, who was born on 16 March 1916, baptised in Church Eaton and died in January 1999.

In Memory of

Private WILLIAM JAMES

**23046, B Company, 7th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment
who died aged 31 on 25 January 1917⁷**

**Husband of Margaret Mold James
of Little Onn⁸**

**Remembered with honour
BASRA MEMORIAL, IRAQ**



The Basra Memorial commemorates more than 40,500 members of the Commonwealth forces who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from the Autumn of 1914 to the end of August 1921 and whose graves are not known.

The Hai River, is an ancient canal in Iraq that connects the Tigris at Kut al Amara with the Euphrates east of Nasiriyah. As a Turkish position lay along the canal, it was one of the objectives of intense military action during the First World War. The 7th Battalion was part of the force sent to relieve the besieged garrison at Kut.

William's service record shows that, living at Little Onn, he enlisted into the North Staffordshire Regiment at Stafford on 25 February 1916. On 4 September that year he embarked at Devonport for Mesopotamia, landing at Basra in modern day Iraq on the 28th. He finally joined the 7th Battalion at Amara on 10 October 1916. On 25 January 1917 he was reported missing in the field.

The 7th Battalion War Diary entry for 25 January reads as follows. "The Battalion took part in an assault on East Bank of the HAI. The assault was delivered at 9.45am (after an intense artillery bombardment and behind their barrage) in four waves by A, B & C Coys in column of platoons at 50 yards distance,

⁷ The Memorial states that William (WJ) died Jan 1916 but the only WJ death recorded by CWGC for either Staffs Regiment is on date shown with no WW1 WJ deaths at all in Jan 1916. Service Record shows death as above.

⁸ Presumed Little Onn address as his enlisted address was there and he is on the Memorial Plaque at St Editha's.

but no interval between companies. Order of companies from E to W was C, B and A. D Coy was retained in reserve finding 2 platoons to dig communications trenches if the assault was successful. Lewis Gunners & Bombers were sent behind the first wave in order to assist in consolidating. The assault was partially successful; the right coy having but little difficulty, while the left was held up by machine gun fire and compelled to close in onto the right. At 11am the enemy counterattacked using bombers freely, and although A Coy was practically isolated and partly driven back, and although the battalion of the right flank of the North Staffs Regt gave way, B & C Coys held their ground for some considerable time until the Royal Warwicks came up in support and the line was regained. From that time until 4pm with only one officer, 2nd Lieut McDowell left, A, B & C Coys held what ground they could until overwhelmed by enemy bombers; they with the other battalions finally evacuated the line and fell back to the position from which the assault had been delivered." ... "Casualties were: Officers: Killed 2, Missing 1, Died of Wounds 1, Wounded 4, Total 8." ... "Other Ranks: Killed 55, Wounded 163, Missing 46, Total 264. After 4pm the Battalion continued defending our front line until relieved by the 36th Bde, 14th Division about midnight."

With B Company moving forward in attack and then withdrawing on more than one occasion it is easy to see how readily William could have been killed or disabled without this being noticed at the time.

His family then lived in limbo not knowing what had happened to him. This led to his wife, Margaret, writing to the War Office from her father-in-law's Wistonstow home the following letter in September 1917, "Dear Sir, Will you kindly give me some information regarding Pte W James No 23046, 7 Batt of North Staffords Regt B Company Mesopotamia reported missing since Jan 25th as we are very anxious about him. Is there any hope that he is taken prisoner. Kindly let me know as early as possible." Finally his service record shows that William's death was accepted 'for official purposes' on 31 December 1917.

The 1911 Census shows William, aged 23, living at Marsh Cottage, Wistanstow in Shropshire where he had been born, working as a waggoner. His parents were Samuel, a farm labourer, and Mary. This and the 1891 and 1901 Census returns show that he had an older brother Job (born circa 1879); three sisters Lucy (born circa 1882), Rosannah (born circa 1884), and Clara (born circa 1887); and a younger sister, Florence (born circa 1893).

On 22 February 1912 William married Margaret Mold Sudlow at Ebenezer Chapel, Hopes Gate, Shropshire. Their first child, Elsie, had been born in September 1911, with two others to follow, Alec in November 1912 and Eva Mary in October 1914.

In Memory of
Major CYRIL ARTHUR OSBORNE
106455, Army Educational Corps
who died aged 31 on 23 June 1946

**Son of Morley Winter Osbourne and Daisy Osbourne
of Church Eaton**

Remembered with honour
FAYID WAR CEMETERY, EGYPT



Fayid is a small town, 20 kilometres south of Ismailia on the western shore of the Great Bitter Lake, which is at the mid point of the Suez Canal. The cemetery is on the south side of the town, approximately 4 kilometres from its centre and on a connecting road between the lakeshore and the main Ismailia - Suez road. The cemetery was opened in June 1941 (as Geneifa New War Cemetery) for war burials from the numerous military hospitals in the area. It was planned by the military authorities for ultimate use as a garrison cemetery and was so used until Commonwealth forces finally withdrew from Egypt, the last burials being made in 1955.

The end of the Second World War found Cyril in Egypt. Near then end of his tour he was killed when his jeep drove over a land-mine on 23 June 1946.⁹

Cyril was baptised at St Editha's on 30 May 1915. Although buried in Egypt he is also commemorated in St Editha's graveyard (Plot EH30) on the grave of his parents and others of his family.

⁹ Information provided by John Hitchens, Apeton.

In Memory of
RICHARD SEDGLEY

**Security Guard in Iraq, formerly Grenadier Guards,
who died aged 32 on 8 October 2006**

**Son of Richard and Hilary Sedgley
of Church Eaton**

Remembered with honour
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, LOPPINGTON



Richard served in Iraq as a Guardsman in the Grenadier Guards. On retiring he returned to Iraq as a Security Guard working for the Olive Group providing security for international reconstruction workers rebuilding facilities in the war torn country. On 8 October 2006, whilst travelling near Dhi Gar, his vehicle was hit by a roadside improvised explosive device killing him almost instantly.

The inquest recorded that Richard was team leader at the front of a convoy of three Mamba armoured vehicles, each armed with a roof-mounted gun, returning from Basra Airport. The bomb was detonated 50 miles south of Camp Cedar between Basra and Baghdad. Richard was killed by shrapnel piercing the armour plating and reinforced windows. One other member of the team was wounded.

At the time of his death he lived in Loppington, Shropshire and he is buried there at St Michael and All Angels Church.

In Memory of
Private JOHN SHUTT
18613, 8th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment
who died aged 28 on 6 July 1916

Son of William and Sarah Ann Shutt
of Wood Eaton

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, FRANCE



The Thiepval Memorial bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. John Shutt was one.

The first day on the Somme, 1 July 1916, was the beginning of the Battle of Albert (1-13 July), the name given by the British to the first two weeks of the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme (1 July-18 November) in the First World War. John was wounded and then died sometime in the period 3 to 6 July.

Battalion War Diary Extract.

* **1 July.** "The "great offensive", so long looked forward to, began at 7.30am; but in Tylers Redoubt at Millencourt we could see nothing & heard practically nothing. An examination of the "fighting order" as carried by this Bn ... showed that the men in the ranks carried 69 lbs at the very least! ... The Bn went into action roughly 790 strong, composed as follows ... 4 Coys 640, L Gunners 56, Bombers 34, Runners 36, Signallers 16, Police 8.

The Bn moved from the Corps Reserve Line ... to the Intermediate Line about Albert The 57th Bde ... waited here till 5pm, then moved up to the Tara Usna line in front of La Boisselle. At 8pm orders were received to advance to the front line & bomb out La Boisselle, starting the attack at 1030 pm. Bn was fallen in & all the Bombers collected at the head. Unfortunately no guide was obtainable to guide us up to the front line till 9.30 pm. We then started up the one communication trench which was found to be blocked with wounded & odd men, chiefly from the Tyneside Scottish & others of the 34th Div who had made an attack in the morning. As a result of this our bombers did not get up till 12 midnight & the 10th Worcesters, who were going to help us in in this attack were in the same plight. The 3 coys that were

following ... did not arrive till 4.30 am. As a result of this we did not attack because it was broad daylight then & we were meant to attack in the dark. This was duly reported to 57th Bde who approved of the action taken. ...

* **2 July.** Prepared to attack La Boisselle that night, 58th Bde being on our right, attacking it in the afternoon. Started up the CT¹⁰ at 1115pm which was supposed to have been cleared of all troops but met several stretcher cases which caused delay & finally got whole Bn up by 4am. ...

* **3 July.** The last two coys got a bit mixed up coming out of the CT & some of the 8th Gloucesters got mixed up with us, they were following immediately behind us. Even this time the whole scheme was too hurried, no time to explain to the men what was required of them. The first party to go over was one platoon of D Coy ... They went over about 4.5am (sic) & seized the crater in front of the La Boisselle salient. ... The Bn swept up the village & trenches fairly easily at first, up to a point about $\frac{3}{4}$ way up. Having reached this far the bomb supply began to run out, although Bn HQ men formed a carrying party. ... So a local counter-attack by the enemy succeeded in driving us back to a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ way up the village. Just when this withdrawal was taking place, at about 6am the CO ... and” B Coy commander “were killed by enemy snipers; who were plentiful & claimed many officers. At this point many officers had been killed or wounded & the Bns were mixed up in the line (it was afterwards found that about 150 men had been fighting in a party well away to the right flank) two complete coys of the Warwicks were sent, one up each flank. These succeeded in turning the enemy flanks & a combined attack by the whole line drove the enemy back ... about 8am. By this time a satisfactory system of carrying parties was working, taking bombs & ammunition from the Bde Dump in the front lines to the S end of the village; & from that dump up to the firing line. More men also began to come in from the isolated parties that had been fighting on their own & from the “mopping up” parties, clearing the dug-outs etc behind us; & an advance was made to well beyond the CT leading to Ovillers. A block was established in this trench as we passed. The advance was continued but a counter-attack on our left unfortunately succeeded in forcing this block &, as a result of this & more men arriving to reinforce the enemy, the whole line fell back & finally consolidated about $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the village. This was done approximately 12 noon & we held that line till relieved at 6am. During this fighting great difficulty was experienced in getting enough full drums to keep the Lewis Guns going. An equipment issued just before going into action, & was tested & found useless. The idea was good but the workmanship was very bad, the stitching & riveting giving way at the first strain. ...

* **4 July.** On relief by 56th Bde moved back to the old British front line & stayed during the day & night. It rained heavily during the early afternoon making the trenches a quagmire & again during the evening. ...

* **5 July.** 7.15 am - Moved back to the Tara-Usna Line, stayed there that day, moved into billets in Albert in the evening at 8pm. Losses in this action Officers 12, Other Ranks 272.” These losses are enumerated as 4 officers killed and 8 wounded and “Other Ranks: Killed 28, Wounded 210, Missing 34.

* **6 & 7 July.** Stayed in billets & started to re-organise the Bn.” ... “A few of the missing men rejoined us, who were missing in the beginning, they having been cut off rejoined other Bns.” It seems likely that John was one of the 34 Other Ranks listed as missing above.

John’s service record states that he was a labourer living at Wood Eaton at the time he enlisted on 18 August 1915 into the North Staffordshire Regiment. At the time he was described as being 26 years and 3 months old, 5 feet 5 inches tall with a 39½ inch expanded chest and weighing 144 pounds. Arriving in the field on 20 April 1916 he is recorded as being wounded in action on in the period 3 to 6 July. An entry on 20 August 1916 gives him as ‘Wounded and missing’ before a further note on 10 February 1917, ‘Died of wounds & buried by 34th Division.’

The Census records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 show that John was born in Bradely, his baptism being on 7 July 1889 at St Editha’s. The Census also shows that his father was a Herdsman / Stockman and that he had 3 older siblings (Elizabeth 9, William 6 and Annie R 4 in 1889 – John was 1 then) and one younger (Beatrice 8 in 1901 when John was 11). Although his formal name was John the 1901 Census shows him as Jack which may have been his familiar name. His brother William also served in France.

¹⁰ CT – Communication Trench.

In Memory of

Private ALEXANDER WALTERS

**28156, 12th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment
who died aged 19 on 19 December 1916**

**Son of Jane Walters & Grandson of Alfred D Walters
of Church Eaton**

**Remembered with honour
DANTZIG ALLEY, MAMETZ, FRANCE**



The village of Mametz was carried by the 7th Division on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, after very hard fighting at Dantzig Alley (a German trench) and other points. The cemetery was begun later in the same month and was used by field ambulances and fighting units until the following November.

12th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment was formed as 12th (Labour) Battalion in June 1916 and went to France before becoming part of the Fifth Army Troops.

Battalion War Diary Extract.

* **2 - 4 October.** "Battalion concentrates at Rouen; departs for Albert, III Corps, Fourth Army 4 October 1916."

* **5 October.** "Battalion arrives Albert and attached to chief Engineer for Roadmaking etc round Fricourt Farm, Pozieres, Contalmaison, Bottom Wood, High Wood, La Boisselle, Albert."

* **19 December.** "Casualty: No. 28156, Pte Walters A, C Company killed Bottom Wood."

Alexander was born in Church Eaton and baptised at St Editha's on 16 May 1897, the son of Jane Walters. No father is mentioned and he appears to have been born out of wedlock. Census returns show him in 1901 at the home of his grandfather, Alfred D Walters of Wolverhampton Road, Church Eaton. Alfred is described as a widowed, general agricultural labourer. Living in the same household is Jane Fowler, Alfred's now married daughter, with her husband James and her other children. In the 1911 Census James Fowler and family have moved to Bradley with the 14 year old Alexander, whose relationship to him is described as servant with the occupation of farm boy.

In Memory of

Sergeant WILLIAM ALFRED GEORGE
Flight Sergeant FRANCIS CHARLES HAGLUND
Warrant Officer NEIL WILLOUGHBY HARNETT
Flying Officer BRUCE ALLAN HOGG
Flight Sergeant MATTHEW HENRY WALTON
Sergeant CRAFTON DUDLEY WONG

Who died in Vickers Wellington X LP729
which crashed at Church Eaton on 4 January 1945



On 4 January 1945 Vickers Wellington X LP729 of 10 Operational Training Unit was attempting to reach Wheaton Aston (Little Onn) airfield following starboard engine failure but crashed at Church Eaton. The rear gunner, Flight Sergeant J R Gammon was injured but the rest of the crew was killed.

It was lunchtime on the 4th January 1945. It was a cold grey winter's day. The sound of an aircraft was heard coming from the field at Little Onn. This in itself was not unusual as flights were taking off and landing all the time. The sound became a deafening roar as the great grey shape of Wellington bomber LP729 came hurtling towards the village. The plane clipped the top of the old oak and missed the houses in the High Street by feet. Out of control it dived into the ground just north of the settlement behind what is now known as Ashley Croft. The noise of the impact was massive. The front of the bomber burst into flames sending clouds of acrid smoke high into the air.

An hour before the Wellington had set off on a training flight from Abingdon airfield near Oxford and headed north. One of the two engines developed a fault and had to be shut down. The plane was fully loaded carrying an extra crewman, armaments and full tanks of fuel. This would have made the plane difficult to handle especially if the pilot was inexperienced. The decision was taken to make an emergency landing at Little Onn airfield. This was standard practice and during the conflict many aircraft put down there in similar circumstances. The bomber came in, making its approach from the south but overshot the runway. The pilot opened up the throttle and pulled back the stick. Agonisingly slowly they gained height and the plane headed north over Church Eaton to meet its fate.

Village policeman William Poole and local lad Jimmy Walklet ran from the village to the site of the crash. The tail of the plane was up in the air and not yet on fire. Through the damaged fuselage they could see the rear gunner was still alive but trapped. They tried to get to him but the opening was too

small and the heat of the fire drove them back. Undeterred a second attempt was made using a heavy greatcoat as a shield from the flames. The damaged area was opened up, the crewman was released, pulled free and dragged away from the burning wreck. This was bravery in the extreme as the whole lot could have gone up like a fireball at any moment.

The noise and plume of smoke brought people from all over the parish to the field at the back of Alleys Lane to see what had happened. The police cordoned off the immediate area because there was live ammunition and the possibility of bombs on board. John Hitchens ran down from Apeton and clearly remembers the pop, crack and whistle of the machine gun bullets exploding in the heat, going off like bangers on bonfire night. The village itself was so very lucky. In a similar crash later that year in Burton on Trent six people were killed including a small child.

Rear Gunner R J Gammon was injured but survived the crash. The other six crew were killed. The pilot and two others on board were from New Zealand, two of the crew were British and the final crewman was an 18 year old lad from Jamaica.

William Poole was awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. Jimmy Walklet who helped him was serving in the RAF and just happened to be on leave at the time. As far as we are aware he was given no award but just reported back for duty and served out the remainder of the war. He came back and lived in the local area for the rest of his life.

The above article was researched and written by Jeremy Jones from a number of sources but with particular contributions from John Hitchens and Ron Lippitt. The only assumptions made are the actions of the pilot between the time of the engine failure and the bomber reaching the village but they fit the facts well.

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Remembered with Honour

Those that died in the crash were:

Fl/Sgt. Francis Charles Haglund. Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Born on 9 November 1919 at Greymouth, South Island, New Zealand. Son of Charles Oscar and Christina Miller Haglund (née Thomson), of Cobden, Westland, New Zealand. A total of 309 flying hours logged with 47 solo on the Wellington.

W/O. Neil Willoughby Harnett. Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Prior to service he worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia. Son of William and Annie May Colbourne Harnett, of Twillingate, Newfoundland. Grave inscription: 'Father, Thy Will Be Done'.

Sgt. William Alfred George. Reading Cemetery (Henley Road). Son of Alfred Edwin and Annie George of Reading, Berkshire, England. Grave inscription: 'Treasured Memories of One We Loved. He Gave His Life That We Might Live'.

Fl/Sgt. Matthew Henry Walton. New Shildon Churchyard (All Saints), County Durham. Born on 9 September 1923 at Shildon, County Durham, England. Moved to New Zealand at an early age. Son of Matthew Walton and of Edith M. Walton (née Preston), of Northland, Wellington, New Zealand. A total of 214 flying hours logged.

Flying Officer Bruce Allan Hogg. Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Born on 19 October 1912 at Feilding. Son of Lewis Gordon Hogg and of Bessie Hogg (née Bruce), of Halcombe, Wellington, New Zealand. A total of 120 flying hours logged.

Sgt. Crafton Dudley Wong. Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Born on the 25th December 1925 in Kingston. Son of Charles Henry and Irene Catherine Wong (née Elliot), of Kingston, Jamaica. Grave inscription: 'In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Son and Brother of Kingston, Jamaica, British West Indies'.