

The Fallen

Biographies of the Old Boys and Staff
of Chichester High School for Boys who gave their lives
in World War II



Compiled by Colin Snook from an original idea by
Ian Walters

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*In memoriam sacram magistrorum alumnorumque fortium
nostrorum*

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IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF THOSE PAST MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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Foreword

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them **

A history is for all and for all times. This account of those from Chichester High School for Boys (The School) recorded on the School War Memorial attempts to set their brief lives in the context of the time and to pay tribute to their sacrifice. It has been prepared by a post-war generation that did not actively participate in World War II nor were they themselves destined to live through any global conflict. *The Fallen* were, therefore, largely of our parents' generation. Our childhoods were laced with fireside stories of tragedy and triumph, humour and humiliation, fortune and fatalism. Some of our old boys even have memories of the school playing fields being strafed by German planes and frequent visits to the air raid shelters.

My whole family joined the Royal Navy. The men served in the Home Fleet and the women were in the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service). They joined before the war, as many Old Cicestrians had, because they saw the inevitability of war, not as a matter of political choice but of national independence. All my family survived. My father gave up a career in heavy engineering to fiddle with RADAR (RADio Detection And Ranging) and wireless at sea. My mother gave up a tailoring career to push model ships round a map table. It is difficult for us now to appreciate the scale of the national effort and the changes in the lives of individuals involved in a global war. The Old Cicestrians of the time would have been in similar positions. Many joined the services before the declaration of war; many must have given up promising careers.

The School was founded in 1928 and thus, even those who joined at its inception would have barely had time to graduate before the outbreak of war in 1939. Seven of the original pupils (the 'originals') were lost as well as an English master who had been at the school at its foundation (an 'aborigine'). It was a selective grammar school and after a 1932 Act of Parliament admitted boys based only on ability. About half were fee-paying, while the remainder obtained bursaries from the County Council. The bursaries were available from the age of eleven, but fee-paying boys could be admitted as young as nine years old. Eight of *The Fallen* had started at the School younger than the scholarship boys. The school leaving age was fourteen and the average age at leaving of *The Fallen* was just over sixteen. Their futures probably looked quite bright. They were among a privileged minority who had received a decent education and many of those who gained employment before the outbreak of war were either in middle-class professions or the armed services.

Chichester was an administrative centre for Sussex and many school leavers joined the local authority in various roles. The expectation of a university education was extremely low. By 1950 only 3.4% of school leavers went on to University and this would have been even lower in the 1930s. There were fewer than twenty Universities in the UK at the time. Funding was through state or university scholarships covering both fees and maintenance but, nationally, only about half of university students were funded, the remainder requiring private means. Nevertheless, seven of *The Fallen* had gained places in university and another in a School of Art.

The course of the war itself has been well recorded. As far as we are concerned it can be divided geographically into three parts, Europe, North Africa and the Far East. Many (47%) of our old boys were lost in Europe but ten died away from the theatres of war, mainly during training. While casualties occurred throughout the seven years of war about a third were lost in 1944 as the allied air forces bombed mainland Europe and the armies advanced through Italy and France to Germany.

Of the four hundred and thirty Old Cicestrians known to have served in the forces during the war years, sixty-one are recorded on the School War Memorial. Thus, about fourteen per cent fell during the conflict. This is relatively high compared to modern experience. Our only recent combined operation against a conventional foe is the Falklands War of 1982 during which fewer than one per cent of UK combatants died. Again, it is difficult for our largely civilian generation to relate to the ones before that had experienced half-a-century or more of bloody conflict on the European mainland. Their presumed expectation of conflict and loss contrasts strongly with ours of relative peace and increasing wealth.

None of *The Fallen* reached high rank but several were involved in some of the iconic actions of the war, ranging from the sinking of the *Royal Oak* in Scapa Flow in 1939 (Ordinary Seaman Targett, aged only seventeen), the rear-guard action at Dunkirk in 1940 (Gunner Shield, aged twenty-one), through to the D-Day landings (Engine Room Artificer Boyce aged twenty-three who was lost with HMS *Lawford* which was the subject of one of the earliest known guided missile attacks). Their ages ranged from seventeen (Targett) to thirty-six (Pilot Officer Quick). Most of the other Old Cicestrians were in their twenties with an average age of just over twenty-two when they died.

Of our sixty-one records, thirty-five were in the RAF: twenty-three were pilots, the remainder being listed as aircrew (gunners, navigation officers and engineers). In addition, there were four pilots in the Fleet Air Arm. Two individuals were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Sub-Lieutenant Bailey flew a Fairey *Swordfish* in the attack on the Italian Fleet at Taranto before being lost later in operations in the Indian Ocean. Bryan Meaker, a reporter on the Chichester Observer and our only Battle of Britain pilot to be lost, died when he was hit by the tailplane of his *Hurricane* whilst bailing out over Sussex. At only twenty-one, he had successfully attacked at least five enemy aircraft.

Some thirty-three airmen died in the air in twenty different types of aircraft, mostly in bomber crews over Europe. There are poignant reminders of the vicissitudes of war. Pilot Officer Seward left his base on Loch Erne in Northern Ireland (which is now a campsite with the old officers' mess redeveloped as the Pilot's Nook Pub), flew his *Catalina* on his first mission along a then-secret corridor across the Republic of Ireland before crashing into a hillside in Co. Leitrim. Lieutenant Pilot Gahan** took off from HMS *Trumpeter* in a Grumman *Avenger* to attack a German anchorage in Norway. This proved to be the last allied air-raid of the European war but one from which his *Avenger* was not to return. Pilot Officer Brooke was lost returning home after what proved to be the last allied air raid on Berlin.

Twelve of the sixty-one records are of men who served in the land forces. Seven were in the Royal Artillery and one in each of the Royal Armoured Corps, the Royal Signal Corps, the Royal Engineers, the Indian Army and the Royal Army Medical Corps. A total of four died in North Africa, one in India and the remainder in Europe. Bombardier Payne was awarded the Military Medal. At twenty-three he was the oldest man in his unit when he died from shrapnel wounds at Monte Casino after having served through the campaign in North Africa. Gunner Shield and 2nd Lieutenant Ridings both fell during the early days of the war in the retreat to Dunkirk.

Eight of *The Fallen* joined the Royal Navy and one served in the Merchant Navy. Five went down with their ships after being torpedoed while the others were lost during surface actions. Coming from a naval background, I well remember the fireside tales of the national shock caused by the sinkings of the *Royal Oak* and the *Hood* in the early years of the war in both of which Old Cicestrians were represented. My grandfather served in HMS *Cricket*, a river gunboat in China that successfully returned to home waters in the decade before the war. In 1942, however, HMS *Grasshopper* was lost in the retreat from Singapore, running aground after being bombed and strafed. Commandeering a series of small vessels, the survivors, including Old Boy Engine Room Artificer Stubbs, managed to sail through the straits of Malacca and up the Indragiri River in Indonesia. They then embarked on a 170-mile trek to safety. Just short of their goal, however, they were taken prisoner. After suffering for two years in Japanese POW camps the survivors were

being transported in the *Harugika Maru* (a so-called ‘Hell ship’) when it was torpedoed by HMS *Truculent*. All survivors of the *Grasshopper* were lost.

Old Cicestrians fell in all major theatres of World War II. Many (28) died during the air and ground war in Europe, both during the withdrawal to Dunkirk and the eventual liberation of Western Europe. Some were lost at sea (11), either as a result of a sinking or not returning from an air-raid. Others perished in North Africa (4). A surprising number (10) died in the UK, largely because of training accidents. Four old Cicestrians died as prisoners of war. Two died of disease and the fate of Stubbs has been detailed above. Flight Officer Lewis was shot down during an attack on the *Scharnhorst* in 1941 and was captured. Two years later he escaped from Stalag Luft III in Poland only to die from injuries sustained when he was hit by a train.

Perhaps the saddest tale is of Lance Bombardier Colbourne who died as a result of a shooting accident in Germany after the war had ended. He had left for France with the British Expeditionary Force and survived being evacuated from Dunkirk. He then joined the North Africa Campaign before fighting his way through France, Belgium and Germany with the Northumberland Hussars. Added to this are Lance Corporal Harris who died after the end of hostilities in North Africa while mine clearing and Leading Aircraftsman Saxby who died whilst on leave in Bognor as a result of an air-raid.

We know the occupation of forty-three of these Old Cicestrians. Fourteen had administrative roles largely in local councils and a further eight joined the armed services before 1939 (one in the Royal Army Medical Corps, two in the Royal Navy and the remaining five in the RAF). Of the others, seven had gained places in Higher Education, a rarity at that time. Another was a dairyman and yet another a jockey. The careers of a journalist, a banker, a teacher and a librarian were all cut short. A special mention should be made of Pilot Officer Kenneth Quick who taught English at the School. He was posted to Basra in Iraq where he sadly contracted a fatal illness. At thirty-six he was the oldest Old Cicestrian to die in World War II. It is obvious from masters’ comments at the time that he was a well-liked teacher by pupils and staff alike.

A mystery surrounds R.J. Hotham. He is currently only known from enigmatic mentions in the school magazine (‘The Martlet’) in the 1930s. There was a boy entrant who died aged 16 aboard HMS *St. Vincent* of that name, but he died in 1938, i.e. before the war. Any information concerning his fate or why he might be included on a WWII memorial would be welcome, as would any further information about others mentioned on the War Memorial and whose careers are briefly chronicled in the following accounts.

Colin Snook has spent many months of painstaking research to produce this erudite text. His short biography is on page 135.

Professor Anthony Cook M.A., Ph.D., N.T.F.* (1957-1965)**

* From Laurence Binyon’s poem “For the Fallen”. September 1914.

** Sidney “Giddy” Gahan taught Latin at the School from the mid-1930s until the late 1960s. When news of his brother’s death came through the headmaster at assembly read it out as usual and he added that Mr Gahan would not be attending school that day. (Geoff Wills (1943-1952) clearly remembers the occasion).

*** The National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) celebrates and recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in Higher Education.



John Denys ALLEN RNVR

Born: 1923
Parents Florence May Allen of Chichester, Sussex
School Years 1934 - 1941
School Record Oxford School Certificate 1940 – Credits – Passed
'The Martlet' – Roll of Service Sub-Lieutenant – Fleet Air Arm,
Royal Navy – December 1943

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Temp. Sub Lieutenant
Service Number 47807
Service Record 822 Squadron – Pilot – Fleet Air Arm
Service Base HMS *Bambara* – Clappenburg Bay – Trincomalee – Ceylon
Date of Death 24 March 1944



Fairey "Barracuda" Torpedo Bomber

Old Boy John Denys **Allen** was posted to 822 Squadron at the Royal Naval shore base, HMS *Bambara*, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In 1944 he flew with his observer J.D Cleaver in a *Barracuda* Torpedo Bomber on sorties against Japanese occupied targets in the Dutch East Indies. He died of his injuries as the result of an accident on active service on 24 August 1944. He was laid to rest in Plot 18 - Row F – Grave 7 – Colombo (Liveramentu) Cemetery–Sri Lanka. He was twenty-one.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Ronald Arthur **BAILEY** D.S.C.

Date of Birth: 1920
Family Percival Henry and Miriam Bailey of Felpham, Sussex
School Years: 1934-1938 St Richards House
School Record Oxford School Certificate passed with Credits
Exemption from London Matriculation
Form Prize Winner – 1936, 1937 & 1938
'The Martlet' – Roll of Service -December 1939
Occupation In business with his brother in the building trade – 1938

Armed Forces Record

Service record Midshipman (A) RN 1939
Sub Lieutenant (A) March 1939
Service base HMS *Illustrious*, 815 Squadron – Fleet Air Arm
Date of Death 26 June 1942



“Strike Deep”



Fairey Swordfish– ‘The Flying Stringbag’

Operation ‘Judgement’ - Strike on the Italian Fleet at Taranto

Background to the Raid.

Between 1935 and 1940 three plans had been drawn up on how to attack the Italian fleet at Taranto. Italy declared war in June 1940 and plan three was then resurrected. It was thought imperative that the Italian Fleet’s strength be reduced before their German allies could reinforce them.

Strategically Taranto lies in the ‘instep’ of Italy, its two harbours with direct access to the Mediterranean. The Regina Marina’s two harbours at Taranto were home to the massive Italian Fleet which outnumbered the Royal Navy’s Mediterranean counterpart. However, it lacked aircraft carriers, radar and had scarce knowledge of torpedo bombing. Its torpedo nets were not deep enough.

The Attack – 11th November 1940

The ‘Attack on Taranto’ was to become history's first-ever aerial sea-born raid against an enemy fleet in harbour and the Fleet Air Arm’s ‘finest hour’. Twenty-one Fairey *Swordfish* aircraft, half loaded with torpedoes and the rest with bombs plus flares had been assembled on the carrier HMS *Illustrious* in the Mediterranean. This aircraft’s design enabled it to pack within its framework various combinations of arms lifted by its characteristic wings and numerous struts. Though an obsolete bi-plane, it affectionately assumed the nickname of the ‘flying string bag’. The raid took place in the early hours of 11th November 1940 the crews flying in open cockpits at night-time taking an hour to cover the 170 miles to their target.

In the first wave of six *Swordfish* Torpedo Bombers, L4K of 815 Squadron was crewed by Lt. N.M. Kemp and *Old Boy* Sub Lt. Ronald Anthony **Bailey**

A total surprise, their attack came in from the West, north of Pietro Island passing moored Italian cruisers and from 4000 feet, L4K plummeted down and flattened out on the 45,000-ton battleship *Littorio* dropping its torpedo at 23:18 from 1,000 yards which struck the ship on the starboard bow, crippling her. Other aircraft were picking their own targets lit by dropped flares and badly damaged two other battleships. The second attack of *Swordfish* bombed other moored ships and ground installations.

Though the ack-ack was ferocious only two aircraft were shot down. The same barrage caused severe damage to the town with some fatalities. A two-man crew was lost and another crew became POWs. Within the hour the *Swordfish* had returned to the deck of the *Illustrious*. There were anxious moments amongst the returning aircrews concerning their vulnerability as rumours spread that they would be ordered to carry out a second raid. One pilot was reported to have remarked, “They only asked the light brigade to do it once”. However, bad weather foiled the plan.

The raid won many awards. Initially only six awards were conferred but ‘after a question in the House’ later the number increased significantly and included the award of the Distinguished Service Cross (D.S.C.) to *Old Boy* Ronald Anthony **Bailey**.

The Citation - Overall

“For outstanding courage and skill in the Fleet Air Arm torpedo attack on the Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour on 11 November 1940”

Chichester Observer – Felpham Man Wins D.S.C. – For gallantry at Taranto.

Lieutenant Ronald Anthony (Tony) **Bailey**, son of well-known residents at Felpham has been awarded the D.S.C. Sub-Lieut **Bailey** is in the Fleet Air Arm which he entered a year before the beginning of the war. He is twenty-one years old and was educated at the High School for Boys at Chichester. Mr Bailey read of his son’s decoration for the first time in the Daily Telegraph and knows nothing of what his son did to win the decoration.

Aftermath Speculation.

By this time Japan and Italy were unlikely allies. It is known that a Japanese naval attaché visited Taranto following the raid to review the consequences of the attack and, it is said, he later briefed the Pearl Harbour planners although no report was ever traced.

The Illustrious comes under ferocious attack.

On the 10 January 1944, the carrier HMS *Illustrious* acting as a Mediterranean escort carrier came under sustained and ferocious attack from waves of Luftwaffe Dive Bombers. The ship was severely damaged and 83 personnel were killed and 60 wounded. Ronald **Bailey** survived but six aircrew from the Taranto attack did not, including his pilot Lt N.M. Kemp D.S.C. In total, fifteen men from the Taranto raid did not survive the War.

Flying an *Avenger*, Ronald Arthur **Bailey** was killed with other crew members when his aircraft crashed whilst on operations off Madagascar on 25 June 1942. He was twenty.

Reaction

In Winston Churchill's speech to the House of Commons on 13 November 1940 he said:

“As a result of a determined and highly successful attack, which reflects the greatest honour on the Fleet Air Arm, only three Italian battleships now remain effective. This result, which affects decisively the balance of naval power in the Mediterranean, also carries with it reactions upon the naval situation in every quarter of the globe.”

German Naval Staff (Berlin) diarist:

“The English attack must be regarded as the greatest naval victory of the war. At a stroke, it has changed the strategic situation at sea in the entire Mediterranean decisively in England's favour. Even more than before, the allies will move throughout the Mediterranean, taking no account of the Italian Fleet.”

The Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano (Mussolini's son-in-law) wrote in his diary for 12 November 1940:

“These ships will remain out of the fight for many months. I thought I would find the Duce (‘the leader’ nickname of Italy's leader) downhearted. Instead, he took the blows quite well and does not, at the moment seemed to have fully realised its gravity”.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Bognor Regis War Memorial

Bay 3 Panel 1 Lee-on-Solent Memorial Hampshire



Frank Lewis **BALL** RNR

Born	Circa 1917
Parents	Unknown
School Years	1928 - 1931 (an 'original' pupil at the opening of the school)

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Lieutenant
Service Number	Not known
Service Record	2 nd Anti-submarine Trawler Group
Service Base	HMS <i>Birdlip</i> - Freetown – South Africa
Date of Death	13 June 1944



Admiralty "Hill Class" Trawler "HMS Birdlip

'The Martlet' School Notes December 1945

'It is with deep regret that we recall the death of Frank Lewis **Ball** (1928 – 1931), Lieutenant RNR, in action with the enemy off the West Coast of Africa while engaged in a very important convoy operation. The Naval Chaplain at the Base paid high tribute to his popularity and the esteem in which he was held by officers and men alike. We tender our very real sympathy to his father and mother in their sad loss'.

On 14 June 1944, a small convoy was sailing off Greenville, Liberia bound for the port of Grand Bassam. It included the French Merchant Ship *St Basile* which hugged the coast whilst being

screened on the seaward side by escort anti-submarine trawlers HMS *Turcoman* (FY130) and HMS *Inkpen*.

During the voyage a third screening Trawler the 750-ton *HMS Birdlip* (218) (T/Lt I.B.S. Humphrey) was attacked and struck by a torpedo launched from U-547 (Heinrich Niemeyer) and sank with the loss of 37 crew including *Old Boy* Lt. Frank Lewis **Ball**. There were 16 survivors. The French ship was also torpedoed and sank.

The fate of U-547

The submarine was later badly damaged by naval mines and returned to the port of Stettin. The hulk fell to the Russians after the war who broke it up for salvage. On three patrols U-547 sank two ships and an auxiliary warship (*Birdlip*)- total 8,371 GRT

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Lowestoft Naval Memorial Panel 13 column 2



Alfred John **BANFIELD**

Born	1917
Parents	Thomas and Annie Banfield, Chichester
School Years	1929 - 1934 Sherborne House
School Record	Special Prize (German) 1932 Form Prize 1933 Special Prize – Distinction in Mathematics Oxford School Certificate 1934 Exempt Matriculation University of London Sherborne House Captain
Occupation	Joined the RAF July 1934 – Posted to Iraq

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	567344
Service Record	100 Squadron Flight Engineer
Base	RAF Grimsby
Date of Death	17 June 1943



Lancasters in operational formation “Never stir up a hornet’s nest”

‘The Martlet’ School Note – July 1943

“As we go to press, we learn with deep regret of the death in action over enemy territory of Alfred John **Banfield** (1929-1934). He was the eldest of three boys in the School two of whom had brilliant careers. When he left in July 1934, he passed into the RAF and, after training in England,

served overseas in Iraq. Thence he returned to operational duties in a nearer theatre of war. Our deepest sympathies go out to his father, sisters and brothers in their gravest lost.

Bomber Command Losses– Second World War –Vol. 4 – W.R. Chorley

The Bomber Command War Diaries – Martin Middlebrook/ Chris Everitt

16/17 June 1943 Ops Koln

Aircraft – 202 *Lancasters* – 10 *Halifaxes*

Lost – 14 *Lancasters*

Target covered with cloud and some Pathfinders had trouble with H25 sets (*a bomb-aiming device*). Only 100 aircraft bombed, remainder returned to base. Industrial bases were hit including the Kalk Chemical Works and a large number of public buildings.

Lancaster ED 553 – Night op. 16/17 June 1943

Crew –

Boughton C. – Sergeant	Pilot
Slinger D.H.N. Sergeant	Navigator
Dabson D.C. - Sergeant	Wireless Operator
<i>Old Boy</i> Banfield A.J. Sgt	Flight Engineer
Taylor G. – Sergeant	Air Bomber
Barley W.E. – Sergeant	Air Gunner
Walker J. – Sergeant	Air Gunner

On Wednesday 16 June 1943, the aircraft of 100 Squadron took off at 22:45 hours from RAF Grimsby/ Waltham as part of a 212-bomber mission to Koln (Cologne) in Germany. Among the crew on *Lancaster* Type III, serial number ED553 Code HW-R was *Old Boy* Alfred John **Banfield**.

This aircraft was later attacked by a night fighter and crashed at Wommelgem, Belgium 7km from the centre of Antwerp where all the crew are buried at Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium. At 40, crewman Sgt. W.E. Barley was well above the average age of airman engaged with Bomber Command.

Old Boy Alfred John **Banfield** was 26. He lies at Plot 11 – Row f – Grave 11.

100 Squadron - Typical Base - Losses during the War

Between the first mission in March 1943 and the end of the War in 1945, 100 Squadron flew 3,984 individual sorties dropping over 18,000 tons of bombs. The Squadron lost 92 aircraft in combat as well as 21 in crashes. 593 crew were killed.

Their base at RAF Grimsby/Waltham was one of twenty operational Bomber Command airfields within the county of Lincolnshire.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 – Panel 3



Michael Allman **BARRINGER** RAFVR

Born	1916 Hendon
Family	Alan Haxel and Dorothy Barringer and husband of Molly Lee Barringer, Barnes Surrey
School Years	1932-1934
School Record	‘The Martlet’ 1933– Impressions article – ‘The Neuralgia Cruise’ Form Prize – Spring Term 1933 ‘The Martlet’ Summer Term 1934 – Head Masters Notes “Our heartiest congratulations go to M.A. Barringer who won an art scholarship at Worthing School of Art. Barringer ’s success is particularly striking, as he came second on the list of the very keenly contested awards”. Oxford School Certificate – July 1934 Exemption Matriculation – University of London
Occupation	Student at Worthing School of Art. Enlisted in the RAF at Uxbridge in summer 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Corporal
Service Number	911627
Service Record	No.7 Bomber/Gunnery School
Service Base	RAF Stormy Down - Bridgend
Date of Death	27 July 1940



Fairey "Battle" Light Bomber

This aircraft was designed and manufactured by Fairey Aviation in the mid-1930s. The RAF and four other allied countries were the primary users. A total of 2,185 were manufactured. Whilst a great improvement over the previous light bombers its design never fulfilled the role intended.

Powered by the Rolls Royce 'Merlin' engine the monoplane with its crew of three in tandem and bomb load rendered it too heavy to match the speed and range of enemy aircraft.

During the German 1940 offensive through Western Europe, it suffered heavy losses. Over 200 were brought down during its comparatively short service record and the aircraft was withdrawn from combat service in 1941.

However, the *Battle* was adapted for several other roles one of which was as a trainer in Bomber and Gunnery schools (BGS).

From RAF Commands Forums Online – Ross McNeil – April 2009:

The Forum Members investigated online into the loss of a *Battle* aircraft L5293 of No.7 Bomber and Gunnery School (BGS) that crashed into the Bristol Channel 10 miles off Ilfracombe on the 27th July 1940.

The Pilot Flying Officer Harold Raymond Wheeler was recovered from the sea and subsequently cremated at Bristol (Arnos Vale) Crematorium.

The other crew members were Aircraftmen (2) 939176 Robin Edward Barker age 22 and *Old Boy* 911627 Michael Allman **Barringer** age 24 who are commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial.

The loss of men during a war are grievous events. The death of Michael **Barringer** added a special poignancy cutting short a promising career for this talented young artist.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede – Panel 21



Alan B. **BLACKMAN**

Born 1922
Parents Alfred and Margaret Blackman of Arundel, Sussex
School Years 1933-1938 Story House (Vice Capt)
School Record Oxford School Certificate July 1937
Exemption from Matriculation- University of London
'The Martlet' Roll of Service - A.c. RAF December 1940
Occupation Clerk in Solicitors Office in Arundel

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Sergeant W Op/Air Gunner
Service Number 917077
Service Record No.19 O.T.U
Service Base RAF Kinloss
Date of Death 24 March 1942



Armstrong 'Whitley' Bomber Aircraft

Extract - 'Bomber Command Losses' – Volume 7 – 'Operational Training Units 1940-1947' W.R. Chorley reads:

Whitley V Bomber–Operational Training Unit No.19–Night Exercise 24th March 1942

Crew

Drake D.F.	Sergeant -	Pilot
Flint.R.R.	Pilot Officer -	Navigator
Jennings F.	Sergeant -	Wireless Operator
MacRae G.K.	Sergeant-	Wireless Operator
Sutcliffe I.	Sergeant -	Air Gunner
Wheatley R. E	Pilot Officer-	Pilot
<i>Old Boy</i> Blackman A.B.	Sergeant -	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner

OTU (Operational Training Unit) – *Whitley V Z6933* – Training

“Take off Kinloss for a combined night dual and wireless procedures exercises. Subsequently, the wreckage was discovered at Finally Hill, Angus. All were taken for burial in Montrose (Sleepyhillock) Cemetery.

Note: ‘Subsequently’ has to be taken in context as it was further reported that the wreckage remained undiscovered for two months.

P/O Wheatley DFM, the instructor, had served with 77 Squadron and details of his award had been published in the London Gazette on 24th October 1941.

P/O Flint, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) graduate of London University, was a qualified observer and air gunner, a quite unusual combination of trades”.

The crew including *Old Boy* Alan B. **Blackman** were all buried at Sleepyhillock Cemetery, Montrose Angus. He was twenty.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Arundel War Memorial

International Bomber Command Centre – Phase 1 – Panel 10



Roger Edmund Lewis **BOWERMAN** RAFVR

Born	1918 at Henfield, Sussex
Parents	Edmund and Ethel M. Bowerman, Bognor Regis
School Years	1930 - 1936 Sherborne House
School Record	Oxford School Certificate 1934
Occupation	Employed at Sainsbury's in London 1937

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant (W. Op/Air Gnr)
Service Number	909881
Service Record	Joined RAF in 1940. Initial Training at Uxbridge/ Wilmslow then around the Cape of Good Hope to Suez and onto North Africa to join 24 Squadron SAAF (South African Air Force)
Service Base	Desert 'Landing Ground' No. 130 (one of the 251)
Date of Death	10 December 1941

A *Boston* Mk. III (Code Z2170) aircraft took off at 10:25 hours on 10th December 1941 from Landing Ground 130 (in the Libyan desert) to attack German positions. It was shot down east of Bir-Hakeim in Libya on-route to its target by BF 109 (Fw Franz Elles of 2/JD27) and exploded on hitting the ground.

Squadron No.24 South African Air Force assigned six *Bostons* for the raid; five were lost but there were some survivors from each aircraft. Sadly, Roger **Bowerman** was not one of them.

Provided by Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Recovery Group

NB: 2/JD27 – German fighter wing providing air cover for its Afrikakorps Army

BF 109 – Messerschmitt fighter aircraft Fw - 'Feldwebel'

Old Boy Roger Edmund Lewis **Bowerman** was buried at Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Al Butnan, Libya – Plot 8.G.16

The Douglas *Boston* entered service in North Africa 14th November 1941. At first, it was used on unescorted reconnaissance missions in small groups but suffered heavy losses inflicted by JD27 German Fighter Wing. It was withdrawn but later flew with fighter protection.

Boston Mark III Code Z2170 Lost 10th December 1941

Crew

Pilot Lt G Genis SAAF	Killed
Nav. Lt D McPherson SAAF	Injured
<i>Old Boy</i> Sgt. R.E.L. Bowerman RAF	Killed
Sgt. D.C.M. Ross RAF	Killed



Boston IIIs patrolling over Tunisia North Africa 1943



A Boston III crew leaving their aircraft on a 'landing ground' somewhere in the Libyan Desert

No 24 Squadron (SAAF) was formed in March 1941 and equipped with twenty-four DB-7 *Boston*/P70 aircraft designed for light bombing/reconnaissance roles. Another version, the A20 *Havoc*, was produced principally for a night role. A total of 7,473 were manufactured. In North Africa, they were assigned to operate mostly from desert 'landing grounds.'

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Joseph Angus **BOWYER**

Born 1920
Parents Joseph Sydney and Mary Maclean Bowyer, Lymington, Hants
School Years 1932 - 1936 St Wilfred's House
School Record An active runner during several Sports Days
'The Martlet' Roll of Service A/c RAF July 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Sergeant
Service Number 923861
Service Record 217 Squadron
Service Base RAF Luqa - Malta
Date of Death 20 June 1942



Bristol Beaufort

In 1942 *Old Boy* Joseph Angus **Bowyer** was attached to 217 Squadron aircrew. The squadron was to be posted to Ceylon; its flight passage was via Gibraltar and Malta. Due to technical difficulties, the Squadron was held at Malta. Over the next two months, its Coastal Command *Beaufort* aircraft ops time was spent attacking enemy shipping in the Mediterranean.

Source 'Royal Air Force – Allied losses in the Mediterranean May end 1942'

Ross McNeil (29.04.2009) comments that on 20th June 1942 a *Beaufort* (possibly DD 959) engaged in a torpedo attack on Messina Harbour. It ditched in the sea and three of the crew were observed in a dingy.

Crew

Sgt A.R King - F/O; J.R. Minster; Sgt J Moschas; *Old Boy* Sgt J.A. **Bowyer**

Commemorated

Alamein Memorial Cemetery; Matruh, Egypt; Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



Alan Edmund Bernard **BOYCE**

Born: 1921
Family: Son of Bernard and Edith Boyce
Husband of Edna Boyce (nee Winsler), Devonport
School Years: 1932 – 1936
Oxford School Certificate – July 1942 – Passed
'The Martlet' March 1940 – Roll of Service

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Engine Room Artificer Class 4
Service Number: D/MX 53924
Service Record: Royal Navy
Service Base: HMS *Lawford*
Date of Death: 8 June 1944



HMS Lawford (K514) – Bay of Seine, Normandy

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' July 1944

"Early this month came the news of the loss of A.E. **Boyce** (1932-1936) an E.R.A in the Royal Navy who is reported missing presumed killed after his ship had been torpedoed off the French Coast. Alan **Boyce** had recently been married and to his young widow as well as his parents and brothers our gratitude and sympathy go out in abundant measure"

USS *Lawford*

Transferred to the Royal Navy under 'Lend- Lease' 1944. Ceded as an 'Evarts' Escort Destroyer to Great Britain.

Renamed 'HMS *Lawford*' by the Royal Navy and transformed into a Captain class frigate. She was then prepared to participate in 'Operation Overlord' off Normandy.

She served as the embedded command post of Assault Group II and sailed with Task Force J. Commanded by Captain Pugsley. The ship coordinated the operations for Juno Beach on D-Day, including the landing of Canadian troops.

On the 8th June, the Germans launched an aerial counter-attack aimed at the allied warships in the Bay of Seine. HMS *Lawford* was targeted and received a direct hit and sank with the loss of 37 Crew including *Old Boy* A.E. **Boyce**. He was twenty-three.

According to the testimonies of the seamen referring to the use of 'aerial torpedoes' and of the type of wreck itself (sank as a result of an internal explosion), the destroyer was allegedly hit by one or more German aerial 'early guided missiles' of the first generation, probably of the Henschel HS 293 type.

Bognor Regis Observer - 9 June 1945

"The sorrowing memory of our dearly beloved eldest son Alan who lost his life through enemy action June 8th, 1944. Sadly missed; never a day passes without thinking of you, son"

'The Martlets' School Notes Spring 1948

We are indebted to Mr B. Boyce for placing the 'Roll and Honour' Board within the School. A fitting tribute to *The Old Boys* who gave their lives which included his son Alan Edmund Bernard **Boyce** who was lost when HMS *Lawford* was torpedoed during the D-Day landings.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Plymouth Navy War Memorial – Panel 189 – column 1



Peter Upton **BROOKE** RAFVR

Born 1923
Parents Rev. Walter Edward & Mrs Ethel Brooke - Fairfield, Normanton Ave, Bognor Regis
School Years 1935 -1940 Sherborne House
School Record 'The Martlet' – article 'The Lying in State of George V'
'The Martlet' - article 'Visit to the Salt Works' 1938
Oxford School Certificate – 1939
'The Martlet' Roll of Service 1941 – Royal Corps of Signals
'The Martlet' December 1941 – Old Boys News
P.U. **Brooke** completed a six-month University Short Course at Durham University. Also managed to gain his colours for rowing

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Flying Officer (Pilot)
Service Number 150235
Service Record Bomber Command No. 576 Squadron
Service Base RAF Elsham Wolds
Date of Death 24/25 March 1944



Avro "Lancaster III"

'The Martlet' School News July 1944

"It is with deep regret that we record the loss of P.U. **Brooke** (1935-1940) P/O in the RAF who was reported missing after a raid on Germany on the night of March 31st. Peter **Brooke** was another fine fellow modest and unassuming with a great heart and sterling qualities as a son, a brother and comrade. He was one of the first Old Boys to do an RAF University Course and he was as keen and

successful at the University as he had been at School. We mourn this gallant lad and to his parents, we offer our gratitude and deepest condolences”.

Lancaster III LM469 UL-EZ – Ops Berlin -24/25th March 1944

Crew

RAF – <i>Old Boy</i> P.U. Brooke –	Sgt Pilot
RAF - Pronger N.R. F/O	Navigator
RAF - Lodge E.A.	Flight Engineer
USAAF - Chidester S.H.	Air Bomber
RAF -Burgess NV	Air Gunner
RAF -Daines A.H	Air Gunner

Bomber Command Losses – During the 2nd World War – W.R.Chorley

Took off at 19:00 Elsham Wolds. Shot down and exploded, crashing at Kohra, 3 kms of Naunhof, where those who died were buried on 28th March. Peter Upton **Brooke** now rests with five other crew in Berlin 1939-1945 Cemetery at Challotttburg-Wilmersdorf. He was 21.

The remains of crew member Tech Sgt Chidester USAAF, who came from New York, have been interred in the US Military Cemetery, Luxembourg.

The Bomber Command War Diaries – Martin Middlebrook/Chris Everitt

24/25 March 1944

811 aircraft – 577 *Lancasters*, 216 *Halifaxes*, 18 *Mosquitoes*.

Losses - 72 aircraft – 44 *Lancasters*, 28 *Halifaxes* – lost 8.9 per cent of the force.

The night became known in Bomber Command as the ‘night of the strong winds’. A powerful wind from the north carried the bombers south at every stage of the flight. It is believed that 50 of the 72 aircraft were destroyed by Flak: most of the remainder were victims of the night fighters. This was the last major RAF raid on Berlin during the war. No industrial firms were classed as targets but badly hit were five military establishments including the depot of the Waffen-S.S. Leibstandarte Adolph Hitler Division in Lichterfelde.

‘The Martlet’ – Autumn Term – 1947

“The Rev W.E. and Mrs Brooke formerly of Bognor and now at Brompton, Chatham, Kent sent the Head a cheque for the School. Part is being spent on the Orchestra, of which his son Peter Brooke was a keen member, and the rest for the purchase of a ‘Brooke Cup’. We are grateful to them of their generous gift”.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Bognor Regis Memorial

IBCC – International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 - Panel Number 13



Francis Charles William **BULL**

Born 1925
Parents Unknown
School Years: 1936 -1940 St Wilfrid's House
School Record Oxford School Certificate – Passed – July 1940
Athletic Sports Day - Regular participant
'The Martlet' Roll of Service -Aircraftman 2, RAF
Occupation Joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice - RAF Halton

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Sergeant
Service Number 578353
Service Record 463 Squadron (Australian)
Service Base RAF Waddington
Date of Death 29 January 1944



Roadside sarsen near the crash site



*Here lies an English airman far from his home
home and loved ones
29th January 1944*

Old Boy Francis Charles **Bull** trained as an apprentice at RAF Halton, Bedfordshire which was the training school that provided the hardcore of efficient non-commissioned officers and airmen.

At about midnight on 28/29th January 1944, he was the flight engineer aboard *Lancaster* HK-537 of 463 Squadron (Australian) one of 700 bombers flying from Eastern England to penetrate deep into Germany – their target was Berlin (“The Big City”). Number 83 Squadron (Pathfinders) from RAF Wynton together with 463 Squadron and 467 Squadron based at RAF Waddington all took part in this sortie. Whilst over the Danish island of Als above the Augustenborg Fjord HK537 was struck by “friendly bombs”. Seriously damaged, the pilot decided to try and return to England in order to save crew and aircraft. In a cloudy airbase whilst turning back into the bomber stream HK537 collided with *Lancaster* JA967. Following the collision, HK537 crashed into open countryside close to the village of Mjels. JA967 plummeted towards Broballe and exploded in a field. All fourteen crew members from the two aircraft were killed.

Old Boy Francis Charles Williams **Bull**'s body was found some weeks later by the owner of Pommersgaard Farm whilst ploughing a field. The farmer buried the remains in the corner of a field and used one of HK-537's propeller blades as a temporary headstone, engraving on it a text, which loosely translated reads

“Here lies an English airman, far from his home and loved ones. 29th January 1944”

Francis **Bull**'s body was exhumed in 1946 and reburied together with the two aircrews in Aabenraa Cemetery, Denmark. Allied Mil. Plot. Row 4 Coll. Grave 21.

The crews are remembered annually at the crash site on 29th January in the village of Broballe by the faithful Danes.

School Notes - ‘The Martlet’ – March 1945

“It is with the greatest regret that we learn that Francis **Bull**, who had been reported missing after an RAF raid on Germany, is now reported presumed dead. Francis **Bull** was one of those quiet, cheerful dependable lads whose School career and service in the RAF were uniformly excellent. To his parents and relatives, we extend our deepest sympathy”.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede

Broballe, Island of Als, Denmark – HK- 537 Crew list engraved on a roadside sarsen close to the crash site.



David Edward **BURNAND**

Born 1920, Hampshire
Parents Thomas Jesse and Ethel Caroline Burnand, Chichester
School Years 1931-1936
School Record Oxford School Certificate July 1936
'The Martlet' Roll of Service -Sgt. Royal Corps of Signals
December 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Signalman
Service Number 2354960
Service Record Royal Corps of Signals – Western Europe Campaign 1944/45
Service Base Attached to the 6th Airborne Division – D-Day 6th June 1944
Western Europe Campaign 1944/45
Date of Death 24 March 1945



6th Airborne Division – D-Day 6th of June (Gliders)

‘The Martlets’ School Notes July 1945

David **Burnand** (1931-1936) has also died in the service of his country. He was in the 6th Airborne Division and went with gliders to Normandy on D-Day where, as a despatch rider, he sustained injuries to his leg that kept him in hospital for six months. He rejoined his unit in spring, came home on leave in April, and was killed in action two weeks later just weeks before Germany signed the unconditional surrender on 8th May 1945.

David **Burnand** was one of those quiet, steady fellows who do their duty without fuss or show and who can always be depended upon in every way. To his surviving parents, we express our deep and sincere sympathy”.

David Edward **Burnand** was first reported wounded on 3 July 1944. Returning to his unit in Germany he was killed in action on 24th March 1945. He is buried at the Reichwald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve Landkries, Nordrhein Westfalen, Germany. He was twenty-five.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial

The opening and concluding paragraphs of General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Order of the day - Operation Overlord:

"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force. You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade towards which we have striven these many months.

The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people march with you.

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We will accept nothing else than full victory.

Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of the Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

Supreme Headquarters - Allied Expeditionary Force

6th June 1944



Anthony Charles **CATTON**

Born	1919
Parents	Charles William and Winifred Louise Catton, Braishfield, Romsey, Hampshire
School Years	1929-1934
School Record	‘The Martlet’: ‘Halnaker Hall’ spring 1933 ‘The Valley of the River Rother’ summer 1933 ‘Something Beautiful’ autumn 1933 ‘Winchester’ summer 1934 Oxford School Certificate – – July 1935 Exemption from Matriculation – University of London Distinction in English and Geography – spring 1935 Speech Day – Special Prize (English) 1935 ‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service -Aircraftman No.4 A.O.S – RAF

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	581499
Squadron	No.13 O.T.U.
Service Base	RAF Bicester
Date of Death	7 August 1940

‘The Martlet’ ‘School Notes’ July 1940 –

“It is great regret that we record additions to the casualty list of our Old Boys. Anthony Charles **Catton** (1929-1934), a sergeant pilot in the RAF, who was killed in a crash off the Welsh Coast. He had done well in his days at School and in his civil life before serving with the Forces. To his parents and relatives, the whole School extends our deepest sympathy”.

Old Boy Anthony Charles **Catton** was buried in All Saints’ Churchyard, Braishfield Hampshire. He was twenty-one.



Bristol Blenheim Mk. IV L9039 of No.13 OTU RAF, flew into the cliffs of Craig yr Ysfa in the Carneddau six miles SSE of Bethesda 8th April 1940

Crew

Hall A.F., Sergeant	Pilot
<i>Old Boy</i> Catton A.C., Sergeant	Observer
Graham 'Fred', Sergeant-	Observer Air Bomber
James J. Leading Aircraftsman	Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner

Accident Report

Old Boy Sergeant Anthony Charles **Catton** was an observer in a four-man crew of a Bristol *Blenheim* Mark 1V L9039 of No. 13 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Bicester in Oxfordshire which took off on 8 April 1940. Accompanied by two other *Blenheims* it was on a cross-country training flight towards Ronaldsway over a planned route.

Later it turned in cloud and broke formation. All contact was lost with the crew and it was reported missing. The wreck was found the following day. Evidence pointed to the aircraft having flown into the mountain in level flight when it crashed just below the summit into the cliffs of Craig yr Yfsa, Carneddau, Conwy in Wales at a height of 2900 feet.

IBCC (*International Bomber Command Centre*). Possible cause. It is thought that the pilot was dazzled by the sun when emerging from the cloud. He left the formation banked gently and then crashed into Craig yr Yfsa.

Alan Clark - Peak District Air Accident Research publish and then updated 9 August 2016

Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Crash Recovery

Tony **Catton** – Early Promise

Tony **Catton** (1929/1934) was only fifteen when he spent most evenings at his home, Chaffinch Farm in Birdham, writing a detailed history of Chichester and the surrounding villages for a friend, Charles Kimbell, who was about to emigrate to Australia. He also wrote a book of poems. On April the 7 1940, aged 21, he died in an air crash off the Welsh Coast, serving as an RAF Sergeant Observer. To get the flavour of the freshness of his literary style, please read his account of the ‘Butter Market’ on page 51 of Alan Green’s ‘Cattle, Corn and Crawfish’. It is taken from Tony **Catton**’s book, ‘In and Around Chichester’ (105 pages) which was published after his death.

‘Chi High’ at War 1939 – 1945 by Andrew Berriman revised 15 December 2014

For further insight Members are also invited to read Alan Green’s review of **Catton**’s early literary promise which can be found on the Old Cicestrians website (www.oldcicestrians.co.uk). From the Menu ‘Archives’, select ‘From the Archives’. This information surfaced following the release of archival material rescued from the school and placed with the West Sussex Records Office by Andrew Berriman on his retirement.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 – Panel 18



Leslie Miles **COLBOURNE**

Born	1920
Parents	Arthur Miles and Ellen Carrie Colbourne, Chichester
School Years	1932 – 1936
School Record	Oxford School Certificate - July 1936 – Passed with Credits

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Lance Bombardier
Service Number	894931
Service Record	91/98 th Field Regiment - Royal Artillery – Western Europe Campaign
Service Base	102 (Northumberland Hussars) Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment
Date of Death	12 May 1945



"Everywhere That Right and Glory Lead"

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' July 1945

On May 12th another Old Boy Leslie **Colbourne** (1932-1936) died in Hospital at Celle, Germany as a result of wounds in the head from an accident with a German captured revolver. As soon as the news was received of the accident, his brother Robert flew to Celle but arrived too late to see him live. Lesley **Colbourne** had served in many features of war and his Commanding Officer wrote of him "He was a man on whom the whole battery could rely. A keen worker and a prominent sportsman". To Mr. & Mrs Colbourne and their sons, we tender our real sympathy in this saddest bereavement. Lesley Miles **Colbourne** was twenty-five.

From an Obituary Account in Chichester Observer 26 May 1945.

“Young Chichester Soldier killed - Fatality after end of War in Europe”

“A well-known Chichester family has this week received news of the tragic loss of one of their sons after the War in Europe ended. He had served in practically every big campaign of the War and it seemed that he had come through unscathed only to be killed after the fighting had ended.

The deceased is Leslie Miles **Colbourne**, second son of Mr & Mrs Colbourne of Grove Gardens, Whyke Chichester. Mr Colbourne is a well-known baker in the city. The parents had received news last week that their son was dangerously wounded and in hospital. Word came on Monday that he had died of gunshot wounds at Celle, Lower Saxony, Germany on May 12th. The circumstances of the fatality have not yet been officially communicated to Mr and Mrs Colbourne, but it is believed to have been through an accident.

Lance Bombardier Leslie **Colbourne** was aged 25, an old Chichester High School boy, he had joined up early in the war and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. One of the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk he fought with the famous 8th Army in North Africa before El Alamein and on to Sicily. Landing on the Continent with the B.L.A. just after ‘D’ Day, he had been in action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

L. Bdr. **Colbourne** had been popular in many spheres, particularly in sport. He had played full-back for Chichester before and during the war. A well-known member of the Chichester Scout Group, he retained contact with the movement up to his untimely death. He joined the 5th Chichester Wolf Cubs in the late 20s, going on in the Scouts to be Patrol Leader.

Leslie Miles **Colborne** was buried at Celle, Lower Saxony, Germany.

Mr and Mrs Colbourne have two other sons in the Forces. They are both serving with the RAF, one as a Flying Officer”.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial



John Krempowiecki **COOK**

Born	1916
Parents	William John and Violetta Cook, Lowestoft, Suffolk
School years	1931 - 1933
School Record	'The Martlet' Summer 1932 – Short story – “An Earthquake”

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Private
Service Number	7264536
Service Record	Royal Army Medical Corps
Service Base	Four Motor Ambulance Company
Date of Death	1 October 1941



“Austin K2/Y Heavy Ambulance in France 1940”

‘The Martlet’ ‘School Notes’ July 1947

“We record with deep regret the death of John **Cook** (1931-1933) who died in service in the war. He had already enlisted as a private in the R.A.M.C. before the war was declared and went overseas in September 1939. He was captured at Boulogne on May 20th 1940 and taken to a prison camp in Germany. He then contracted tuberculosis and died on 1st October 1941, in Kingswartha Hospital, near Dresden”.

John Krempowiecki **Cook** is buried in the Berlin 1935/1945 War Cemetery, Plot 11M3 Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, Berlin.

Reflection

Lodged at the WSCC Record Office (E35N/19/14) is a small portfolio and a studio photograph appertaining to John Krempowiecki **Cook** that include:

A studio photograph document which states that a few years after the war his mother sent his papers for safekeeping to the School. She remarked that his thirteen tightly written pages of an attached short story had been adapted from one of his 'productions'. In 'Derby Day 1937' he falls asleep in the family garden following a difference with his brother in law and awakes into a world in chaos which has gone into a 'reverse gravity'.

A footnote on the last page in faint pencil reads "J.K. **Cook** served with the R.A.M.C in the Second World War and died as a prisoner of war in Poland in 1941.

His imagination for producing surreal stories first appeared in the 'The Martlet' Summer Term edition 1932. Under the title of 'An Earthquake' he dreams of an impending, but unlikely, disaster whilst travelling on a local train journey. Had he returned to civilian life who knows where his imagination literary talents might have taken him?

His plight of lying in a hospital terminally ill, far from home, in a foreign land as a prisoner of war contrasts sharply with that of the pre-war 1930's studio head and shoulders photo print of a young man 'coming of age'.

Also enclosed is The Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C) 'Book of Remembrance' where its fallen ranks of the World War II are listed – Officers 437 – Other ranks 2026.

'In arduis fidelis' – Faithful in adversity

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Benjamin James CREES

Born	10 July 1915 - Wiltshire
Parents	Thomas B. and Lucy L. Crees, North Marden, Sussex
School Years	1928 - 1933 (an 'original' pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	Appointed Prefect Oxford School Certificate Honours Class III – Pass - July 1931 Exempt from the Matriculation London University University of London, Higher School Certificate – July 1933 Speech Day Prize Football X1 1929 – 1931 'The Martlet' – Poem 'Verses'
Occupation	Dairyman on his father's farm

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Bombardier
Service Number	901307
Service Record	118 th Field Regiment – Royal Artillery – British Army
Duty Location	Casualty List. No. 1958 – 10 th British Army Clearing Station
Theatre of War	Malaya POW Camps – Malai Tokyo – 8b AOMI
Date of Death	29 September 1943



"Everywhere That Right and Glory Lead"

'The Martlet' School News April 1946

"It is with deep regret that we record the death on active service of another *Old Boy* Benjamin James **Crees** (1928-1932) who was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore. He is now known to have died in a prisoner of war camp AOMI, TOKYO on September 29th, 1943. This sad news has just reached his parents. **Crees** was a good student and reliable, honest and trustworthy boy at School who always did his duty fully and manfully. He completed the full School course taking the Oxford and London higher certificate and gaining his Prefects Cap.

On leaving School he worked on his father's farm and later joined the Territorials. To his sorrowing parents and young widow, we extend our deepest sympathy in their bereavement".

Old Boy Benjamin James (Jim) **Crees** was captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore in 1942 and subsequently transported on a 'Hell Ship' to mainland Japan and sent to the AOMI POW Camp.

This camp had been established on 12th May 1943 as Tokyo No.9 Branch Camp on the site of Electro-Chemical Industry Company at Niigata-ken, Nishikubiki-gun, Omi-machi, Japan. The Prisoners of War (POWs) were ill-used by the Electro-chemical Industry Company. On the 1st August 1943, it was renamed Tokyo 7 and renamed again in August 1945 Tokyo No.13 Branch Camp. It was closed in September 1945 at the end of the war. Some 542 POWs (432 American, 109 British and 1 New Zealander) were in prison at the end of the war.

The records show that it was a hard and sometimes brutal regime. *Old Boy* Benjamin James **Crees** died on 29 September 1943 of gastroenteritis, a condition no doubt accelerated by the lack of care in the camp. He was twenty-eight years old and must have attended the School from its inception (an 'original') in the late twenties.

He is buried with sixty-five others at the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Horogaya, Yokohama, Japan.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

CWGC Plaque at St Mary's Church, North Marden, Chichester



Henry Richard (Dick) **CUTTEN** RAFVR

Born	1914
Parents	Henry Richard and Lydia Sophia Cutten, 10 Little London, Chichester
School Years	1928-1933 Sherborne House (an 'original' pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	Added to the School Prefect Roll Oxford School Certificate 1931 Speech Day Prize (Oxford) – Awarded 'Special' Prize' (Geography a Science) School Colours – Football and Cricket The Chess Club – A Champion many times
Occupation	Teacher

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Pilot Officer
Service Number	112740
Service Record	No. 8 Service Flying Training School
Base	RAF Montrose - Scotland
Date of Death	17 December 1941

'The Martlet' – School Notes - March 1942

"During the Christmas holidays, we have received news that H.R. **Cutten** (1929-33) who had recently been granted a commission in the RAF has been killed on active service. To the parents of this gallant lad, in their bitter loss and keen anxiety, its gratitude and its sympathy".

Crew

Kuhrt L.J. - Flight Sergeant –	Pilot
<i>Old Boy</i> Cutten H.R. – Pilot Officer	Navigator
Cook R.K. – Sergeant	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
Frieson V.E – Pilot Officer	Observer
Stewart J.A. - Flight Sergeant	Observer
Stow C. – Flight Sergeant	Observer

Posted to Flying Training School for instruction in aircraft handling, navigation, aircraft systems and rules-of-the-air. During a training exercise on 17 December 1941, there occurred a mid-air collision between a two-seater Miles *Master* Trainer N7391 and an Avro *Anson* R9585. Both came down in the vicinity of Huntley farm a mile from the reserve landing ground at Stracathro. The instructor and pupil of the Trainer and all the crew of the *Anson*, including *Old Boy* Henry Richard (Dick) **Cutten** were killed. He was twenty-six. The pilot and pupil of the trainer (Pilot Officer V.E. Frieson and Flight Sergeant J.A Stewart) both of the RCAF rest at Fettercairn Cemetary. The seven occupants of the *Anson* including old boy Henry Richard (Dick) **Cutten**, were all killed



Miles "Master" Trainer



Avro Anson

Training/flying accidents were regular occurrences. Bomber Command lost over 8,000 aircrews this way during the Second World War.

An obituary extract from the Chichester Observer on 27 December 1941

Fatality to Pilot-Officer **H.R. Cutten**

Great regret has been aroused in Chichester by the news of the death in an aircraft accident in Scotland of Pilot-Officer Henry Richard **Cutten** (27) son of the late Mr H.R. Cutten and Mrs Cutten, 10 Little London, Chichester. The fatality occurred on the 17 December and caused a shock in the City, where he had a host of friends. He had been serving in the RAF for nearly 18 months and during his training in Canada to qualify as an Observer, he speedily achieved promotion; he was recently gazetted in a commission rank with effect from September last. He was at home for the weekend before his death and left full of keenness to assume his new duties.

The deceased officer was educated at the Prebendal School and at Chichester High School for Boys. He entered the teaching profession, his first appointment being at Cowes, I.O.W. Eventually, he took up duties under the L.C.C. and was teaching in Acton when the war broke out, the school being evacuated to Dawlish.

In Chichester and everywhere he went he took an active interest in sport and was a capable player in cricket, football, tennis and badminton. He was also a great chess player, winning the local championship on more than one occasion. He won London University colours for badminton and was in possession of numerous cups won in various games.

The deceased remains were interred at Chichester Cemetery on Monday afternoon with RAF honours. His coffin draped in the Union Jack was taken to St Andrews Church where the first part of the burial service was read by Canon A F Young. There were a considerable congregation and members of the family. The principal mourners were Mrs H.R. Cutten (mother), the Misses Gill S.G. and V.M Cutten (sisters). The deceased's sisters and brothers were in the uniforms of their respective units. He was interred with the remains of his father, the committal service being read by the Rev. D.C. Hearne chaplain to the RAF. The firing party's volleys and the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille" formed a fitting *adieu* to a gallant officer and a great sportsman. The Commanding Officer and officers of RAF Lossiemouth sent a lovely wreath, as did the Sergeants and Airmen. Other tributes came from the Chichester Nomads Cricket Club, Canadian friends, and friends in Devonshire.

Henry Richard 'Dick' **Cutten** was buried at Portfield Cemetery Plot 77 Grave 23

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys ; Chichester War Memorial; International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 Panel 26



Kenneth Kara **EDWARDS** - RAFVR

Born 1920
Parents Mr and the late Mrs G Edwards of Cosy Cot, Lewis Road, Selsey
School Years 1931 to 1936
School Record Cricket XI – 1929-1930-1931
Athletic Sports Day 1932 – Junior Victor Ludorum
Oxford School Certificate - 1936
'The Martlet' – Roll of Service – A/c.2, RAF December 1940
Occupation Appointed to the Staff of the County Library – Chichester Branch - 1937

Armed Forces Record

Service rank Flying Officer - Navigator
Service Number 124726
Service Record Number 53 Squadron Coastal Command
Service Base RAF St Eval, Cornwall
Date of death 17 April 1944

Here crew members of 53 Squadron personnel posing in front of a *Liberator* at St Eval in Cornwall. 'Old Boy' (1931-1936) Flying Officer Kenneth Kara **Edwards** is 2nd left back row with a cap shown here with a mixed RCAF, RAAF and British crew



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08703.003

Winston Churchill wrote that, ‘..... the only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril’.

Number 53 Squadron was equipped with U.S. Consolidated *Liberator* aircraft which were designed and equipped for anti-submarine operational patrols. It was vital, particularly in the Bay of Biscay and the Western Approaches, to seek out enemy U-boats operating out of ‘pens’ (bunkers) at Saint-Nazaire, La Rochelle and Brest facing the Atlantic. *Liberator* aircraft were credited in full or in part with sinking 93 U-boats. Germany commissioned 1250 U-boat submarines during World War II hostilities. In war, it was inevitable that crews were not always going to strike good fortune and the overall losses were heavy.

Their last air operation ended in the Outer Biscay area when at 3.54am on 17 April 1944 their *Liberator* BZ945 began its final approach using their Leigh Light system to attack a surfaced German U-boat (U-993). Its captain, Oberleutnant Kurt Hilbig, already put on an advanced alert, ordered his crew to open fire with machine guns and automatic cannon.

The combination of tracer and incendiary ammunition set BZ945 on fire, out of control it dived into the sea 600 metres from the boat its depth charges exploding, none of the crew surviving. Their aircraft was reported as ‘Missing’ on 17 April 1944.

Fate of U-993

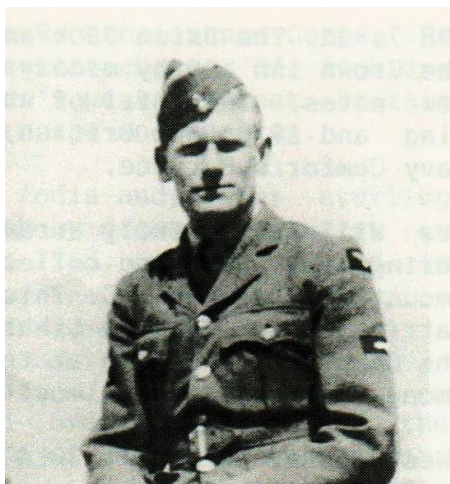
On 14th October 1944 U-993 was caught moored outside the maximum protection of the submarine pens (bunkers) in Bergen Harbour, Norway during a heavy attack by RAF *Lancasters* and *Halifaxes* and capsized. The U-boat was subsequently captured by the British and broken up. During only two patrols over a total of 40 days U-993 failed to sink any ships. The shooting down of *Liberator* BZ945 was its only victory. Oberleutnant Kurt Hilbig died in 1951.

Commemorated –

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede



Kenneth Kara Edwards

Birth 9 July 1920 – Selsey, West Sussex

Death 17 April 1944 – Bay of Biscay

KENNETH KARA EDWARDS – 3rd son of George and Sarah Edwards was born 9th July 1920 at 5 St Forrester’s Terrace and was educated at Selsey Infant School. Ken passed the Chichester High School for Boys entrance examination where he was to be a keen scholar. He was also an excellent athlete and footballer. Ken obtained the Oxford Certificate and matriculation and on leaving the school was employed as an Assistant Librarian at the Chichester Library. As a boy and young man, he sang in the choir at St Peters Church and at one time he expressed strong views about how the local church affairs were being conducted! He also enjoyed dancing.

This comment was found in the ‘Chichester and Southdown Observer’ for the 13th July 1940 “.... Mr Kenneth **Edwards** who also wrestled with the problems of modern tap dancing has, we hear, joined the RAF. We know through personal observations that Mr **Edwards** is horribly determined so we are still more sorry for Hitler”.

Having volunteered for the RAF, he was posted for training as aircrew to Red Deer, Alberta, Canada in the summer of 1941. While there he found that his station was quite near to the home of an aunt he had never seen, and thereafter was well looked after by these Canadian relatives. In 1942 he returned to England with the rank of Pilot Officer, Navigator and was stationed at RAF Leuchars in Scotland serving with Coastal Command. With the rank of Flying Officer posted in February 1944 to 53 Squadron, which was part of Coastal Command and based at St Eval in Cornwall. There he flew *Liberators*, mainly on submarine patrols. Ken flew on sixteen operational missions from this station before being lost over the Bay of Biscay on 16th/17th April 1944. Ken has no known grave but his name is remembered on the Royal Air Force Memorial Runnymede

Taken from “Selsey Remembers 1939-1945”. Written and produced by the Selsey Society on behalf of Selsey Parish Council for the people of Selsey 1995.

Courtesy of Kenneth Dummer – Kenneth **Edward**’s nephew (ancestry.com)



Frank Smith **FOLLEY** RAFVR

Born	1915 - Burnley
Parents	Percy Smith and Margery Folley
School Years	1930-1934
School Record	‘The Martlet’ 1931 article ‘An Autumn Landscape’ ‘The Martlet’ 1932 – article ‘Wednesday Night, 30 th November’ Oxford School Certificate 1933 - Form Prize 1933 Higher School Certificate – University of London – 1934 ‘The Martlet’ – Headmaster’s Reports 1935 recorded that F.S Folley is now a student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Pilot Officer
Service Number	170237
Service Record	141 Squadron – W. op/ Navigator – Mosquito Mk 11
Service Base	RAF West Raynham
Date of Death	2 April 1944



de Havilland ‘Mosquito’ – ‘The Wooden Wonder’

‘The Bomber Command War Diaries’ Martin Middlebrook/ Chris Everitt

26/27 April 1944 - Essen

493 aircraft – 342 *Lancasters*, 133 *Halifaxes* and 18 *Mosquitoes* – from all Groups except 5 Group. Lost 7 aircraft – 6 *Lancasters*, 1 *Halifax* – 1.4 per cent of the force. The Bomber Command report states that this was an accurate attack based on good Pathfinder ground-marking.

Aviation Safety Network (exclusive service of Flight Safety Foundation) report: 26/27th April 1944

Only 13 *Mosquito*’s took off at 23:24 and were detailed to support bombers who were attacking Essen by carrying out Serrate/A1 patrols over the target area and in the vicinity of the bombers’ routes. Ten aircraft successfully completed their sorties but another DH615 TWJ of 141 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J.C.N. Forshaw and *Old Boy* P/O F.S. **Folley**) is missing.

Sqn/Ldr J.C.N. Forshaw and *Old Boy* Pilot Officer Frank Smith **Folley** aged 28 rest in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Westeler Landkreis, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany – Joint Grave 9.B.24-25

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial – Runnymede

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 2 Panel 165

NOTE: Frank **Folley** was a cousin of *Old Boy* Neil **Haighton** who was lost in HMS *Blean* when it was torpedoed by U-433 on 11.12.1942 in the Mediterranean north-west of Oran.

‘The Martlet’ Old Boys News July 1936

‘F.S. **Folley** (1930-1934) on completing his course of training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, has been selected by Charles Laughton to play the part of Rembrandt’s son in his new film ‘Rembrandt’ which is being produced/directed by Alexander Korda’.

Note: Charles Laughton (1 July 1899 - 12 December 1962) was an English stage and film actor, director, producer and screenwriter. During his screen career, he won the Film Academy award for Best Actor for ‘*The Private life of Henry VIII*’ in 1933



Francis John GAHAN

Born	1925 Ilford Essex
Parents	John George and Rosa Ellen Gahan
School years	1932-1939
School Record	'The Martlet' Roll of Service 1940 N.A.2. Fleet Air Arm

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Lieutenant
Service Record	846 Squadron – Fleet Air Arm
Service Base	Aircraft Carrier HMS <i>Trumpeter</i>
Date of Death	04 May 1945



'Always threatening'



Fleet Air Arm Grumman 'Avenger' fighter-bomber 1944

On 1st May 1945, a naval attack task force sailed from Scapa Flow in the Orkneys. The fleet comprised three escort carriers, *Trumpeter* (carrying eight Grumman *Avenger* fighter-bombers and four Grumman *Wildcat* fighters) of 846 Squadron, *Queen* (carrying eight *Avengers* and four *Wildcat* fighters) of 853 Squadron and *Searcher* carrying 20 twenty *Wildcat* fighters) of 822 Squadron, a total of 44 aircraft. Accompanying them were two cruisers and six destroyers. The tasks code name was *Operation Judgement*.

By this stage of the war, the German navy had abandoned its U-boat stations on the Atlantic coast and Northern Norway and relocated to a natural inlet base further south at the Black Watch anchorage Kilbotn, Norway which was the task force's target.

Due to a German communication error, the strike was a complete surprise. The attack on the Black Watch anchorage lasted just seven minutes in which time two enemy ships and U-711 were sunk. In the initial attack a *Wildcat* of 822 Squadron hit the water with the loss of the pilot Lt. Hugh Morrison a New Zealander and an *Avenger* of 846 Squadron made a forced landing from which the

three-man crew *Old Boy* Lt. Francis **Gahan** (pilot), Sub/Lt. Alasdair Elder (navigator) and L/A Peter Mansfield (air gunner) did not survive.

Adolph Hitler committed suicide on 30th April 1945 and in his will left the shattered Third Reich trusting Grossadmiral Karl Donitz to be its future leader. Donitz ordered the immediate cessation of U-boat attacks on Allied Shipping on the 4th May just a few hours before the Kilbotn attack took place! U-boats continued to sink Allied shipping until the 7th May.

Operation Judgement was to be the last allied aerial raid of the 1939-1945 European theatre of World War Two.

Of the aircrew lost, one, Lt. Hugh Morrison from Wellington, New Zealand the senior pilot of 882 Squadron is buried in Narvik New Cemetery. The three British aircrew, *Old Boy* Lt. Francis John **Gahan**, Sub/Lt. Alasdair Elder and L/A Peter Mansfield were buried by the Germans, assisted by a Norwegian priest, in Sovik churchyard in the nearby village of Sovik, Island of Hinny, Harstad Kommune, Troms Fylke, Norway. Francis **Gahan** was 20.

The loss of these four men at war was grievous enough but the knowledge that their deaths could have been avoided must have left their families in utmost despair.

In June 2013 people of Kilbotn and Harstad fixed a board on the hillside as close as possible to the Black Watch anchorage giving details of the action.

Francis John **Gahan** was the younger brother of S.D. Gahan a staff member of Chichester High School for Boys for many years.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Geoffrey George GATES

Born	1922
Parents	George Walter and Florence Gates, Bognor Regis
School Years	1933 – 1939 Sherbourne House
School Record	Oxford School Certificate 1939 'The Martlet' – Roll of Service – A/C2 RAF - 1941

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Flight Lieutenant-Navigator
Service No	126651
Service Record	86 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Oakington
Date of Death	18 November 1944



Consolidated B-24 Liberator



We fly to freedom

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' December 1944

'It is with the greatest regret that, as we go to press, we learn of the loss of yet another Old Boy. F/Lt G. **Gates**, brother of Dennis Gates, is reported missing, believed killed, on November 18th. To his widowed mother and the rest of the family we desire to extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Entering the Royal Air Force before the war Geoffrey George **Gates** joined No. 86 Squadron as a navigator.

On ops flying out of RAF Oakington Consolidated *Liberator* aircraft BZ943 carried out regular sorties providing Convoy Escorts and Mine Laying.

During an Anti- Submarine Reconnaissance on 27th July 1944 *Liberator* BZ943 attacked U-865 outward bound from Trondheim which did some damage to the submarine. However, it in turn using its powerful flak barrage inflicted damage to the attacking aircraft setting two engines on fire.

Both U-boat and aircraft were forced to return to their respective bases. Interestingly, in *Searched War Records Free* there appears a post-war request by a relative of a U-boat 865 crewman enquiring as to the fate of **Gates**' aircraft which attacked it in July 1944.

On 18 November 1944 *Liberator* BZ943 took off from RAF Oakington on a training exercise and later crashed into the sea. The mixed RAF, RAAF and RNZAF crew of five including *Old Boy* Geoffrey George **Gates** were all lost. He was twenty-two.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial
Bognor Regis War Memorial
Runnymede – Panel 202

Chichester Observer 12 May 1945

Births, Marriages, Deaths

“Reported ‘Missing’ believe killed on 18 November 1944 Flt.Lt. Geoffrey G. **Gates** younger son of C.W. Gates and Mrs Gates of 69, Kyoto Court, Bognor Regis”

Fate of U-865 – Commander Dietrich Stellmacher. Missing since 9 September 1944 in the Norwegian Sea. There is no explanation for its loss. Fifty-nine dead (all hands lost).



Anthony Frederick **GEORGE**

Born	1917
Parents	Frederick and Dora Kate George, West Street, Bognor Regis
School Years	1928 – 1933 Sherborne House (an ‘original’ pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	Oxford School Certificate 1932 Exempt from University of London Matriculation Speech Day Prize 1933 Cricket XI -1932-1933 ‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service- Flt/ Sgt RAF December 1939
Occupation	Joined staff of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company in London 1934

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Pilot Officer
Service Record	206 Squadron
Operational Base	RAF Bircham Newton - Norfolk
Date of Death	13 June 1941



Lockheed Hudson

Pilot Officer Anthony Frederick **George**, aged 22, was posted to RAF Bircham Newton which was equipped with Lockheed *Hudsons*, an American light bomber ideal for anti-submarine reconnaissance missions

Ops. Air Sea Mission. In the early hours of 13 June 1941 with a crew of four, he took off on a mission to find another *Hudson* which had failed to return. This, in turn, had been searching for a *Wellington* bomber downed in the North Sea. None of the aircraft returned to base.

It was deemed likely that both *Hudsons* were shot down by an enemy fighter with all crews lost (later information: Shot down in the North Sea 140 km west of Texel by Obit. Leesman of Luftwaffen 1/JG52).

Derek Straw – 206 Squadron Association

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede



Neil HAIGHTON

Born	1921 – Burnley – Lancashire
Parents	Alan & Doris Haighton, believed to have lived at Burnsall, Yapton Road, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex but at the time of their son's death at Machynlleth, Montgomery, Wales
School Years	1933 – 1938 St Wilfrid's House

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Able Seaman
Service Number	P/JX 152380
Service Record	HMS <i>Blean</i>
Service Base	Royal Navy
Date of Death	11 December 1942

Type III 'Hunt-class' Escort Destroyer HMS *Blean* (L47) (Lt N.J. Parker) was named after the 'Blean Beagles' Hunt of the village of Blean just north of Canterbury. The ship was to have the shortest 'H' class mission career of the 2nd World War (sunk just four months after commissioning on 13th August 1942).

Whilst escorting the British Convoy MKF-4 off the Algerian Coast, HMS *Blean* was torpedoed north-west of Oran (Algeria) by U-443 on 11th December 1942. U-433 aimed one torpedo against her and a second against the convoy but both hit the *Blean* and she sank within four minutes with the loss of 89 men including *Old Boy* Neil **Haighton**. He was 21. Eight officers and 86 ratings were picked up by HMS *Wishart* (D67) (Cmdr. H.G. Scott)

Note – Neil Haighton was the cousin of *Old Boy* Frank Smith **Folley** who was killed when his *Mosquito* was shot down when supporting a bomber raid over Essen 26/27 April 1944.



Escort Destroyer – HMS Blean

A Memorial Plate to HMS *Blean* was unveiled in the church of St Cosmas and St Damian in the village of Blean, Kent on 10th December 2006

The Fate of U-433

On 16th February 1943 U-443 (Cmdr. Obit Konstantin von Puttkamer) was sunk in the Mediterranean east of Gibraltar by depth charges from escort destroyers HMS *Bicester*, *Lamerton* and *Wheatland* with the total loss of her crew of 48. On three patrols (67 days) U-433 also sank three merchant ships – GTN 19.435

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys –
St Nicholas Church, Middleton on Sea West Sussex
Navy War Memorial Portsmouth Panel 64 Column 1



Ronald Tom HALLETT

Born	1925 at Lymington, New Forest, Hampshire
Parents	Harry John Richard and Marguerite Besse Hallett of Chichester
School Years	1936-1940
School Record	'The Martlet' Roll of Service – A.C. 2 RAF– December 1942

Armed Forces Record

Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	1602270
Service Record	166 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Kirmington
Date of Death	23-24 September 1944



Sgt R.T. Hallett (W.Op./Air Gnr)

Rear Gunners – 'Tail End Charlies'

The term 'Tail-End Charlie' is nowadays used flippantly as a designation to anyone who finds themselves at the back, protecting others. Above, we see **Hallett** nonchalantly enjoying a cigarette posing for a squadron photo shoot. In reality, a rear-gunner's call of duty was to fulfil one of the most dangerous tasks that could be asked of anyone across all the armed services during the Second World War. His duties lasted just four missions.

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' December 1944

"It is with deep regret that we record the loss of Sgt. R.T. **Hallett** (1936-40) was killed in a raid over Dortmund in Germany on September 22nd and was buried at Chichester. His prompt action as rear gunner saved his plane and the lives of his comrades".

W.R. Chorley's 'Bomber Commander Losses of the Second World War 1941

No. 166 Squadron – *Lancaster* III –PB242 AS-E - Op. Neuss Germany

T/o 1840 Kirmington. Intercepted by a *Junkers* 88 night fighter whose fire killed rear gunner Sgt **Hallett** and inflicted very severe damage to the *Lancaster*. With two other crew injured from the attack, the pilot brought it back to crash-land at 23.30 on Manston Airfield, Kent. It was reported that the pilot S/L Rippingale and navigator Sgt. Cridge were decorated with the DSO and CGM respectively.

Lancaster Mk I PD242 AS-E

Crew

S/Ldr. Thomas Woodruff Rippingale DSO RAF 39159	Pilot
Sgt. R. C. Taylor RAF 1559642	Flight Engineer
Flg. Off. Harold Lawson Howling RAF 164614	Air Bomber
Sgt. Francis William Cridge CGM RAF 1802499	Navigator
Plt. Off. Clifford Ivor Edwards RAF 170904	Wireless Op.
Sgt. D. Lewington RAF 1609984	Mid Upper Gunner
Sgt R.T Hallet RAF 1602270	Tail Gunner

Below is **Hallett**'s operational 'Log' which shows him having completed four missions all within a thirteen-day period before his death.

Missions

Date	Mission	Target	Notes
25 August 1944			
12 Sep 1944	PD242 AS-E	Frankfurt	
17 Sep 1944		Biggekerke (Gun Site)	
20 Sep 1944		Sangatte	
23 Sep 1944		Neuss	Sgts Hallet killed Sgts Cridge & Edwards injured

Sergeant Francis William Cridge – Navigator of *Lancaster* Mk III PD242 AS-E 166 Squadron

Post from Sergeant Cridge's son.....

'My dad's Lancaster was shot up in a raid on Germany. They flew back and when they landed the officer in charge said, "Only God could have guided this plane back, as it was shot to pieces and never should have got back.....'

Chichester Observer – Saturday 07 October 1944

The rôle of honour of the Chichester High School for Boys was added to on September 23rd by the death in action of Sgt. Air Gunner Ronald Tom **Hallett**, only son of Petty Officer H. Hallett, R.N. and Mrs Hallett, of 57 Parklands Road, Chichester, who was killed when on operational duty over enemy territory. He is buried at Portfield Cemetery Plot. Square 159 C of E Grave 23.

Nineteen years of age, he was a former member of the 461 (Chichester District) Squadron of the A.T.C. which he joined in March 1941 passing onto the RAF in January 1942.

His career in the force was creditable. He attained the rank of sergeant in April of this year and showed every promise of further advancement.

His remains were brought to Chichester for interment, the funeral taking place on Thursday afternoon, following the impressive service in the Congregational Church, where the officiating minister (the Rev F. James Kay) paid high tribute to his laudable desire to fight against tyranny and his readiness to make the great sacrifice he had done for the cause of right. Squadron Leader Ripplingale (commander of the deceased's flight) travelled from a very distant station to attend the funeral, and Sgt. Air Gunner D. Lewington (companion gunner in the same bomber aircrew) was also present, with his father Mr W. Lewington (Portsmouth). Flight-Lieut. Stephenson with two N.C.Os represented 461 Squadron, A.T.C., and RAF party, under a Sergeant, acted as bearers, the coffin being draped with the RAF colours, and surmounted with flowers. The Headmaster of the Boys High School (Dr E.R. Bishop) attended and also present were some school colleagues of the deceased. A long list of mourners, tributes

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Arthur Fitzgerald **HALSTED** RAFVR

Born	1921
Parents	Gerald Heasman and Maud Kate Ada Halsted, Ipswich, Suffolk
School Years	1930-1937
School Record	Oxford School Certificate 1936 Exemption from matriculation of London University Special Prize - Physical Training 1937
Occupation	Student: Royal Veterinary College 1938

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	1313054
Service Record	429 Squadron RCAF 'The Bisons'
Service Base	RAF East Moor
Date of Death	13 May 1943



"Nothing to Chance"

History of No. 429 (Bisons) Squadron

Formed at RAF East Moor 07.11.1942. Transferred to No.6 Group (Royal Canadian Air Force) two months later.

429 Sqn – *Wellington* X HE913 AL- Op: Duisburg/o 2350 East Moor. Shot down by a night-fighter and crashed 02:58 some 2 km SW of Asten (Noord Brabant), Holland. All now rest in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Netherlands. Arthur **Halsted** was 22.

'The Martlet' School Notes July 1947

"We record with deep regret the death of Arthur Fitzgerald **Halsted** who has died on service in the war. On leaving the school he went up to the Royal Veterinary College in 1938, passed the 1st and

2nd year examination with honours, and joined the RAF in 1940. He was a Sergeant-Pilot, and his plane was shot down on a raid over Germany on May 13th, 1943.

‘The Bomber Command War Diaries - 1939-45’ – Martin Middlebrook/ Chris Everitt

12/13 May 1943

Duisburg Raid

Comprising 572 aircraft – 238 *Lancasters*, 142 *Halifaxes*, 112 *Wellingtons*, 70 *Stirlings*, 10 *Mosquitoes*

Lost 10 *Lancasters*, 10 *Wellingtons*, 9 *Halifaxes*, 5 *Stirlings* – 5.9 per cent of the force.

Wellington X HE913 AL – ops Duisburg

Crew

Old Boy RAF Halsted M	Flight Sergeant – Pilot
RCAF Broughton M.	Flight Sergeant – Air Gunner
RAF Dunger P.J.	Navigator
RAF Taylor Sergeant C. 035	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
RAF Willoughby B.Y.	Flying Officer – Air Bomber

This was the fourth raid on Duisberg during the Battle of the Ruhr, the first three raids had only been partially successful. The Pathfinder marking on this night was, however, near perfect and the Main Force bombing was particularly well concentrated. The central and port areas of the city were badly damaged, including four of the August Thyssen steel plants.

‘Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War’ – Volume 4’ – W.R. Chorley

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Harold William Alfred **HARRIS**

Born	1917
Family	Son of Harold William and Grace Harris, Husband of Annie Harris, Selsey.
School Years	1929-1934 - Sherborne House
School Record	Form Prize 1932 School Sports Day Winner Oxford School Certificate – Passed - July 1934 ‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service December 1943 - L/Cpl Royal Engineers
Occupation	Plumber

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Lance Corporal
Service Number	1574542
Service Record	Royal Engineers No 7 Field Company
Service Base	British Army
Date of Death	28 May 1943

‘The Martlet’ ‘School News’ – December 1943

“Another *Old Boy* has been killed on active service in North Africa. Alfred William **Harris** (1929-34) of Selsey had served throughout North African Campaign in the Royal Engineers. To his bereaved parents and relatives, we extend our deepest sympathies in their tragic loss”.

The two years of fluctuating battles during the North African Campaign (June 1940 to May 1943) came to an end when the Allied forces launched ‘Operation Torch’. The Allied armies finally overwhelmed the enemy forces in Tunisia. In essence the victory was won because the Axis fighting units supply lines had been cut off. On 13 May 1943, the German General Hans J von Arnim and Italian General Giovanni Messe signed the surrender. Theirs was a complete capitulation of their command structure. An estimated 255,000 POWs downed arms and started arriving at the agreed ‘cage’ assembly points.

THE CORPS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS (‘The Sappers’) has a roll in every area of the battlefield. At the front it supports the rest of the army, bridging rivers, clearing routes through minefields and using explosives to gain entry into buildings and destroy buildings.

On May 28th 1943, just 14 days after the cessation of hostilities, *Old Boy* ‘Sapper’ Harold William Alfred **Harris** was killed when clearing mines at Cape Bon Peninsular, Tunisia. He was 26. He is buried at the CWGC Cemetery of ‘Medjez-el-Bab’ 60 kilometres west of Tunis.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Selsey War Memorial

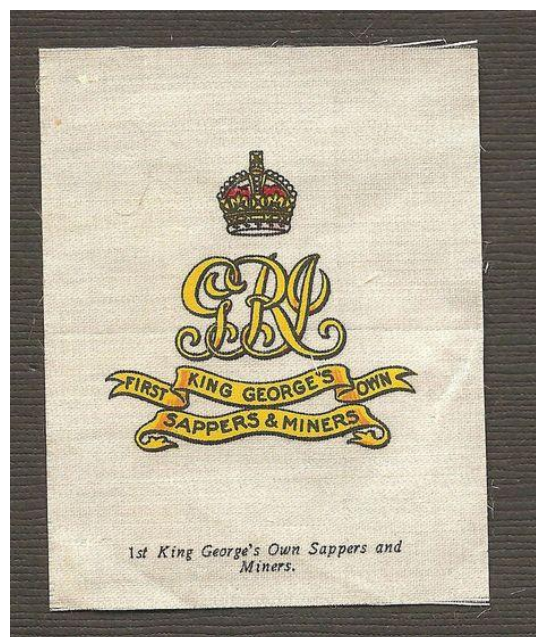


Michael Swinford **HARRISON**

Born	1923
Parents	George and Ella Joan Harrison, Bognor Regis
School Years	1934–1941 Sherborne House
School record	Oxford School Certificate – passed – 1939 Exempt from matriculation – University of London Prize List – March 1940 School Prefect Sherborne House Prefect and School Captain Prolific results on Athletic Sports Days – set record for ‘Hurdles’ School’s football XI and noted as ‘outstanding’ (House Notes)
Occupation	Student: Faculty of Science at University College Exeter

Armed Services Record

Service Rank	2nd Lieutenant Regiment: King George V’s Own Bengal Sappers and Miners
Service Base	Indian Army
Date of Death	8 February 1944



‘The Martlet’ – ‘School Notes’ – December 1941

“We congratulate M.S. **Harrison** on gaining an Open Exhibition in Chemistry at University College, Exeter and the award of a West Sussex Senior Scholarship as well as his colours for rowing”

‘The Martlet’ School News March 1944

We record with deep regret the death of Lt. Michael **Harrison** (1934-1941) of the Indian Army from typhoid in India. To his parents, we extend our heartfelt sympathy in this time of anxiety and loss. On the outbreak of the 2nd World War *Old Boy* Michael Swinford **Harrison** joined the Indian Army and was attached to the King George V’s Own Bengal Sappers and Miners. The word ‘Sapper’ has a French origin and the term can be described as being a ‘combat engineer’. During his service, he would have been attached to the Regimental Centre at Roorkee, United Province, India.

Michael **Harrison** died of typhoid on 8th February 1944 and is buried at the Delhi War Cemetery, Delhi Capital Territory, India.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial
Delhi War Cemetery India



Arthur George HAYMAN

Family	Married Marjorie E. Hayman in 1940 – ‘Dilkusha’, Nyton Road, Aldingbourne, Sussex
School Years	1928-1935 (an ‘original’ pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service – Sergeant Gunner RAF

Armed Services Record

Service Rank	Sergeant-Gunner
Service Number	580515
Service Record	217 Squadron
Service Base	RAF St Eval Cornwall - Coastal Command
Date of death	1 February 1941



Bristol Beaufort



“Avenging in the shadows”

Operation – ‘Admiral Hipper – Brest Harbour

In February 1941 the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) ‘*Admiral Hipper* (18.200 tons) was located lying in dry dock for engine repairs at Brest Harbour. One of five heavy cruiser class German warships she presented a constant threat to allied shipping. In early 1940 the British Destroyer, HMS *Glowworm*, had engaged the *Admiral Hipper* in Norwegian waters. The *Glowworm* sank following an epic engagement during which she rammed the much larger German vessel. The Commander of the *Glowworm* Gerard Roope was posthumously awarded the first Victoria Cross of the 2nd World War.

Once found, a total of eighty-five aircraft over five nights were dispatched with the *Hipper* as their principal target. Four direct hits were recorded.

Crew

RAAF – Flight Lieutenant R.A. Oakley – Pilot

RAF - *Old Boy* Sergeant A.G. **Hayman**

RAF – Sergeant Croker A.J.

RAF – Sergeant Rowley K.G

Beaufort L9835 MW-W aircraft of 217 Squadron took off at 14.55 hours from St Eval with air gunner *Old Boy* Arthur George **Hayman**, to attack the *Admiral Hipper*. They reported an engine failure after the attack; a Direction Finding (D/F) bearing put the aircraft close to the coast of France, well adrift of its home bearing.

The *Beaufort* would have been fighting a 35/45 knot headwind on one engine during the return leg to St Eval and it inevitably crashed into the sea off the French Coast with the loss of the crew.

Crew member Pilot Flt.Lt. Oakley of Ashburton, Victoria, Australia rests in Pihen-les-Guines Communal Cemetery at Cements Pas de Calais. The remainder of the crew including Arthur George **Hayman** aged 21 are commemorated at Runnymede.

These were early days of a war with an uncertain outcome. This attack was yet another sobering tribute to the thousands of young aircrew fighting against seemingly impossible odds to keep Britain out of the clutches of a tyrannical regime.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede – Panel 44

RAF St Eval - Coastal Command War Memorial – 1939 – 1959 - In memory of 974 gallant air crew & 22 ground staff – Unveiled 10th April 2005 by Wing Commander Keith Cowieson



Lawrence Rex **HINDE**

Born	1922
Parents	Arthur Reginald and Gladys Hinde, Lymington
School Years	1933-1938
School Record	Oxford School Certificate – Pass – July 1938 'The Martlet' Roll of Service – Pilot RAF – July 1940. Is in training with the R.A.F.V.R.
Occupation	Hotelier

Armed Services Record

Service Rank	Sergeant RAFVR
Service Number	926469
Service Record	50 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Finningley, Yorks
Date of Death	18 June 1940



Hampden

'The Martlet' School Notes July 1941

"Lawrence **Hinde**, Sgt Pilot in the RAF was killed on active service on June 18th of this year. **Hinde** recently visited the School while on leave and always wrote so happily of both his pre-war training as an hotelier at Hotel Metropole, Brighton and his successes in training for the RAF. To the parents and relatives of this gallant lad we extend our deepest sympathy and our keen appreciation of what their loss must mean to their homes".

Crew

L.R. **Hinde** –Sergeant
M.E. Balkin –Corporal
A. Campbell-Sergeant
H. Barten - LAC
Kemp.P.C Ac2 -

Pilot
Air Bomber
Observer
Uncertain
Air Gunner

At 18:50 hrs on 18th June 1941 ‘*Old Boy*’ Sergeant L.R. **Hinde** had just taken off from Lindholm airfield piloting a *Hampden* aircraft P4389 on an air test when it stalled and dived into a boundary field and was destroyed. Both crew members plus three ground crew taking a flight were killed.

Lawrence Rex **Hinde** is buried at the Hatfield Woodhouse Cemetery, South Yorkshire.

Note: His family were to suffer another loss when his brother ‘*Old Boy*’ Michael Dounis **Hinde**, Merchant Navy aged 20 was lost at sea 30 miles north-northwest of Lewis, Outer Hebrides following a U-boat attack on 22nd January 1942.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester Was Memorial



Michael Dounis **HINDE**

Born	1922
Parents	Arthur Reginald and Gladys Hinde, Lymington, Hants.
School Years	1933 – 1938
School Record	Oxford School Certificate - July 1938 'The Martlet' 1939 Second Radio Officer in the Mercantile Marine and is present on a round-the-world trip – July 1940
Occupation	Merchant Navy. Successfully completed a course of training as a Wireless Engineer at the Wireless College- London

Service Record

Rank	First Radio Officer
Service Record	Merchant Navy British steam merchant ship – 5,850 tons
Service Vessel	S.S. <i>Caledonian Monarch</i>
Date of death	22 January 1942



'The Martlet' 'School News' March 1942

"We continue to hear of the loss in battle and on active service of Old Boys. M.D. **Hinde** (1933-1938), the only surviving son of Captain A.R. and Mrs G. Hinde, who was senior radio officer on his ship, has been reported missing, presumably lost, as the result of the torpedoing of his ship. It was only last year that we recorded with sincere regret the death of his brother Lawrence, a Sergeant Pilot in the RAF. Captain Hinde is on active service in the Middle East, and Mrs Hinde has thus given all she holds dear to the cause of King and Country"

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest military campaign in WW2 and lasted from 1939 to the surrender of Germany on 7 May 1945. The Battle pitted U- boat submarines of the Kriegsmarine (German Navy), the aircraft of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) and later the Italian Navy and Air Force against the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, United States Army Air Force, Royal Canadian Navy, United States Navy and allied Merchant Shipping.

The U-boats, nicknamed ‘grey wolves’ as they often worked in packs, were part of Hitler’s plan to starve the UK of food, raw materials and equipment.

An island nation, the UK was dependant on imported goods; Britain required a million tons a week to survive. The Battle of the Atlantic became a ‘tonnage war’. A convoy system, often exceeding forty ships, was put in place. Bad weather and enemy action often dispersed their lines and many ships often strayed.

On 7 January 1942 the *Caledonian Monarch* (Master James Valentine Stewart), was sailing from Rosario – Halifax en route to Loch Ewe, Scotland with a cargo of 8,075 tons of wheat, had strayed from Convoy No. SC-63 and was reported missing. A week later the remainder of the convoy encountered severe weather and was dispersed.

At 04.11 hours on 22 January, U-588 (Commander Kapitanleutnant Victor Vogel) fired a torpedo at an unescorted steamer and observed a hit amidships thirty miles north-west of Lewis, Outer Hebrides. As the vessel settled slowly in the water he waited for the crew to abandon ship and then fired a *coup de grace* which caused the steamer to sink fast by the bow. The Germans reported five fully occupied lifeboats but were unable to identify the vessel.

A counterclaim that the ship had been sunk by U-333 (Commander Korvettkapitan Peter-Enrich Cremer – Knights Cross) on 18 January 500 miles east of St Johns, Newfoundland was discounted by Lloyds which ruled that neither could have been in the same position on that date. So, the victim of Cremer, if any, is still unidentified.

Curiously, although Vogel recorded that he was unable to identify the ship at the time, his personal ‘hit’ list includes *Caledonian Monarch* as his first sinking. Further analysis links him with the ship, but, unlike hundreds of other U-boat entries, the method for the sinking (torpedo) is omitted.

Whatever its fate no trace of the ship or crew was never found and she was considered lost either by enemy action or by marine causes on 14 January.

The master and forty crew, including first Radio Officer ‘*Old Boy*’ Michael Dounis **Hinde** plus six gunners, were listed as lost. He was 20

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Merchant Navy War Memorial – Tower Hill – London

Michael Dounis **Hinde** was the brother of ‘*Old Boy*’ Lawrence Rex Hinde RAFVR who died in a flying accident at RAF Finningley, Yorks on 18 June 1941.

The Fate of U-588

Aftermath - On 31 July 1942 Vogel’s U-588 was attacked in the North Atlantic by Royal Canadian warships Corvette *Wetaskiwin* and destroyer *Skeena* using depth charges. He was lost with his entire crew of forty-six. During four patrols (total 130 days at sea) he had sunk seven ships and damaged two others.



Robert J. **HOTHAM**

Born c. 1922
Parents Not known
School Years 1930's
School Record 2nd in sack race 1933. Only entry in 'The Martlet'

Armed Services Record

Rank Boy
Service Number 152869
Service Record In training
Service Base HMS *St. Vincent*
Date of Death 23 Jan 1938 (in Royal Naval Hospital *Haslar*)



Royal Navy "boy" entrants on parade at HMS St Vincent, Gosport

Extract from "British Army and Navy Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1730– 1960" in Ancestry.co.uk

Name: Robert J. Hotham
Event: Death
Birth Date: about 1922
Death Date: 23 Jan 1938
Death Age: Sixteen
Death Place: RNH Haslar

Sources

Hotham is listed on the War Memorial but a service record has been hard to locate. It was first thought that **Hotham** was a civilian. Initial searches found a Hotham at Stein Road, Southbourne where he kept a shop at the outbreak of the 2nd World War. Another ‘breakthrough’ indicated a Hotham family on the Register of 1939 living in the Chichester area. I even received a report that a Hotham attended School in the fifties!

The only evidence that R. **Hotham** attended Chichester High School for Boys can be found in the school magazine ‘The Martlet’, No.6 Summer Term, 1933, Vol.1. On page 12 are The Athletic Sports day results where an R. **Hotham** is listed as having finished second in the Sack Race (under 12)!

Finally, a plausible answer emerged after a detailed search of ancestry.com. Evidence points to an R.J. **Hotham** joining the Royal Navy. He would have been 16 years of age in 1938, the year of his death, serving as a ‘boy’ entrant at HMS *St. Vincent* Shore Training Establishment, Gosport. The circumstances of his death are entered on page 306 of HMS *St. Vincent*’s obituary log:

“1938 – NO.152869 - Hotham Robert J. - age 16 – Boy - Jan 23 - Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Hampshire.
Cause of Death – Injuring Head – Cerebral, Laceration and Contusion (fell down stairs).”

Robert **Hotham** was born in 1922 at Westbourne, West Sussex. His mother’s maiden name was ‘Buck’. His death was registered March 1938 at Gosport, Hampshire.

There remains a mystery. If the above information is correct, why did his name qualify for inclusion on the School’s ‘Roll of Honour’ Board? He was serving in uniform but his death occurred eighteen months before the outbreak of the 1939-1945 World War II.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys



David Michael **JAMES** RNVR

Born 1922
Parents Bernard Seton and Dorothy Charlotte James, Chichester
School years 1932 – 1940
School Record Form Prize 1935 – 1936 – 1937 – 1938 - 1939
Shelley Memorial Prize – 1938
Debating Society 1939 – Regular Contributor ‘The Martlet’
Oxford School Certificate 1940
Special Prize – 1940 (Latin)
University of London Higher School Certificate 1940
‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service – 2nd Cl. Airman – Fleet Air Arm – RN
L/N.A. in the RNAS is in training at the US Naval Air Station in Florida

Armed Forces Record

Service rank Temp Sub/ Lieutenant (A) Observer
Service record 810 Squadron ‘Seafire’
Service Base HMS *Indefatigable*
Date of Death 16 May 1945



A Seafire makes a carrier arrestor wire landing

‘The Martlet’ School Notes July 1945

‘Still another fine character and promising man has died in the person of David Michael **James** (1932–1940), a younger son of Mrs D.C. James of Akbar, St Pauls Road, Chichester, and brother of John James. All that is known at present is that he died of wounds received in action as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm against the Japanese. David **James** was an outstanding boy throughout his School career and he intended to read Law at Oxford.

No one who knew him can doubt that a brilliant career lay before him, and he possessed the ability and force of character to make a great contribution as a citizen and scholar. We cannot spare such potential leaders as this, and in reflecting upon his untimely death do we feel the price we have paid for survivor and victory. Let us, each in his own small way, see to it that he may not have died in vain.’

British Pacific Fleet (BPF) – Operation ‘Iceberg’

During the middle of 1945 aircraft from HMS *Indefatigable* and two other British aircraft carriers (BPF) attacked Japanese targets off the Sakishima Islands (located at the southernmost end of the Japanese archipelago) between 4th and 25th May. During this period on the 16th May 1945 *Old Boy* David Michael **James** died of wounds received in action.

The *Seafire* was a naval fighter based on the famous Supermarine *Spitfire*. Unfortunately, the design of the *Spitfire* was not well suited to adaption as a naval aircraft. It lacked the operating range and robustness of a purpose-built carrier fighter. At the end of the operation, the BFP statistics showed that 61 *Seafires* were either lost or damaged beyond repair during both phases of operation ‘Iceberg’ due to deck landing incidents.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys -

Chichester War Memorial

Bay 6 Panel 4 – Lee-on-Solent- Hants - FAA Memorial

Deaths, Births and Marriages – Chichester Observer 1945

In Memoriam – Died of Wounds while on active service in Eastern Waters – Sub Lt. David Michael **James** - Age 23



Kenneth LANCE RAFVR

Date of Birth	1921
Parents	Harry Percy Johnson and Winifred Rose Lance, Ferring, Sussex and later at Middleton on Sea
School Years	1933-1939
School Record	Form Prize 1935 – 1938 Oxford School Certificate July 1938 'The Martlet' December 1943 Roll of Service Sgt W.O/A.G. RAF
Occupation	K. Lance (1933-1939) at St Patrick's Hall, Reading University has been awarded a West Sussex Agricultural Scholarship for 1940-1941- 'The Martlet' Old Boys News December 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	1320387
Service Record	No. 10 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Melbourne
Date of Death	22/23 November 1943



Handley Page "Halifax"

The Bomber Command War Diaries – Martin Middlebrook/ Chris Everitt

22/23 November 1943 - Night

Berlin

746 Aircraft – 469 *Lancasters*, 234 *Halifaxes*, 50 *Stirlings*, 11 *Mosquitoes*.

Losses 26 aircraft – 11 *Lancasters*, 10 *Halifaxes*, 5 *Stirlings* – 3.4 per cent of the force

This was the most numerous force sent to Berlin so far. Bad weather again kept most of the German fighters on the ground and the bomber force was able to take a 'relatively-straight' route to the target without suffering undue loss. Siemens Factory and Tank Factory destroyed. Heavy civilian casualties.

Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War – W.R. Chorley

22-23 November 1943 – 10 Sqn – *Halifax* II – JD146 ZA-Y – Group 4 – Op: Berlin

Crew

F/O Sgt J. McMillan

Pilot

Sgt T.H.R McKeag

Old Boy Sgt K. **Lance**

Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner

Sgt A. Buchan

F/O M.F. Baxter

Take off 16:54 Melbourne. This aircraft lost without trace.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

St Nicholas Church – Middleton-on-Sea – West Sussex

Runnymede – Panel 156

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln - Phase 2 Panel No. 196



Frank Gordon **LEPPARD**

Born 1925
Parents Frank Dodd and Lilly Susannah Leppard, North Bersted
School Years 1936 – 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Ordinary Telegraphist
Service Number P/JX 429385
Service Record Royal Navy
Service Base HMS *Asphodel*
Date of Death 10 March 1944



HMS “Asphodel” – Corvette

At 0154 hours on 10th March 1944, the German submarine U-575 attacked convoy SL-150, which was combined with convoy MKS-4 north of the Azores and sank the corvette HMS *Asphodel* (T/Lt Michael Albert Halliday RNZNR) using a Gnat torpedo (an early acoustically guided torpedo). Only 5 survivors of the crew of 97 were picked up by the British Corvette HMS *Clover*. *Old Boy* Frank Gordon **Leppard** did not survive the attack. He was nineteen.

Commemorated: Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Royal Naval Memorial, Portsmouth, Hampshire

The Fate of U-boat 575 - (Commander Obit. Wolfgang Boehmer survived and died in 2006)

Following the sinking of HMS *Asphodel* on the 10th March the U-boat was hunted for 18 hours but finally escaped. A few days later on the 13th March she was sunk by the combined efforts of Canadian Frigate *Prince Rupert*, American destroyer USS *Hobson* and destroyer escort USS *Haverfield*, a British *Wellington* Bomber of 172 Squadron, two B17 *Flying Fortresses* from 206 and 208 Squadrons plus an *Avenger* from USS *Bogue*. Depth charges were used. The U-boat was finally forced to the surface. Crew fatalities finally totalled 18 and there were 37 survivors. Under three commanders in her ten patrols, U-575 had sunk eight convoy ships and a warship during a total of 463 days at sea.



Maurice Jack LEWIS

Born	17 June 1917
Parents	George Thomas Crole (1882 – 1976) Private in the Royal Sussex Regiment and Gladys Audrey Lewis (née Hunt 1889 – 1954), 'Capella', Stockbridge Road, Donnington, Chichester
School Years	1928–1934 St Wilfrid's House—(an 'original' pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	Dramatic Society Productions – 1933 Speech Day Prize - 1934 Oxford School Certificate – July 1934 Passed with credit in English, History, French, Mathematics, Biology and Geography. Passed the Oral French test Exemption from Matriculation – University of London 1934
Occupation	Clerk – Architects Department – County Hall- 'The Martlet' - Old Boys News

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Flight Lieutenant
Service Number	41035
Service Record	Pilot - 102 Squadron (Ceylon)
Service Base	RAF Drifffield: POW Poland
Date of Death	18 August 1943



School Magazine 'The Martlet' Old Boys News December 1943

'Another Old Boy has lost his life in the war. We record with the deepest regret the death as a prisoner of war in Germany of Flying Officer J.M. **Lewis**. Beyond the fact that his death was due to an 'accident', no details are yet available. To his sorrowing parents and relatives, we express our deepest sympathy for their unexpected bereavement'.

Ops – Attack on the German Battleship *Scharnhorst* moored at Kiel.

Whitley bomber NI523 102 Squadron took off from Driffield on 6 June 1940 and was brought down in the target area crashing on the south shore of Eckernförde on the Baltic Sea 18km NNW of Kiel. All the crew survived and became Prisoners of War.

The 'accident' referred to in 'Old Boys News' December 1943 brought a tragic end to the life of Maurice Jack **Lewis**.

An 'ancestry.co.uk' fact sheet records:

Age 22 – Military

On the 7 Jun 1940 – RAF Base England

RAF Bomber Command. Shot down over Kiel, Germany



The "Whitley" Bomber



Flight Lieutenant Maurice Jack Lewis Funeral procession 18 August 1943

Age twenty-three – Residence 1940-1943 – Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Silesia, Poland

Status - POW

Age twenty-six - Death

Death date and place from War Records and Letters.

Died from wounds received whilst trying to escape on 18 August 1943. **Lewis** escaped from Sagan only to be hit by a train and killed.

Burial

On 18 August 1943 – Grave 4, POW Cemetery, Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Silesia, Poland

Burial Date and Place from War Records and Letters. Buried with Full Military Honours.



Burial of Flight Lieutenant Maurice Jack LEWIS Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Silesia, Poland – 18 August 1943

In 1949 his remains were re-interred in the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Poland

The inscription *“There’s some corner of a foreign field that is forever England”*

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Remembered: Inscription - Family grave at Portfield Cemetery, Chichester

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln - Phase 2 – Panel 199



Victor Donald **MacMILLAN**

Born	1915
Parents	Mr and Mrs J. MacMillan, Southdown Road, Bogor Regis
School Years	1929-1936 St Wilfred's House
School Record	Oxford School Certificate 1932 – Passed with credit Exempt from the University of London Matriculation Speech Day Prize – Spring 1933 School IX - Cricket Sports Day – Senior Long Jump - Record Association Football Athletics - County Inter-Schools contest 1932 Keen sportsman, he played cricket for Bognor Regis C.C. and football for the Town Club and Bognor Wednesday F.C.
Occupation	Joined the Royal Air Force in 1936

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant Pilot
Service Number	182213
Service Record	206 Squadron Coastal Command
Service Base	Bircham Newton, Norfolk
Date of Death	6 December 1939



Avro Anson

Sergeant V.D. **MacMillan** was the co-pilot/navigator to Pilot Officer J.H. Grimes (Captain, Pilot) on the fatal day on 6 December 1939, along with two other crew – Air Gunners/Wireless Operators – Cpl H.J. Cockayne and LAC J.S. Bagley. Victor was the oldest at 24; the remaining crew were 20-21. Years. A very young team, but typical of that time. They were flying in an Avro *Anson* Mk1 K6189, Squadron letter VX-R, based at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk.

“The crew took off from Bircham at 09:25 tasked on a Reconnaissance operation to the Mass & Haaks Light-Vessels. At some point, during combat 70 miles north of Texel, they collided with an ME110 of II/ZG26 (Luftwaffe fighter Sqn.) which also crashed with the loss of its crew. (The Light Vessels off the Dutch Coast were believed to be rendezvous points for German U-boats.)”

Although the *Anson* was not a fighter aircraft it was equipped with a rear gun turret and some had forward firing guns; in those early days of the war the crews had many tangles with German reconnaissance aircraft, usually floatplanes and seaplanes, so getting involved with a high-performance enemy like the ME110 was a rare and courageous feat.

Typical tasks of the Bircham Newton based Squadron were: air cover for the coastal convoys between Flamborough Head and Orfordness, anti-submarine sweeps to the enemy coastline. ‘Kipper’ Patrols protecting our fishing fleets, and all the while, every sortie, maintaining constant vigilance for the Royal Navy against any German Battle Fleet units.

Wing Commander Derek Straw – 206 Squadron Association

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Bognor Regis War Memorial

Runnymede



George MARSH

Born: 1920
Parents: Joseph and Jessie Harriett Davis Marsh, Chichester West Sussex
School Years: 1931 – 1936
School Record: Form Prize – 1933
Oxford School Certificate 1936
‘The Martlet’ School News - ‘Roll of Service’ July 1940
Wireless Operator - RAF Coastal Command

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Warrant Officer
Service Number: 1164460
Services Record: Unit No. 4 (Coastal) Operation Training Unit
Services Base: RAF Alness - Scotland
Date of Death: 17 February 1944



Short Bros 'Sunderland' Flying Boat

The Martlet' - 'School News' July 1944

'We learn that George **Marsh** (1931-1936) is missing after an accident to a Sunderland Flying Boat. At the moment we know no more but we fervently hope that he will be reported as safe and sound'.

'The Martlet' 'School News' – Autumn 1947

"It is with the greatest regret we recently learned of the death of another Old Boy in the war of 1939-45. George **Marsh** (1931-36) a Warrant Officer Wireless Operator was reported missing over the North Sea in a Sunderland Flying Boat on February 17th 1944. **Marsh** was the life and soul of many a School party and a ready entertainer at Old Boy's functions. To his relatives, we express our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement".

Later Source record December 2018:

Stuart Berry – Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre.

John Evans – Trustee and Volunteer Archivist – Pembroke Dock Sunderland Trust.

M.L. Hatch – Air Historical Branch (RAF) – Ministry of Defence – RAF Northolt – Ruislip – Middlesex.

George **Marsh** was lost at estimated 04.20 hours on 17th February 1944 whilst on a non-operational night training exercise flying from RAF Alness, Scotland in a Short Sunderland Mk.2 Serial No. T9088. Crashed in the sea 65 miles east of Shapinsay, Orkney Islands. Cause of loss – Obscure- no survivors from a ten-man crew.

Crew

Sgt Derek Austin

Sgt Basil Baxter

Sgt Eric Cairns

Sgt Andrew W. Fletcher

F/O Alan D.H. Gray

F/O Kevin R. Guiton

F/S Maurice J.H. Gerrard

Old Boy W/O George **Marsh**

F/O Eric N. McLeod-Nibbs

Sgt Sydney Thompson



Sunderland T9088 228 Sqn - Photograph taken June/ July 1942. Seen boarding is Admiral Sir Percy Noble on an inspection tour of Scottish Naval Establishments.

Aircraft went missing on 17.01.1944. Air Sea Rescue by units Sunderland's 'W', 'KK', 'GG' 'Q' on the 17th and one 'KK' on 18th found nothing. Oxfords from 4 (C) OTU Evanton also took part: 'G' searched on the 18 & 19th. Nothing found.

Court of Enquiry summary:

Sunderland T9088 – Missing 17.01.1944

Non-Operational Training.

Aircraft failed to return from exercise.

Due back from ops at 06.30

‘Plot’ showed this aircraft 30 miles off track.

Only two wireless contacts made.

Crew had been sent on Operational Flying Exercise having just returned from one.

Fatigue.

Weather excellent with bright moon.

No evidence as to the cause of accident.

Commanding Officer agrees above:

Air Officer Commanding of Enquiry agrees but taking action as to why crew were sent on Operational Training Exercise immediately after completing one.

Pilot probably tired.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

RAF Alness site – Cromarty Firth - Scotland

Remembered on Panel 214 - Runnymede



Edwin John **MARSHALL** RAFVR

Born	1923
Parents	Frederick Ewart and Maud Emily Marshall, Littlehampton.
School Years	1936 – 1940
School Record	‘The Martlet’ July 1937 – Poem ‘the Battle of Hastings’ Oxford School Certificate December 1940 Exemption from matriculation University of London - December 1940 ‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service - Sgt Pilot RAF December 1943
Occupation	Grade VI Clerk in the Education Branch at County Hall

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	1396439
Service Record	150 Squadron
Operational Base	Foggia /Regina - Italy
Date of Death	14 July 1944

‘The Martlet’ School Notes March 1945

News has been received that E.J. **Marshall**, a Sergeant-Pilot in the RAF, has been reported missing from operations in Italy. To his brother D. Marshall, a Sub-Lt in the Royal Navy, the sole survivor of the family, we tender our heartfelt sympathy.

Translation from Italian

On the night between 13th/14th July 1944, RAF 205 Group sent 74 twin-engine bombers including *Wellingtons*, 7 *Liberators* of SAAF Wing and 8 *Halifaxes* 614 Squadron ‘Pathfinders’ to bomb the Lambrate/Milan railway marshalling yards. The aircraft belonged to Squadrons 150, 142, 70 and 37 who took off from bases located in the Foggia/Regina region of Southern Italy and arrived at Milan at 11.20pm at an altitude of 1,800 metres.



Wellington Mk I bomber

The night raid was hampered by bad weather and anti-aircraft artillery. Bombs were scattered over a large area; there was serious damage to the freight yard but lower than estimated. The flight back to base was a real odyssey for the British Crews.

Six aircraft did not return. Two were brought down by anti-aircraft fire and there were two in-flight collisions.

Wellington LN806 of 37 squadron was involved in an in-flight collision with *Wellington* LN792 of 150 Squadron.

Crew

<i>Old Boy</i> Sgt E.J Marshall	RAF
Sgt. P. Gaffney	RAF
Sgt F. Hellier	RAF
Sgt J.A. Macklin	RAF
Sgt R.G. Gorick	RAF

A total of eleven crew members from both aircraft lost their lives in the fall of the bombers. They were rushed to Pizzighettone and San Bassona Cremonese following the collision but were later laid to rest at the CWGC Cemetery, Milan War Cemetery, Via Cascina Bellaria s.a. 20153 Milano. Lombardia. Edwin John **Marshall** was twenty-one.

N.B. On the same return flight, two other Wellingtons also collided. The pilots and navigators were lost but the other airmen escaped by parachute and were taken prisoners of war.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



James Reginald Bryan **MEAKER** D.F.C.

Born 19 January 1919 in Kinsale, County Cork
Parents Edgar Reginald and Lucy Adelaide Meaker, The Cottage, West Dean, Chichester
School Years 1931 – 1936
School Record Oxford School Certificate 1934
London Matriculation Examination 1935
Distinction in French
'The Martlet' July 1939- Has been granted a commission as a pilot in the RAF and is Training at Grantham
Roll of Service - Acting Pilot Officer – No. 12 Flying Training School
Occupation Appointed Branch Manager at Midhurst for Chichester Observer- 'The Martlet' Old Boys News 1937

Air Forces Record

Service rank Pilot Officer
Service Number 42514
Service Record 249 Squadron
Service Base RAF Church Fenton
Date of death 27 September 1940



249 Squadron



Bryan Meaker is shown (left) with F/O PR Burton

Before the outbreak of war, Bryan **Meaker** had a strong bent for journalism and joined the Chichester Observer. Developing his decided ability, after two years he was given charge of Midhurst District where he made good and built up a wide circle of friends. With war looming he cut short a promising journalistic career to enlist in the Royal Air Force making rapid progress to a commissioned rank,

Chichester Observer – Sat 06 April 1940 Page 1 ‘Chichester Pilot Bales Out - Parachute Descent

“Pilot Officer J.R.B. **Meaker** of ‘The Cottage’ West Dean, Chichester home on leave had an exciting story to tell. “I was flying along in formation,” he told an Observer Reporter, “when I suddenly found that I was flying without a tail. The plane behind had bumped into me. I immediately bailed out. The parachute I was wearing was not my own and too large for me, I had some trouble finding the ring. There were anxious moments. I found myself descending upside down but when I touched my feet with my head, I was able to straighten out and land safely.” Pilot Officer **Meaker** of 249 Squadron was formerly on the staff of the Observer and left to join the RAF. He is none the worse for his experience. ”

Then a few months later during The Battle of Britain, Pilot Office **Meaker** was killed on September 27th 1940 after he had baled-out of his stricken *Hurricane* (P3834) after being shot-up by a *Junkers* 88 over Sussex. It appears that on leaving the aircraft he had been struck by the tailplane of his aircraft and this resulted in his death. His aircraft came down at Dallington, East Sussex. He fell to the ground and was found two miles away at Brightling, his unopened parachute nearby.

Remembered as a lively young and enthusiastic reporter he was buried with full military honours at West Dean Cemetery. Chichester High School for Boys Headmaster E.W. Bishop attended his funeral and a School wreath was laid.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial
Battle of Britain Memorial - Capel- le- Furne
St Andrew Church – West Dean – West Sussex

Citation

Pilot Officer J.R.B. (‘Bryan’ as he preferred to be called) **Meaker** was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross D.F.C. on the 18th October 1940. His parents were notified a few days after his death.

The Citation reads:

‘Pilot Officer Meaker has shot down at least five enemy aircraft and damaged others. Resolute in attack, with a calm, determined temperament his leadership has been an example to his squadron’

‘Bryan’ **Meaker** was 21

Postscript

The ‘Battle of Britain’ raged on. Seen above with Bryan **Meaker** is twenty-three-year old Pilot Officer ‘Percy’ Burton (Diocesan College, Cape Town), also a 249 Squadron pilot, who lost his life on the same day as **Meaker**. He sustained a frantic forty-mile rooftop chase in his *Hurricane* across Sussex, following an ME110 fighter-bomber piloted by Gruppe Kommandeur Hauptman Horst Liensberger which ended in a mid-air collision over Hailsham. Out of control, both aircraft crashed killing the pilots. Burton was laid to rest in St Andrews Churchyard at Tangmere.

The Squadron was disbanded in 1969. In the year 2000, its number was given to an Air Cadet Squadron based in Hailsham, Sussex. This was in recognition that a 249 Squadron pilot was lost over the town in the Battle of Britain.

Investiture

‘The gallant service record of the late Pilot Officer Bryan **Meaker**, RAF, a former member of the reporting staff of this paper, received its final recognition at a recent investiture by H.M. the King at Buckingham Palace at which his parents were present to receive the D.F.C. awarded to him.

It may be remembered that the announcement of the distinction he had won was made very shortly after he had lost his life in defence of London, but he had known of the award before his death.

At the investiture, Captain and Mrs E.R. Meaker, who need no introduction in the Chichester District, were among some 200 relatives assembled at the Palace to be presented posthumously with decorations awarded for gallant deeds.

His Majesty performed the ceremony in the uniform of an Admiral of the fleet and several V.C.’s won by naval members were among the first honours to be presented’.

Chichester Observer 1940



Charles Frederick **MUNDY**

Born	1921
Parents	Charles William and Ethel Mundy of 15 Marina Ave, Bognor
School Years	1930-1938 St Wilfrid's House
School Record	Selected for County Inter School Sports Team competition - 1932 Oxford School Certificate – Honours – 1934 Exemption from Matriculation – University of London Speech Day Prize – 1932 – 1933 – 1934 - 1935 – 1936 – 1937 – 1938 Special Prize –1937 Higher School Certificate – 1936 – University of London School Captain and St Wilfred's House Captain during 1937 School football and cricket first XIs Sports Day Winner – July 1937 Throwing Cricket Ball (record) July 1938 - (S) 100 yards July 1938 – (S) 220 yards (senior record) School Library – ‘Sonnet’ published in ‘The Martlet’ 1937 Represented School in Basque Refugee Children's' charity. ‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service 1941 Private, Royal Sussex Regiment
Occupation	Came 31 st in the list of the London County Council Major Clerical Examination – Secured an appointment at County Hall, London in 1938

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Gunner
Service Number	990029
Service Record	17 th Field Regiment – Theatre of War - North Africa Campaign
Service Base	Royal Artillery – London S.E.
Date of Death	19 January 1943

‘The Martlet’ School Notes March 1943

“We record with deep regret the deaths on active service of *Old Boy* C.F. **Mundy**, Captain of the School in 1937, and also of *Old Boy* W.G. **Shotter** during North Africa Campaign Both were killed within days of each other. We have already expressed in letters to their parents our deep and sincere sympathy for the loss of these gallant lads, and we place on record our sense of gratitude to

them for the service that their sons have rendered to us. Losses such as these redouble our determination so to play our part in the struggle and in the reconstruction to come that they shall not have given their lives in vain”.

On the 19th January 1943, during the early allied advance to seize Tunisia from the Axis Armies, *Old Boy* Gunner Charles Frederick **Mundy** aged 22 of the 17th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, sustained wounds in battle from which he never recovered. *Old Boy* Gunner William George **Shotter** aged 19, who had only just arrived in North Africa, was killed on 21st January 1943. Both were laid to rest at the CWGC Cemetery at Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia.



A 25 –pdr field gun of the 11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery in action 1942

Mundy’s Curriculum Vitae portrays an outstanding pupil who embedded himself in every aspect of school life. Thoroughly academic, he achieved sporting prowess in athletics, football and cricket whilst also embarking on a list of extracurricular activities.

Geoff Wills recalls..... “This must have been C.F. **Mundy** who fell during World War II. He was a renowned cricketer and footballer whilst at School and I remember “Killer Colgan” referring to him in 1945/1946 as “Pongo **Mundy**”. Framed photographs of pre-war sporting XIs were hung on the wall in Room 10 which I believe, it was before my time, was the 6th form classroom. Mr Colgan pointed **Mundy** out to us which made quite an impression because we all commented how old they looked in those pre-war photographs, probably because of the excessive use of Brylcreem. However, from my references to team pictures on the Website, I always thought that **Mundy** was on the extreme left-hand side back row of the 1938-1939 cricket team but this may not be the case. A great pity that the framed photographs of pre-war teams have all disappeared”.

Commemorated: Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Bognor Regis War Memorial



Ronald **NORTH** RAFVR

Born 1921
Parents Frederick and Edith North, Chichester Sussex
School Years 1932 – 1937

Armed Services Record

Service Rank Sergeant
Service Number 1167139
Service Record No.99 Squadron (Madras Presidency)
Service Base RAF Waterbeach, Group 3
Date of Death 15/16 November 1941



Vickers "Wellington Bombers"

‘The Martlet’ School Notes March 1942

“*Old Boy* W. Op/Air Gnr Sgt R. **North** reported missing in November after a raid on Germany and so far, no definite news of his fate has been received”.

The Bomber Command War Diaries – Martin Middlebrook/Chris Everitt:

15/16 November 1941

Emden: 49 aircraft: bombing results were not observed because of cloud. Four *Wellingtons* lost.

Crew

Farmery G.A - Sergeant.	Pilot
<i>Old Boy</i> North R – Sergeant	Wop/Air Gunner
Lobo J.O.M – Sergeant	Observer
Morris J. – Sergeant	Wop/Air Gunner
Nosworth A.E.	Air Gunner
Peever F. – Sergeant	Pilot - RCAF

Old Boy Ronald **North** took off from Waterbeach on 15th November 1941 with a crew of five in a Vickers *Wellington* Z8975 LN –X on Ops to Emden. It signalled ‘target attacked’ after which it is presumed to have crashed into the sea on the return leg to base Sgt Lobo’s parents lived in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) .

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede – Panel 49

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 2 – Panel No.219



Roy Robert Haylor **OSBORNE**

Born 1923
Parent(s): Amy Olive Osborne, Arundel, Sussex
School Years 1934 – 1939 – Story House
School Record Oxford School Certificate July 1939
Roll of Service – ‘The Martlet’ – December 1941
Occupation Clerk in the accounts department of the West Sussex General Builder (1939)

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Pilot Officer – RAFVR
Service Number 182213
Service Record 102 Squadron-Navigator University Short Course RAF Aberdeen – December 1941
R.A.F Base Pocklington - Yorkshire
Date of death 12/13 August 1944



Attempt and achieve



Halifax Bomber

Ops – Russelsheim *Halifax* – M2647 12/13 August 1944

Halifax M2647 took off from RAF Pocklington at 2150 hours with a crew of eight on the night of 12/13th August 1944 detailed to bomb the Opel Factory at Russelsheim using normal PFF markings.

Crew

RAF – Walker K.L.	Flying Officer	Pilot
RAAF – Young P.E.	Flight Lieutenant	Pilot
RAF – <i>Old Boy</i> - Osborne R.R.H.	Pilot Officer	Navigator
RAF – Finney J	Sergeant	Wireless Operator
RAF – Doughty J.L	Sergeant	Flight Engineer
RAAF – Gordon J.G	Pilot Officer	Air Gunner
RAAF – Harvey A.H.	Pilot Officer	Air Gunner
RAAF – York G.	Pilot Officer	Air Bomber

297 aircraft - Losses 20 aircraft – (6.7%)

Only slight damage inflicted with many of the bombs falling in open countryside.

Nothing was heard of the aircraft after take-off and it failed to return to base.

A Missing Research and Enquiry Team later reported ‘the aircraft was attacked by a night fighter and it crashed near Rehborn Railway Station on the 13 August 1944 approximately 21 miles north of Kaiserslautern’.

All the crew, including navigator ‘*Old Boy*’ Roy Robert Haylor **Osborne**, were killed. They are buried alongside each other in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Linfort, Nordheim-Westfal, Germany 24kms north of Krefeld.

Roy **Osborne** was twenty-one.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Arundel War Memorial

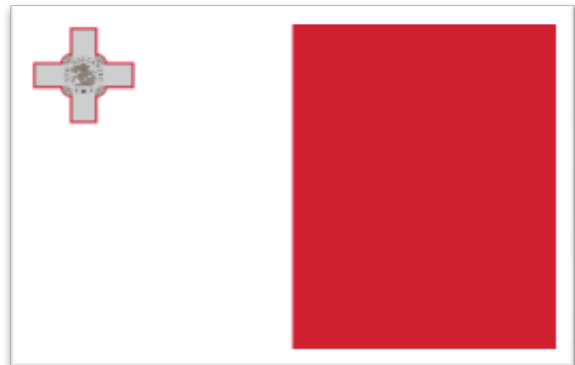


John Brian Stacy **PASSMORE** RAFVR

Born 1921
Parents John R. and Kathleen Passmore, Newhouse Farm, Abington,
School Years 1930-1938 St Richards House
School Record Oxford School Certificate – March 1936
Occupation Student:
‘The Martlet’ School News July 1938 - We congratulate J.B.S. **Passmore** being awarded a West Sussex Agricultural Committee Bursary of £40.00 per year tenable to Reading University.
‘The Martlet’ Old Boys News – Gone to Reading University 1939.

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Sergeant Pilot
Service Number 1202043
Service Record Royal Air Force
Service Base Malta
Date of Death 30 June 1942



‘The Martlet’ School Notes December 1946

“It is with deep regret that we learn of the death in action over Germany during the war of yet another Old Boy, John Bryan Stacey **Passmore** (1930-1938), formerly of Gar Farm, Aldingbourne, Sussex. To his bereaved parents and family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy on the loss of so promising a young life”.

Note: The place of death stated proved incorrect. See below.

Taken from ‘*Lest We Forget*’ – John A. Agius MBE and Frederick R. Galea

Royal Air Force - The Roll of Honour – The Siege of Malta 1940 – 1942

The Rolls of Honour are presented in two parts:

First is the long list of aircrews lost with their names, squadrons and aircraft during the siege. An equally lengthy second list is entitled ‘Aircrew (RAF & Commonwealth) who lost their lives in transit via Malta and others from miscellaneous or unidentified units’. The name of *Old Boy* John Brian Stacey **Passmore** is posted in the latter. He was twenty-two.

Note: At the time of his death the ‘Siege of Malta’ was yet to run another 5 months until November 1942. The manner of his death is not known at present.

He is buried at Plot F. Grave 6, Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta 1.

Note: The George Cross was awarded to the island of Malta by King George VI so as to -

“Bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people during the grand siege they underwent in the early part of World War II”. During the siege of the island by Axis forces of Germany and Italy 1940-1942.

The George Cross remains on the current design of Malta’s national flag.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Jack **PAYNE** M.M.

Born	1921
Parents	Son of Ethel Florence Payne and stepson of George James Chalk, Chichester
School Years	1932-1938 St. Wilfrid's House
School Record	Sports Day Winner – 1934 and 1937 – Victor Ludorum Prize List – 1934 – 1935 – 1936 – 1937 Oxford School Certificate – Passed – 1936 Higher School Certificate – University of London – Passed – 1938 Special Prize – 1938

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Bombardier
Service Number	890719
Service Record	98 th Field Regiment Royal Artillery (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Cassino
Service Base	British Army
Date of Death	14 May 1944



“Everywhere that is right and glory

‘The Martlet’ – July 1944 - School Notes

“It is with deep regret that we record the loss of Jack **Payne** (1932-1938) who died of his wounds on May 16th, two days after he was hit by a fragment of shell in Italy. Fortunately, he did not recover consciousness. He was one of the oldest members of the Battery of the 98th Field Regiment R.A. (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) and one of the most capable of its N.C.Os.

He was as popular with the Battery unit as he was with the School. Duty took him into the most dangerous places from El Alamein to Monte Cassino and all the officers spoke most highly of him. He was buried in the little cemetery close to Cassino, and a cross has been erected over his grave, the last gift of the officers and men of his battery.”

Citation – Military Medal

“The Military Decoration was awarded to Jack **Payne** for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery.....”

Old Boy Bombardier Jack **Payne** lies in the Cassino War Cemetery, Cassino, Provincia di Frosinone, Lazio Italy. Plot XVIII. K.8 He was twenty-three.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys
Chichester War Memorial



Albert Douglas **PENNYCORD** RAFVR

Born	1921
Parents	Albert and Lilian Pennycord of Selsey, West Sussex
School Years	1933 – 1938

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant
Service Number	1187020
Service Record	466 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Leconfield
Date of Death	8/9 April 1943

Wireless Operator/ Gunner Sergeant Albert Douglas **Pennycord** with a mixed RAF and RCAF five-man crew took off from RAF Leconfield at 21:32 on the night of 8/9th April 1943 in HE 155 *Wellington* III. It was one of ninety-seven and part of a combined 392 aircraft raid on Duisburg, Germany This was one of continuous heavy raids between March/July on Germany's industrial base

His was one of seven *Wellingtons* which were lost without trace. There is a theory that many aircraft on operations to Europe came down in the North Sea but this outcome can never be substantiated. 'Bert' **Pennycord** was twenty-two.

During the 1990s the local authority at Selsey West Sussex was able to release land for development made available following the closure of a holiday camp. One of the roads on the resulting residential estate was named '*Pennycord Close*' as a permanent memory to Albert Pennycord and his brother Jack who as a boy sailor lost his life when HMS *Royal Oak* was torpedoed at Scapa Flow in September 1939.

Chichester Observer – 1944 In Memorial

PENNYCORD – 'In proud and loving memory of our dearly beloved only son Sgt 'Bert' **Pennycord** RAF (VR) on his 24th birthday Jan 20th reported 'missing'.

Commemorated: Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Selsey War Memorial; Runnymede



Gordon Morrison **PHILLIPS**

Born	1924 Bowmore, Islay, Argyle
School Years	1935-1939
School Record	Form Prize Winner – March 1937
Occupation	‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service –December 1943– Mate-Merchant Navy. Later transferred to the Royal Navy

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Ordinary Seaman
Service Number	P/JX 625189
Service Record	Royal Navy
Service Base	HMS <i>Quorn</i> (L66)
Date of Death	3 August 1944



HMS “*Quorn*” - “Hunt” class destroyer

‘The Martlet’ School Notes December 1944

“Gordon M. **Phillips**, who had transferred from the Merchant Navy to the Royal Navy, and who was reported missing, has now been presumed to have lost his life. To his sorrowing parents and relatives of this gallant lad, we extend our sincerest sympathy in their terrible loss”.

On the night of 3rd August 1944, the British ‘Hunt’ Class Destroyer ‘*Quorn*’ (Lt. Ivan Hall RN) was positioned in the invasion area off Le Havre whilst taking part in Operation ‘Neptune’ during the D-Day Landings. The ship was struck by a German ‘Linsen’ explosive motorboat, or, by an enemy ‘Neger’ human manned torpedo.

‘The Fortunes of War’

Below is a part of an eye-witness account by Seaman Norman Ackroyd (a survivor), who was manning No 3-gun crew on the quarterdeck, of the events on the night of 3rd August 1944:

“As part of the beachhead defence force for some nights before August 3rd, we sailed as normal just before dusk and went to our night station as normal. We were accompanied by an American Radar ship in attendance which was to control our shelling of German E-boat pens at Le Havre.

Just before midnight, there was a massive explosion amidships hitting the boiler room. The ship broke in two and sank within a few minutes. I was personally blown overboard and found myself in the water fully dressed. A large number of my shipmates must have gone down with the ship but there were quite a lot of us in the water.

The American radar ship left the scene at full speed which caused a lot of resentment at the time, but it was explained to us later that if she had stayed, she would possibly sustain the same fate as the *Quorn*.

A lot of those with me in the water did not last the night but quickly slipped away. I was in the water for 8½ hours before being picked up by an armed trawler looking for us, by that time there was only a small band left”.

One hundred and twenty-three officers and ratings including *Old Boy* Gordon Morrison **Phillips** did not survive the attack. He was twenty.

Note: It was also reported that some of the crew were trapped within the ship's structure and could not escape due to the ‘inadequate’ facilities. This deficiency was corrected in later ships of its class.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Bognor Regis War Memorial

The Royal Naval Memorial, Portsmouth, Hampshire



Kenneth Douglas **QUICK** RAFVR

Born	Glasgow 1906
Parents	Douglas Hamilton and Flora Elizabeth McNeish Quick (Née Stewart)
School Years	1928-1939 (one of the five assistant masters at the opening of the school in September 1928 who were affectionately known as the 'aborigines')
Occupation	Senior English Master B.A. Hon (London), Chichester High School for Boys.

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Pilot Officer
Service Number	105570
Service Base	RAF Habbaniya – Iraq
Date of Death	16 April 1942



The one master who died on active service was Kenneth Douglas **Quick**. He was the English Master and had taught at the School since it opened in 1928. He was a charismatic teacher, popular with the boys.

He edited 'The Martlet' and ran the Debating and the Dramatic Societies. As House Master of St. Richard's, he was a 'thorough sportsman' playing for the Masters against the Boys at both association football and cricket.

Kenneth **Quick** is often mentioned in letters back to the School from Old Boys now at Universities, and these were printed in the Magazine. He left the School in 1939 to become chief English Master

at Battersea Grammar School. This is why a be-gowned photograph of him, smiling and confident in his classroom seat, was taken with that day's date, 11th July 1939, chalked on the blackboard behind him. He was described as a 'born' schoolmaster.

From Andrew Berriman - 'Chi-High' at War - 1939-1945

Summer Term 1942 began with the news of the death of Pilot Officer Kenneth **Quick**, serving in the Middle East as an Administration Officer. Mr. Scales, a member of the Staff, wrote a long and moving tribute in 'The Martlet' of July 1942. It ended "Those who were privileged to enjoy his most intimate friendship, those who loved him, mourn the loss of a true and beloved friend and brother".

Kenneth **Quick** became seriously ill and died on the 18th April 1942 in a Basra Hospital. He was thirty-six. He lies in Basra War Cemetery, Iraq, where a memorial reads:

"Until we meet again, beloved"

Winnifred, Anne, Lesley Kenneth Pasquill



Richard Trevor **RIDINGS** (formerly Shakoor)

Date of Birth 1919
Parents late Trevor and Maud Shakoor, The Broadway, Bognor Regis
School Years 1932-1936 - Sherborne House

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank 2nd Lieutenant
Service Number 85711
Regiment Royal Tank
Theatre of War Arras France
Date of Death 20 May 1940



On the 20th May 1940 *Old Boy* Lt. Richard Trevor **Ridings** was one of three members of the Royal Tank Regiment killed in action whilst serving with the 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Brigade. They were lost during a tank engagement around Telegraph Hill south-east of Arras. The following day his squadron attacked a superior number of German Armoured Units whose formation included Rommel's 7th Panzer Division. The British Tanks without radio engaged all day as single units and succeeded in halting the enemy's advance for a precious 24 hours.

The Battle for France was eventually lost and led to the evacuation at Dunkirk from May 26th to June 4th, 1940.

Richard **Ridings** is buried with two other Tank Corps soldiers at Beaurain Communal Cemetery, Hauts-de-France, France; 20 May 1940; Row 21; Grave 2.

'The Martlet' – School Notes - December 1940

"It is with deep regret that we record the deaths in action of two other *Old Boys* (M.A. **Barringer**/ J.R.B. **Meaker**) and the presumed death of a third. This brings the total of our Old Boys who have died in the service of their King and country to six.

Richard Trevor **Ridings** who was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Tank Corps has been missing since the fall of France and is now presumed killed near Arras. He was twenty-one.

To the sorrowing relatives of these brave lads, we express our heartfelt sympathy in their terrible loss and our gratitude for the services their sons have rendered us.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial

NB: ancestry.co.uk shows that R.T. Shakoor (the name on the memorial) and R.T **Ridings** are one and the same. Following the pre-war death of his father T.M. Shakoor (P.W.M Cairo) Richard Trevor Shakoor appears to have adopted his mother's maiden name of 'Ridings'. This change of status appears both on his 'forces-war-record' document and is promulgated on 'ancestry.co.uk.'. The entry here respects his chosen name of **Ridings**.



Donald SALISBURY

Born	1914
Parents	Arthur and Fanny Salisbury, Boxgrove West Sussex
School Years	1928-1934 Story House (an 'original' pupil at the opening of the school)
School Record	School Captain 1933-1934 Oxford School Certificate – Hons – July 1931 University of London – Higher School Certificate - 1933 Speech Day Prize Winner – 1932 - 1933 Paper 'Soap Bubble' – First-time open illustration by experiment at School Debating Society (Secretary) Football – 1 st XI Cricket – 1st XI Sports Day – Snr. 120 Yards Hurdles (Record)

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Flight Sergeant
Service Number	1178771
Service Record	Joined the RAF in 1941 – Trained in Canada with the Empire Training Scheme as a pilot
Service Base	No. 42 Squadron
Date of Death	30 September 1942



"Bravely into action"

Bristol Beaufort Mark 11

‘Chi High’ at War 1939 – 1945 by Andrew Berriman (revised 15 December 2014)

“In 1942 Sergeant Pilot Donald **Salisbury**, one of the ‘Originals’ of 1928 was killed, lost in Coastal Command. Earlier in that year, he had revisited the school following internment in Portugal after his plane had been forced down in the Bay of Biscay”.

‘The Martlet’ – School Notes – December 1942

“It is with the deepest regret that we record the deaths on active service of *Old Boy* D. **Salisbury**, School Captain 1933-1934 lost his life whilst serving as a Sgt. Pilot in the RAF. This fellow had a distinguished career at School and in civil life and quickly made his mark in the RAF. To his sorrowing parents and relatives, we extend our sincerest and deepest sympathy in their great bereavement and our appreciation of his sacrifices that he has made for our safety and future welfare. It is our duty to see that he shall not have died in vain”

On the 30 September 1942 a No. 42 Squadron Bristol *Beaufort* Mark II 1 OADU 1DW823 took off with this crew:

Sergeant Raymond Hutson (1064674)
Warrant Officer Robert Arthur Golding (787862)
Sergeant Gerald George Tennant (9189870)
Old Boy Flt Sergeant Donald **Salisbury** (1178771)

42 Squadron was relocating from Leuchars in Scotland to Ratmalana in Sri Lanka in the autumn of 1942. Donald **Salisbury**’s aircraft went missing over the Mediterranean presumably during this operational ferry mission. All crew were lost.

Donald **Salisbury** was twenty-eight

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; The Church of St Mary and Blaise War Memorial - Boxgrove Priory; Runnymede



Peter SANDERSON

Born 26 June 1921
Parents Henry Cecil and Dorothy Florence Sanderson, Chichester
School Years 1932-1935

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Able Seaman
Service Number P/JX 156 294
Service Base HMS *Hood*
Date of Death 24 May 1941



Battle cruiser HMS *Hood*



Bismarck

Upon leaving Chichester High School for Boys in 1935 *Old Boy* Peter **Sanderson**, known as ‘Sandy’, entered the Royal Navy. He trained at HMS *St. Vincent* before joining the battle-cruiser HMS *Hood* in 1939 as an Able Seaman. He was 19 at the time of his loss. The School Notes in ‘The Martlet’ of June 1941 described him as a “most keen athlete”.

Prelude – The Battle of Denmark Straits

On the 18th May 1941, the German battleship *Bismarck* accompanied by the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen* sailed from the Polish port of Gdynia. The capital ships were heading for the Atlantic aiming to cause as much damage as possible to convoys carrying supplies into Britain. The ships passed Norway and entered the Denmark Straits between Iceland and Greenland where they were detected. HMS *Hood* and *Prince of Wales* were ordered to intercept.

The Sinking of HMS *Hood* – 24th May 1941

Of the modern *Bismarck*, the British writer and broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy wrote “There had never been a warship like her No German saw her without pride, no neutral or enemy without admiration”. In contrast, the ageing “*Mighty Hood*” had been built and launched during the First World War. Although sailing around the Empire in peacetime as the “embodiment of British sea power” her deck armour had been compromised for speed.

In the early hours of 24 May 1941, the twenty-one-year-old *Hood* and escort *Prince of Wales* faced the two-year-old *Bismarck* and escort *Prinz Eugen* from a distance of thirteen miles. During the engagement, the *Prince of Wales* took several hits. Meanwhile, the *Bismarck* turned her attention onto the *Hood*. Within 20 minutes one of her salvos struck the vulnerable upper deck of the *Hood* and penetrated the ammunition room causing a catastrophic explosion. The ship split in two and within five minutes she sank with the loss of 1,421 crew, including *Old Boy* Peter **Sanderson**. There were three survivors. (Footnote)

The Sinking of the *Bismarck* – Night of 26/27th May 1941

The British public reeled in shock, stunned by the loss. Churchill reflected the public mood and issued his famous battle cry “*Sink the Bismarck!*” The *Bismarck* struck by a shell was now leaking oil. Captain Lindman made for St. Nazaire for repair. For a time, his ship was lost to the RN fleet. Then came a stroke of luck. A Coastal Command *Catalina* reconnaissance aircraft flying from Northern Ireland spotted *Bismarck* by her oil slick and reported her position.

A Royal Navy ‘armada’, eventually numbering forty-one warships, was dispatched. Their chase to join the hunt drew in ships from Scapa Flow, Gibraltar and existing convoy Atlantic escorts. On the night of 26/27th May in atrocious weather conditions a *Swordfish* aircraft launched from the carrier HMS *Ark Royal* attacked and hit the *Bismarck* with a torpedo damaging her steering gear and jamming her rudder. Unable to follow a set course her fate was sealed. During the night six British destroyers including HMS *Zulu* shadowed and harassed her, launching torpedoes.

Unable to steer and losing speed due to the oil leak she came under constant gun and torpedo attack from the Battleships *Rodney* and *King George V* plus the cruisers *Norfolk* and *Dorsetshire*. With *Bismarck* low in the water, her upper structure now totally destroyed, “abandon ship” was ordered. Her First Officer Hans Oels commenced scuttling the ship. The *Bismarck* went under the waves at 10.39am on the 27th May. One hundred and ten survivors were picked up but due to a U-boat threat RN ships HMS *Dorsetshire* and *Maori* had to abandon the remainder of the 2,200 crew to the mercy of the waves. U-74 was dispatched in an attempt to retrieve the logbook and picked up three survivors and a German weather ship rescued another two.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Panel 49. Column 2 Portsmouth Naval War Museum Hampshire; *HMS Hood* – An illuminated Roll of Honour–Church of St John the Baptist - Boldre – Hampshire

Footnotes:

HMS *Hood* – three survivors – Picked up by the destroyer HMS *Electra*.

Ordinary Signalman Ted Briggs – born Redcar 1923 – Entered Royal Navy in 1933 and trained at HMS *Ganges*. Assigned to the *Hood* in 1939 age eighteen. He was sucked under by the sinking *Hood*, then propelled back to the surface by air escaping from the ship. He died in Portsmouth in 2008 aged 85.

Able Seaman Bob Tilburn – Born in Leeds 1921. Assigned as Gunner aboard the *Hood*. When in the water, he was hit by a collapsing aerial that snagged a boot that he cut clear with a knife. Kept alive for two hours in the freezing sea by clinging to rafts and communal singing. He died 24th February 1995.

Midshipman William Dundas – Born Edinburgh 1923 – Midshipman - Youngest and most senior of the survivors. Retired from Navy as Lt. Cmdr. in 1958. Ran a successful mink farm in Argyll. Died of injuries in 1965 following a road accident. Never spoke of his escape either in private or in public.

“I sank the Bismarck”

Fifty-nine years later Lt. Cmdr. John Moffat learned of his place in 2nd World War history. He finds out what a pivotal rôle he played when the torpedo he fired crippled the 50,000-ton German battleship *Bismarck* on the night of the 26th/27th May 1941. Flying in an open cockpit, his Fairey *Swordfish* was launched from HMS *Ark Royal* in horrendous conditions. The carrier was pitching sixty feet with water running continuously across the flight deck into 80 miles an hour wind. In these conditions, it took ten men per aircraft to unfold the wings.



John Malcolm **SAXBY**

Born 1925
Parents Henry Charles and Winifred Saxby, Middleton-on-Sea
School Years 1937-39
Occupation Held a post at Bognor Regis Urban District Council

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Leading Aircraftman
Service Number 1397534
Service Royal Air Force
Date of Death 5 February 1943



"Per Ardua ad Astra".

The headlines of the Bognor Regis Observer on 8 February 1943 read ‘Four Focke-Wulfs sneak raid on the town – Four Dead, Sixty Injured’. This was a typical indiscriminate ‘hit and run raid’ often carried out by enemy aircraft on Channel seaside towns during the 2nd World War.

One of the fatalities was *Old Boy* Malcolm John **Saxby** who on the day was at home on leave from the Royal Air Force when his parent’s house was struck by a bomb

At his funeral, The Observer reported, ‘There was an Escort Guard of Honour by the Air Training Corps cadets of which he had been a member. The coffin was borne on the shoulders of six stalwart airmen from his Station’. The service was conducted by the Rev. D. Manners and he was subsequently laid to rest in the cemetery of St. Mary’s the Virgin Churchyard at Felpham, West Sussex.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Bognor Regis War Memorial; Chichester War Memorial



Harold Lewis **SEWARD** RAFVR

Born	1920
Parents	Percy Harold and Francis Amelia Seward, Birdham Road Chichester
School Years	1932 – 1936 St. Wilfrid’s House
School Record	Speech Day Prize – Spring Term – 1935 Oxford School Certificate – Passed – December 1936
Occupation	On the staff National Provincial Bank, Palmerston Road, Southsea

Armed Services Record

Service Rank	Pilot Officer
Service Number	84330
Service Record	240 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Castle Archdale, Lough Erne – Northern Ireland
Date of Death	21 March 1941



Consolidated ‘Catalina’

Initially, 240 Squadron was to operate with *Stranraer* flying boats from Lough Erne in Northern Ireland delivered from bases in Scotland. Beginning in March 1941 there is mention of the new American Consolidated *Catalina* flying boats being attached to the squadron.

The ill-fated 'Cat' AM265 was observed at the advanced base at Lough Erne.

Old Boy Pilot Officer Harold Lewis **Seward** was recorded as having been posted in from the FBTS (Flying Boat Training School) on January 25th, 1941. He left for leave on 7th February 1941 but was back with the unit by 21st February when he is noted as proceeding to Lough Erne with "secret documents".

On 21st March 1941, seven airmen of the Royal Air Force and one from the Royal Canadian Air Force took off aboard *Catalina* AM265 for their very first patrol mission from the new base on Lough Erne in Northern Ireland. They had arrived on the Lough only the day before but sadly would never return to its waters.

Their new *Catalina* II Flying Boat AM265 crashed into a hillside in the Kinlough Valley in Leitrim killing all eight crew including the pilot Harold Lewis **Seward**. This was to become the first crash within the 'Corridor' and the first *Catalina* to crash in RAF colours.

Compiled by Dennis Burke, 2017, Dublin and Sligo -with thanks to the air crew's descendants.

Background to The Donegal Corridor and Ireland's Benevolent Neutrality during the Second World War.

The British Diplomat Sir John Maffey was in Ireland and was given the responsibility for negotiating an air-corridor for use by British aircraft across Donegal through Irish airspace. This became known as the 'Donegal Corridor'. It enabled British aircraft based at Lough Erne to use a quick route out into the Atlantic Ocean thus allowing longer endurance when every mile of air cover that aircraft could provide over convoys was paramount. 'The Arrangement' provisos were that flights over Irish territory were to be at a good height, Finner Military Fort was not to be overflown and the agreement was to be kept 'as secret as possible'.

The 'Donegal Corridor' was so secret that it was not until the following month that the Irish Army found out about the crash. Throughout the 2nd World War, there were to be many more potentially embarrassing flying incidents when diplomacy had to be 'stretched to keep the secret'. After the War when asked about this Eamon de Valera, President (later Taoiseach) of the Irish Executive Council declined to answer.

Harold **Seward** was buried at St Mary's Church, Appledram, near Chichester. He was twenty-one.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



John Thomas **SHIELD**

Date of Birth	1919
Parents	John Thomas Nichols and Elizabeth Alice Shield, Chichester
School Years	1929-1935 Story House (one of the first pupils at the school)
School Record	Athletic Sports – Individual Champion 1929 Athletic Sports – Victor Ludorum (Int) 1932 – (Sen) 1934 Sussex Inter-school athletic contest – Worthing – 1932 Oxford School Certificate – July 1934 Exempt from Matriculation Examination – University of London
Occupation	Has obtained a post in the West Sussex County Medical Department. ‘The Martlet’ – Old Boys’ News – 1936

Armed Forces Record

Rank	Gunner
Service Number	897969
Service Record	Battalion/98 The Surrey/Sussex Yeomanry. Field Regiment in Belgium
Service Base	Royal Artillery
Date of Death	Reported 28 May 1940 to 11 June 1940



“Everywhere that right and glory lead”

‘The Martlet’ – School Notes – July 1940

“It is with great regret we record an addition to the casualty list of our Old Boys with Old Boy J.T. **Shield** (1929-1935) R.A. who has been reported missing after a campaign in Belgium. He did well in his days at School and in his civil life before serving with the Forces. To his parents and relatives, the whole School extends its deepest sympathy”.

In the confusion of war, the precise date of a combatant's death is often difficult to determine. This seems to have been the case of John Thomas **Shield**. However, the dates of his loss coincide with those of the British Expeditionary Force's evacuation at Dunkirk 27th May – 4th June 1940. His regiment took part in the rear-guard action that delayed the advancing thrust of the German tanks.

John Thomas **Shield** is buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery France – Plot 8 – Row A – Grave 45. He was twenty-two.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



William George **SHOTTER**

Born 1923 Portsmouth
Parents William George and Bessie Isabel Shotter, Chichester
School Years 1934 – 1940
Occupation A junior clerk in the offices of the Bognor Regis Urban District Council

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank Gunner
Service Number 1105954
Service Base North African Campaign
Service Record Royal Artillery, Ayrshire Yeomanry 152 Field Regiment
Date of Death 21 January 1943



“British Field Regiment in action in Tunisia”

‘The Martlet’ School Notes March 1943

“William G. **Shotter** was killed in action during the North African Campaign. We have already expressed in a letter to his parents our deep and sincere sympathy in the loss of this gallant lad, and we have placed on record our sense of gratitude to them for the service that their son has rendered us. A loss such as this redoubles our determination so as to play our part in the struggle and in the reconstruction to come to that he shall not have given his life in vain.”

‘The Martlet’ Roll of Service March 1943

William George **Shotter** (1934-1940) had only just landed to join the North Africa Campaign. He is buried at Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery Tunisia. He was nineteen.

Bognor Regis Observer 20th January 1945

‘In proud and loving memories of dear Bill killed in North Africa on 21st January 1943

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys, Chichester War Memorial



Harold George **SOFFE** RAFVR

Born	1920
Family	Son of William George and Rosemary Soffe formerly of Summerley Chichester. Married to the daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G. Messam of 16 Turnball Road, Chichester
School Years	1930-37
School Record	Oxford School Certificate – Spring Term 1936 – Pass with credit Form Prize winner – Spring Term 1936
Occupation	Employed at County Hall, West Sussex County Council in the Health Department

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant Pilot
Service Number	754364
Service Base	No. 51 Squadron
Service Record	RAF Dishforth
Date of Death	10 January 1941

‘The Martlet’ April 1941

“Sgt Pilot Harold **Soffe** was killed on active service on returning to this country from a night raid on Gelsenkirchen. His body was brought to Chichester and the funeral service was held at the Congregational Church on January 16th and interment at Portfield Cemetery Sq. 38 grave 6. The school was represented by the Headmaster and Captain and Vice- Captain. To his parents and young widow, we express our sincere sympathy”

His *Whitley* bomber aircraft had come to grief when attempting to land and exploded into flames. Desperate measures were taken by crew members to rescue the others one of whom Sgt. K.L. Minassian died from his injuries in the local hospital two days later.

From an obituary account in the Chichester Observer on 25th January 1941

Chichester Pilot

Sergeant Killed in Bomber Crash

Another Chichester airman who has lost his life in the service of his King and country is Sergeant-Pilot Harold George **Soffe**, age twenty-one, whose bomber aircraft came to grief when attempting to land at RAF Dishford after night operations on January 10th, 1941. His parents are Mr and Mrs H.W. Soffe who now reside in Kingswear, Dartmouth, Devon. They formerly resided at Summersdale where Mr Soffe was employed at The Warren.

The deceased N.C.O. was educated at Chichester High School for Boys. On leaving he secured an appointment at County Hall where he was employed in the Health Department. He joined the auxiliary branch of the RAF shortly before the war, and the rank to which he has since risen is sufficient proof of his keenness and efficiency. He was married in July last to the daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G. Messam of 16, Turnball Road, Chichester, and the warmest sympathy will be extended to his young widow.

An RAF escort, firing party and bearers paid service honours to the deceased on Thursday where his remains were laid to rest in Chichester Cemetery. The coffin, draped in the Union Jack was first borne to the Congregational Church, where a numerous congregation took part in the service at which the Revd. Oldring, B.D., officiated. Appropriate hymns were sung and general sympathy manifested at the loss of a brave young man. The principle mourners included his wife, Mr H.W. Soffe (father), Mr Jeffery Soffe (brother), Mr. and Mrs. Messam (parents in law), Mr. and Mrs. Merritt and Mr. and Mrs Burton (uncles and aunts, Mrs J. Taylor (cousin), Master Pat and June Taylor, Master David and Miss Jean Messam and Mr. and Mrs Reid.

The School was represented by the Headmaster Dr. E.W. Bishop and the Captain and Vice-Captain.

There were numerous RAF and personal floral tributes.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



Arthur George STEAR

Born	1921 East Preston
Parents	George and Julia Stear of Oving, Chichester
School Years	1933-1939
	Oxford School Certificate – December 1937
	Submitted numerous articles published in ‘The Martlet’
	Speech Day Prizes 1937 and 1939
	Higher School Certificate – London University June 1939
	Placed in the Upper Division of 2 nd Class honours list – English
	BA Examination (London)

Armed Forces Record

Ranks	T/Lieutenant
Service Number	271482
Service Record	133 Field Regiment
Service Base	Royal Artillery
Date of Death	24 September 1944



“Everywhere That Right and Glory Lead”

‘The Martlet’ School Notes December 1944

It is with deep regret that we record the loss of another Old Boy in a recent military operation. *Old Boy* A.G. **Stear** (1933-1939) a Temporary lieutenant in the R.A. was killed in action in N.W. Europe on September 24th, while reconnoitring a position for his guns. To his sorrowing parents and relatives of this gallant lad, we extend our sincerest sympathy in their terrible loss.

Operation 'Market Garden' 17th/ 25th September 1944.

This was the failed Allied attempt to break through the German lines at Arnhem in the occupied Netherlands in World War II.

The objective was to capture and secure the Bridges that cross the River Rhine at Arnhem and Nijmegen in order to facilitate an Allied Force rapid advance into Germany.

Number 133 Field Regiment combat log for 24th September 1944 reads:

Entry - 1220 - 'Mines encountered. Bad weather and mud make occupation slow'.

Entry - 1800 - 'T/Lt. G.A. **Stear** killed by an enemy mine. HQ R.A. and Padre informed'.

Arthur George **Stear** is buried at Valkenswaard Cemetery, Noord-Brabant-Netherlands. He was twenty-three.

A Dutch reviewer wrote: -

"Well, every cemetery has its story, but this one is located where the English XXX Corps ran into heavy enemy resistance on the first day of 'Market Garden' in 1944. Valkenswaard was the first Netherland village to be liberated on the mainline British advance into Holland. The cemetery contains 220 graves, almost all fell around the village during the month of September 1944"

Old Boy Arthur George **Stear** is buried here and the graves are predominately army forces of the United Kingdom.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



Norman STUBBS

Born	30 March 1921
Parents	Samuel and Charlotte Margaret Stubbs, Southbourne, Sussex
School Years	1932 – 1936 Story House
School Record	Prize - Form IV - Spring Term 1936 Oxford School Certificate – Pass - December 1936 Exemption from London University Matriculation
Occupation	Jockey 42nd place on list of R.N. Artificer Examination

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Engine Room Artificer 4 th Class
Service Number	P/MX 54062
Service Record	HMS <i>Grasshopper</i> Gunboat – Yangtze River – China Station POW Camps: – Medan and Padang, Batavia
Date of Death	26 June 1944



HMS *Grasshopper* (Google)
'Gunboat' – China Station – Yangtze



'Hell Ship' *Harugiku Maru* (Google)
(Formerly SS *Van Waerwijck*)

In the BBC TV's political comedy series 'Yes Minister', episode 'The Official Visit', at a meeting in Jim Hacker's office the Foreign Secretary in an effort to solve a problem blurts out "in the old days of the Empire this sort of thing could be resolved by sending a gunboat". To the astonishment of those present, and the amusement of Sir Humphrey Appleby, Hacker nearly fell for it! Hacker had forgotten that this phrase had long been used to wind up exasperating arguments from when it was decided that muscle was preferred over diplomacy.

Gunboat Diplomacy

This was the pursuit of foreign policy objectives with the aid of conspicuous displays of naval power' particularly in China, by Britain, the US and France to protect their citizens and commercial interests. The British had maintained the Yangtze flotilla of gunboats which conducted river patrols for the best part of a century. In the 1930s China was at war with Japan, and communist elements were at war with the Chinese Government threatening incidents frequently involving British nationals

During the 2nd World War, three of the British river gunboats HMS *Gnat*, HMS *Grasshopper* and HMS *Dragonfly* were tasked with securing the Chinese rivers as part of the gunboat squadron operating from Shanghai. They were approximately 950-ton vessels with crews numbering from forty to seventy. *Old Boy* Engine Room Artificer 4th Class Norman **Stubbs** was among the ship's personnel of the *Grasshopper*.

Japanese Hostility

Japan did sign the 'Geneva Convention but failed to ratify it. They grossly violated it during the 2nd World War. Their cruelty was explained by the Japanese Military's firm belief that as surrender was the ultimate shame and dishonour, POWs did not deserve humane treatment.

In 1942 the Empire of Japan invaded the Malay Peninsula, its army pouring down towards Rangoon at an alarming speed taking only 55 days to reach Singapore Island. The gunboats of the Yangtze flotilla were ordered to the Singapore Naval Base and transported up to 3000 British troops, who had been cut off in the swamps south of Batu Pahat by the invading Japanese army.

On arrival the gunboats were the only large ships left in Singapore Harbour, all others had sailed, many to be sunk by Japanese Navy and aircraft. The Japanese launched a massive amphibious assault across the straits of Johore and Singapore was soon to fall. *Grasshopper* and *Dragonfly* left Singapore for Batavia (present-day Jakarta) at 21.00 on 13th February, evacuating further personnel. By the following morning, they could hear the attacks by Japanese aircraft on other vessels in the distance. Sailing south they were attacked by a wave of Japanese bombers. During the initial pass, *Grasshopper* was hit by a single bomb and caught fire. When the planes returned *Dragonfly* was hit three times and sunk with a heavy loss of crew. The Commander of the *Grasshopper* gave the order to abandon ship as the fire was spreading to the magazine.

The crew, among them Norman **Stubbs**, was ferried across to the nearby island of Posic by the ship's boats while the Japanese aircraft strafed them. Survivors from the *Dragonfly* joined them. The *Grasshopper* did not sink immediately however, and after the planes had departed, several crewmen were sent back on board to scavenge supplies. Among the survivors were six captured Japanese airmen and two pregnant women who had their babies delivered by the ship's coxswain. Their mothers named both boys after him. Whilst on board, Petty Officer George White found Judy, the ship's dog mascot trapped below. It was she who would later locate a source of fresh water on the island. On 19th February, the remaining crew managed to commandeer a Chinese Tongan vessel and accompanied by the ship's boat they reached Singkep Island in the Dutch East Indies. After two days, the crew departed for Sumatra on a Chinese junk, leaving their injured in the care of the Dutch Empire. They eventually reached Sumatra and sailed through the Strait of Malacca and up the Indragiri River. When the river narrowed, the survivors commenced a 170-mile five-week trek through the hot and humid jungle. Entering a Japanese-held area they were captured four miles outside their destination Pangdan missing the last ship to Colombo by only 24 hours. They were put to hard work with little food or medical attention. This regime was similar in POW camps throughout the far-east.

'Hell Ships' was a term used to describe ships having 'unpleasant living conditions' with the POWs also suffering cruelty from the crew. Most were ageing ex-Dutch merchant ships used by the Imperial Japanese Navy to transport allied POWs out of the Dutch East Indies for forced labour in

other areas. The POWs were crammed into the ship's holds having bamboo bed structures for those sick and dying with little fresh air, food, water or any sanitation.

On 26th June 1944 'Hell Ship' *Harugiku Maru* was sailing from Balewan to Pakanbaroe carrying 730, mostly British, POW's to build a railway when it was torpedoed by the British submarine, HMS *Truculent*. One hundred and seventy-seven men went down with the ship, among them the survivors of the *Dragonfly* and the *Grasshopper* including Norman **Stubbs** from Southbourne. He was twenty-three.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Museum

Panel 85, Column 1. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire

'The Judy Story' - The Dog with Six Lives ' – Edwin Varley 1973

The tragic story of how the lives of POWs became entwined with that of a pedigree Pointer bitch.

Nearly killed by Japanese soldiers as a puppy; nearly drowned after falling overboard into the Yangtse from HMS *Gnat*; injured by an alligator in Sumatra; caught and trapped below deck when *HMS Grasshopper* was sunk; nearly killed when the 'Hell Ship' *Harigiku Maru (Van Waerwijck)* was torpedoed and sunk; grazed by Japanese rifle fire in Sumatra -

Judy was on board the *The Harigiku Maru* when it was torpedoed. Below decks, POW Leading Aircraftman Frank Williams RAF, who eventually would become the dog's life-long carer, pushed Judy through a porthole into the sea and then waded through the sinking ship to escape overboard. Spending hours in the water, both Judy and Frank were observed by many survivors to be assisting others in the water.

For three years Judy suffered and shared privations with the POWs. Like them, she became reduced to a bag of bones. She was a brave animal and her fierce determination to survive gave her fellow prisoners the encouragement to live.

An unknown prisoner wrote at the POW Medan Camp, Sumatra:

*They stagger to their workplaces
Though they ought to die,
And would mutter through their beards
If that bitch can, so can I!*

"That bitch" was Judy of the Royal Navy, documented and officially tagged "81A Medan" POW by an inebriated Japanese Camp Commandant, and, post-war awarded the Dickens Medal – the animal VC.

After the War Judy became the centre of attention wherever she went. Frank Williams became restless and obtained a position in East Africa with the Overseas Food Corporation to work on the 'Groundnut Scheme'. He left his home at Portsmouth and took Judy with him. She died on 17th February 1950. He buried her in a nearby clearing to his hut at Nachingwea, Tanganyika and erected a monument. Judy had three litters during her turbulent life.

Extracts from the 'The Judy Story' - the Dog with Six Lives - by Edwin Varley 1973



Thomas Herbert **TARGETT**

Born	1922
Parents	Eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.H. Targett of Chichester
School years	1933-1939
Occupation	On leaving School he joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Sailor at seventeen.

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Ordinary Seaman
Service Number	P/JX 157496
Service Record	HMS <i>Royal Oak</i>
Service Base	Scapa Flow, Orkney
Date of Death	14 October 1939



HMS Royal Oak at anchor 1937



The White Ensign

Britain and France declared war on Germany on 1 September 1939 as a response to her invasion of Poland. For Britain at least, there existed a ‘phoney war’ during which there were no overt hostilities. This abruptly ended after six weeks during the night of 14 October 1939.

Admiral Karl Donitz, head of the German Navy’s Kriegsmarine U-boats, chose U-boat Commander Kapitan Leutnant Gunther Prien (U47) for the mission.

Donitz believed that a successful attack on Scapa Flow would deliver a huge psychological blow to the United Kingdom. It would also be revenge for the humiliation of the scuttling of the German fleet at Scapa Flow after WW1.

Prien in U47 slipped undetected into Kirk Sound, Scapa Flow, Orkney on an ideal moonless night. For over an hour he made several surface sweeps round the vast Royal Navy anchorage, thought by

most of the Admiralty to be impregnable from submarine attack, before he sighted HMS *Royal Oak* anchored half a mile offshore and attacked.

The first torpedo caused a dull thud leading to confusion in the 31,000-ton battleship, many of the crew thinking a small explosion had taken place on board. Prien launched a second torpedo which failed but after taking twenty minutes to return to his firing line launched a third salvo which struck the battleship amidships. This followed an enormous explosion and a fire broke out. The weather was fine so most of her hatches were open. The ship heeled over alarmingly and it took just thirteen minutes to sink in 100 feet of water. Of the ship's complement of 1,234 officers and men 834 crew, many of them boy sailors/cadets were lost including 'old boy' Thomas Herbert **Targett**. Seven ratings/boy sailors from West Sussex went down with their ship.

U47 slipped out of Kirk Sound as easily as she had got in. For Germany, this was a huge propaganda coup. Prien was awarded the 'Kings Cross of the Iron Cross First Class' by Adolf Hitler who had sent his personal plane to fetch him. Winston Churchill described the raid as "a remarkable feat of professional skill and daring". However, in terms of superiority in warship numbers between the protagonists the loss of the *Royal Oak* made little difference. The 'Revenge' class battleships built during or after WW1, of which the *Royal Oak* was one of five, were ageing. Several attempts to refit her to increase her speed were unsuccessful and she would not be able to take on the advanced capital ships built by the German Navy. However, the loss to the nation's morale was enormous.

The once 'mighty' *Royal Oak* was designated as a war grave.

Thomas Herbert **Targett** was seventeen.

The fate of U47.

In ten patrols Gunther Prien went on to sink thirty ships. The last signal was received from the U-boat in the North Atlantic from close to the Rockall Banks. Her sinking was attributed to HMS *Wolverine* which had maintained a sustained depth charge attack on an 'unknown' submarine on 7 March 1941. However, another theory was that she was struck by one of her own torpedoes malfunctioning into a circling path. This had happened to two U.S. submarines. All that is definitely known is U47 failed to return to base.

Tribute to Thomas Herbert Targett– School Notes – 'The Martlet' December 1939

'It is with deep regret that we record the death of the first of our Old Boys in the War. Thomas **Targett**, a boy gunner in the Royal Navy, lost his life in the sinking of the *Royal Oak*, and our sincere condolences go out to his parents and to his brother in the School. His lively personality and abundant energy made him conspicuous at School and the same qualities that made him popular with us gained for him the liking of his fellows in the Navy'.

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial



Walter George TATE

Born	1920
Parents	Thomas Walter and Dorothy Rose Tate, Bognor Regis
School Years	1933-1938
School Record	Oxford School Certificate – Passed with Credits – July 1937 'The Martlet' – Roll of Service – July 1941
Occupation	Grade IV Clerk - Architect's Department – County Hall – Chichester

Armed Services Record

Rank	Sergeant Gunner
Service Number	1255945
Service Record	No. 104 Squadron
Service Base	RAF Driffield, Yorkshire
Date of Death	15 th /16 th January 1942

'The Martlet' Editorial March 1942

"Sergeant Gunner Walter George Tate is reported missing after a raid over Germany and so far, no definite news of his fate been received".

Archive Report

Operation:	Emden
Date:	15 th /16 th January 1942 (Thursday/Friday)
Unit:	No. 104 Squadron
Type:	<i>Wellington</i> 11
Serial:	W5417 – Code EP-F
Base:	RAF Driffield, Yorkshire
Location:	Not known – lost without trace

Crew

Sgt Basil Andrew Adams 1293087 RAF	Pilot: Age nineteen
Sgt Charles Kenneth German 1056639 RAF	Pilot 2. Age twenty
P/O Royal George Lindsay NZ401396 RNZAF	Age thirty
Sgt. Reginald Philip Henry Sperring 1282478 RAF	W/OP/Air Gnr Age nineteen

'Old Boy' Sgt Walter George **Tate** 1255945 RAF
Sgt Reginald Cooke 913706 RAFVR

W/Op/Air Gnr: Age twenty-two
Air/Gnr

Reason for loss – taking off from RAF Driffield in North Yorkshire at 18:48 hrs on 15th January 1942 to bomb an important shipyard at Emden – fifty aircraft took part with reports of many fires. Sadly, there is no record of where the aircraft came down. No night fighter claims have been made for this aircraft. It is assumed that it was hit by flak and disappeared either over the North or Wadden Sea shown on the illustration below.



Extract from WW2 TALK –LINK

A contributor in 2012 asks

“I am looking for information on three RAF casualties from Sussex”

Sgt Pilot Robert Cole – 76 Sqn. – RAF Driffield – Died on ops 31.7.1943

Sgt Gunner John Barrington – 76 Sqn. RAF Driffield – Died on ops 20.12.1943

Sgt Gunner Walter **Tate** – 104 Sqn. – RAF Driffield – Died on ops 15.01.1942

“They were all members of the Bognor Regis Cycling Club before the war”

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys ; Chichester War Memorial ; Runnymede



Jack Arthur **WATERS**

Born	1922 Burton-on-Trent
Parents	Jack Lawson and Dorothy Ethel Waters, Aldwick, Sussex
School Years	1935 – 1938 St Wilfred's House
School Record	Oxford School Certificate July 1938 Sports Day – Senior High Jump – 1938
Occupation	After a short period of clerical work, he entered the Royal Air Force L. Boy RAF Cranwell December 1939 LA/C – RAF March 1940

Armed Forces Record

Service rank	Sergeant
Service Number	553302
Service Record:	No.61 Squadron W. Op
Service Base	RAF Hemswell, Group 5
Date of Death	7/8 December 1940



Handley Page Hampden

‘The Martlet’ School Notes July 1941

“*Old Boy* J.A. **Waters**, previously reported missing after a raid over Mannheim and Dusseldorf, is now presumed dead”.

On 7th December 1940 *Hampden* 1 X2975 Code OR - aircraft of 61 Squadron took off from RAF Hemswell on a mission to Dusseldorf, Germany to attack ports, barges and airfields.

Crew

Williams J.F. Flight Sergeant

Waters J.A. Sergeant

Attfield R.A. Sergeant

Deeham O. Sergeant

Pilot

Wireless Operator

Observer

Air Gunner

It was shot down by flak over Grevenbroich, Germany. Ft. Sgt. J.F. Williams Pilot survived and became a POW. Other crew members, Sgts R.A. Attfield, O. Deeham and *Old Boy* J.A. **Waters** were killed and are all buried at The Reichwald Forest War Cemetery - Grave 1.11.3

Jack **Waters** was eighteen.

‘The Bomber Command War Diaries’ – Martin Middlebrook/ Chris Everitt.

7/8 December 1940 Dusseldorf, Bordeaux, Lorient, Airfields; ninety aircraft; many crews reported accurate bombing.

One *Hampden* and one *Wellington* lost

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Bognor Regis War Memorial

International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 – Panel 112



Frederick Edwin **WOOLVEN**

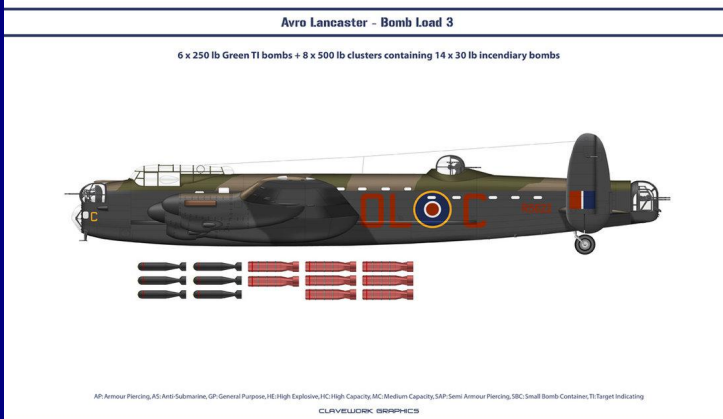
Born	1921
Family	Son of Frederick Edwin and Ellen Mary Woolven, and husband of Joan Marie Woolven, Littlehampton, Sussex Remembered as shy, he was the first boy from Wepham to win a scholarship to the High School
School years	1932-1937
School Record	Oxford School Certificate July 1937 Exemption from London Matriculation – December 1937 Prize List – VM. March 1938 'The Martlet' Roll of Service - December 1943
Occupation	He was offered a University Scholarship but family circumstances meant he became a railway clerk at Arundel Station.

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank	Sergeant Navigator
Service Number	156 Squadron
Service Record	Bomber Command: 8 Group Pathfinder Force
Service Base	RAF Warboys – Cambridgeshire
Date of death	3 January 1944



Squadron 156 Badge
We light the way



Lancaster Bomber – Pathfinder's Bomb Load No. 3

The 'Pathfinders' were the target marking squadrons in the RAF Bomber Command. They located targets, dropping flares that the following main bomber formations (occasionally numbering up to a thousand aircraft) could aim at thus increasing the accuracy of their bombing. Number 8 Group Pathfinder Force eventually grew from eight to nineteen squadrons. For maximum impact, they were used mainly on cities.

An edition of 'The Walsall Observer and South Staffs Chronicle' printed an interview with Sgt Norman Henry Colebatch, a Wireless Operator and co-crew member with *Old Boy* Frederick **Woolven** flying *Lancaster* Bomber Mark III Serial GT640. When Colebatch was home on leave, he told the local press that "in a previous raid on Berlin their aircraft had been shot up so badly it had been taken out of commission". "This was not the first time they had visited the German capital," he said. He observed that "it would only take a few more heavy raids to finish the city off!" His crew had completed twenty-two missions nearly all over Germany.

Sgt Frederick **Woolven**'s 156 Squadron were 'Pathfinders'. He was the navigator on board GT640 which took off from RAF Warboys on 2nd January 1944 destined for Berlin but was never heard of again the crew being listed as 'missing'.

For some time, there has been a campaign in Eastern Europe to recover the 'missing' crew members from both sides; the scale in terms of geography is vast. The aircrew of *Lancaster* GT640 and of a *Halifax* LK709 have been found as part of this process. Evidently, they had been interred by the Germans during the War only for the 'unknown airmen' records to be lost.

A project to match their remains with the 'missing' led to the authorities in Britain, and the now-reunited Germany, organising a special burial ceremony in Berlin to give the *Lancaster* crew the 'send-off' they had been denied for 72 years.

On the 27 April 2016 at the 1939-1945 War Cemetery (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) on Heerstrasse outside Berlin two separate services of Remembrance and Re-dedication were performed by the Revd. Adrian Dyer, RAF Chaplain. It is recorded that the burial services were very moving especially as relatives were present.

Note: The second service was for the remaining crew members of the *Halifax* Bomber LK 709 lost on 28 January 1944 when it crashed into a lake during a raid on Berlin.

Three aircrew from each aircraft were interred on that day. Sadly, this did not include Sergeant Frederick Edwin **Woolven**. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has confirmed that he has 'no known' grave.

Headmaster Dr E.W. Bishop wrote to his grief-stricken parents,

"Your son was one of the solid, steady-going fellows whom this country can ill spare and who have made such fine airmen. May the boys who come here in the future, saved by the valour of lads like your son, do their utmost to be worthy of the great sacrifices that have been made on their behalf"

Andrew Berriman – 'Chi High' at War 1939-1945

Commemorated:

Chichester High School for Boys; Chichester War Memorial; Runnymede



Last Words

The Old Boys' Memorial Service

This moving service was held in the School Hall at 3.00pm on Sunday, 21 March 1948. Many relatives of the fallen were present, and the Old Boys' Association Committee acted as the stewards.

The Headmaster conducted the service and spoke the call to Remembrance. Mr A Watson fittingly read the Roll of Honour. Mr HF Collins spoke the sentences. Rev Basil A Watson (Old Boy) took the Prayers and the Bishop of Chichester, Bishop Bell*, gave a most sympathetic address. The School and its Fallen being predominant and admirably treated. "All who were present were greatly moved by the service". (Headmaster's Log Book).

The following is the last section of the Bishop's Address:

"There is something peculiarly moving about the Roll of Honour of the Chichester High School for Boys. The war of 1939-45 was the last war in which Old Boys of the School could have served. The School was founded only eleven years before the war began, and the call to arms sounded. The response of Boys and Masters to the urgency of that call says much for the spirit of young England living in the School and for the quality of the education given. We are here to commemorate sixty members of a noble family, of whom one was a Master and the rest Old Boys: a heavy proportion of the four hundred and thirty Old Boys known to be serving. You who are here knew them intimately. Many are bound to this one or that by the closest ties; one or two, I think, knew them all. Some joined straight from School - others from the University - others from professions in which they already made a promising start.

They were found in all the services, with a slight preponderance in the Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm. They served on all the Fronts. They ranged from private to lieutenant-colonel. Many were decorated, many mentioned in despatches. From Norway to North Africa, from France to Japan and the Pacific, wherever the clamour of battle was heard, there they were and there they fell. One met his death in the Battle of Britain - others were missing in the evacuation from Dunkirk - two died as prisoners of war. The oldest of them was not more than thirty-three. They were a great-hearted company. In the very midst of our sorrow, they make us very proud; and the memory of their devotion and their sacrifice will be an abiding inspiration, not only to those who loved them and survive them, but to successive generations of Chichester High School Boys."

**George Kennedy Allen Bell (4 February 1883 – 3 October 1958) was an Anglican theologian, Dean of Canterbury, Bishop of Chichester, member of the House of Lords and a pioneer of the ecumenical movement.*



Acknowledgements

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Sources

Individuals

Andrew Berriman (The Martlet Magazine 1931 – 1947)

Jenny Mason (West Sussex County Records Department)

Joan Langhorne – Archivist – Holy Trinity Church - Bosham

Ross McNeill RAF Coastal Command Losses

W.R. Chorley Bomber Command Losses - Volumes 1 to 7 –

M.Middlebrook and C. Everitt Bomber Command War Diaries

Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Recovery Group (*Bowerman*)

Alan Clark – Peak District Air Accident (*Catton*)

Alan Green – Archivist (*Catton*)

Bill Allen O.B.E. (*Hotham*)

Dennis Burke (*Seward*)

Edwin Varley- The Judy Story- The Dog with six lives

George Bell – Southbourne Archivist – (*Stear*)

Godfrey King – Blean Parish Council - Kent (*Haighton*)

Ian Howard – Bognor Regis Cycling Club (*Tate*)

Ken Dummer (*Edwards*)

Mary Haustead – Selsey British Legion (*Pennycord*)

Merchant Navy War Memorial – Tower Hill – London (*Hinde M.D.*)

Natalie Lillywhite (*Bowerman*)

Nick/Karen (*Lewis*)

Robin Davison – Clerk to Southbourne Parish Council (*Stubbs*)
Ruth Mariner – Selsey Town Council (*Pennycord*)
Wing Commander Derek Straw – 206 Squadron Association (*George/MacMillan*)
John Evans- Sunderland Trust- Pembroke Dock (*Marsh*)

Organisations

Air Force Memorial, Runnymede
Ancestry.com
Casualty List/Royal Navy – World War II
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Family History – Royal Naval Personnel Killed/Died 1914 to 2008
Forces War Records (Army/Navy/Air Force)
International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln
Royal Fleet Air Arm– Aircrew Remembered
Shoreham County Library
The Australian Memorial Collection RAF
U – Boat. Net / U-Boat Successes against Aircraft
Worthing County Library
Chichester ‘Observer’ - (*Meaker*)
Lowestoft Naval Memorial (*Ball*)
POW Japanese 1939-1945 War Records (*Crees/Stubbs*)
Roll of Honour Org.uk – FEPOW (Far East Prisoners of War) family – Japanese - Ron Taylor (*Stubbs*)



The author

Colin Snook was born in Southsea in 1936. His family was evacuated from Portsmouth in 1940 following heavy bombing raids by the Luftwaffe. Settling in Bognor Regis he attended Chichester High School for Boys (1947 – 1952).

Following National Service in the RAF in West Germany he joined the London Fire Brigade serving mostly at Lambeth and Wandsworth. In 1965 transferred to West Sussex. He spent a year at the Fire Service Staff College at Wotton House, Dorking and became what was then designated the post of 'Station Fire Commander' at Bognor Regis.

As a schoolboy he witnessed the Battle of Britain and the build-up of Allied forces for the Normandy Landings. Post war he remembers his father, who served in the Royal Navy in three Theatres of war, visiting the RN Memorial Southsea identifying a constant flow of his former Shipmates from the endless columns of those who 'went down'.

Colin became subconsciously aware of the scale of allied losses. At school on Remembrance Day services the School's 'Fallen' names were read out leaving him pondering who they were.

Later when the subject came up at an Old Cicestrians meeting he accepted the challenge of researching the circumstances of their short lives and sacrifice.

Colin has been Committee Member since the Old Boys was re-formed in 2001 first as 'CHALOBS' and later when the 'Old Cicestrians Association' name was restored.





Chichester High School for Boys was founded in 1928. Eleven years later the country was at war and 60 former pupils and one master were to give their lives in the service of their country. The youngest was only 16. Their names were recorded on a bronze memorial at the school and were honoured there each Remembrance Sunday.

In this book Colin Snook, himself and Old Boy of the School, presents his painstaking researches into those tragically short lives in the form of short biographies of each man. Their school records, war service histories and the circumstances of their deaths are all given.

The year 2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II making this book a timely tribute to The Fallen of Chichester High School for Boys

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