

SAWBRIDGEWORTH AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR: THE FALLEN

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DIED

DOUGLAS COE

The following is an attempt to provide a short history of the servicemen and civilians from Sawbridgeworth who died for their country during the Second World War.

I have taken the following names from the War Memorial situated in the churchyard of Great St. Mary's. Mercifully, thanks to advancements in military tactics, training, equipment and medical facilities, casualties from the Second World War were much lower than from the 1914-18 conflict. Although the War Memorial lists 70 names of the fallen, I have found and researched 145 local names (and have published the results on the Sawbridgeworth Local History Society website www.sbwhistory.com). Nonetheless, the Sawbridgeworth Memorial still lists another 20 names of fallen servicemen from the Second World War.

Additionally, because of aerial bombing, civilians were also effectively in the 'front line'. Thus, a further five names of civilians have been included on the Memorial in Great St. Mary's churchyard. I have limited myself solely to these 25 names, as without the full 1921 census records, which have yet to be released, it is not possible to obtain a more accurate listing. I therefore apologise if I have missed anybody who is not named on the Memorial.

As is common usage, I have given the names in alphabetical order.



Sawbridgeworth War Memorial in 2017

Note. Some of those named in the following pages have no obvious connection to Sawbridgeworth. As with some of those named on the Memorial for the Great War, it is most likely that these people had relatives who lived in the town. Again, as with the Great War, that is not important.

SERVICEMEN

2nd Lieutenant John Edwin Bradbury 105130

John Bradbury was born in Romford in 1920, the only son of Edwin James and Felicienne Bradbury. John's father Edwin served in the RAF in France in the Great war. This was where he met John's mother Felicienne (nee Descoins), who was French.

John's grandfather, another John, lived in Sawbridgeworth. He died in 1939 and was buried at Great St. Mary's church.

After studying at Harlow college, John worked for a time in the City of London. With the outbreak of war, John firstly joined the Artist's Rifles (now a part of the SAS) before taking a commission with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

John fought in the disastrous Norway campaign of 1940 before being evacuated safely back home. When Germany invaded Norway, it also had to invade Denmark. Iceland at this time was a Danish dependency. Thus, on 10 May 1940 Britain invaded Iceland, ostensibly to forestall any German attack there but also to protect the Atlantic convoy route. Consequently, John found himself being posted to Iceland. He was at home on leave for Christmas 1941, but arrived back in Iceland shortly afterwards.

Sadly, on 21 January 1942 John (along with 80 other men) was caught in a blizzard whilst on a routine training march and he died that day. He is buried at Reydarfjordur Cemetery in Iceland. He was aged 20.

John's home address was given as 'Caxton', Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth.

Flying Officer Geoffrey Franklin Brittlebank RAF 101004

Geoffrey was born in early 1921 at Bucklow in Cheshire. He was the only son of Lt. Colonel Joseph William Forster and Maud Evelyn (nee Davis) Brittlebank, who married in 1915. Geoffrey's father Joseph was born in 1876 in Norfolk and served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in the Great War, at one point being seconded to the Australian Army. He was actually married twice (firstly to an Ethel Holliday) so Geoffrey had four elder half siblings (two brothers and two sisters). Geoffrey's mother Maud was born in 1886.

After Geoffrey was born, the family moved to Sawbridgeworth. Geoffrey's father died in 1944 and his mother died in 1947. Both were buried at Great St. Mary's church. With the outbreak of war, Geoffrey joined the Royal Air Force and, after training, served as a fighter pilot and instructor.

On 29 September 1942, Geoffrey died of wounds received in combat.

He is buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard in Sawbridgeworth. He was aged 21.

Many years later, a pennant was discovered in the belfry of Great St. Mary's dedicated to the 'two Geoffreys', one of whom was Geoffrey Brittlebank, the other was Geoffrey Sharpe (named later in this article). Both died in the Second World War and both are buried in the churchyard.



Tombstone of Geoffrey Brittlebank



Dedication stone at the grave of Geoffrey Brittlebank

Gunner George William Thomas Brown 1493650

George Brown was born Sawbridgeworth in the summer of 1918. He was one of four children born to George and Ellen Faith (nee Radley) Brown. In the Second World War, George served with the 85th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. In November 1941 this unit was sent to Malaya (Malaysia). They were part of the garrison of Singapore and were captured by the Japanese when Singapore surrendered on 15 February 1942. After an initial internment at Changi POW camp, Singapore, George was sent to work on the brutal and notorious Burma Railway. Members of his unit are known to have been kept at POW camps at Tonchon, Tamarkan and finally Sraburi. It is likely that it was at Sraburi where George died.

George Brown's date of death was given as 21 September 1944. The cause of death is unknown but is likely to have been a combination of sickness and maltreatment. George Brown has no known grave. As well as the Sawbridgeworth Memorial, George Brown is also named on the Singapore Memorial at Kranji. He was aged 26.

Cook (S) John Alfred Coote RN C/MX56499

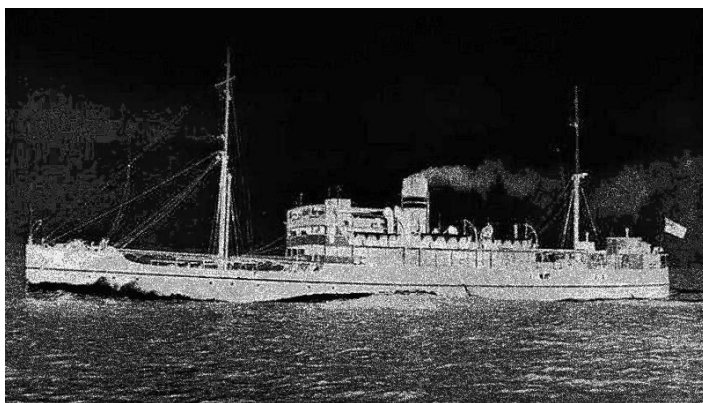
John Coote's personal history prior to the Second World War is obscure, however, between the wars John somehow seems to have found himself working on merchant vessels and in 1939 was presumably aboard the SS Juna in the Arabian Sea. The SS Juna was built by Swan Hunter at Tyneside and was launched in 1927, a small passenger vessel of 2,190 tons.

On the outbreak of war, the SS Juna was requisitioned by the Royal Navy and fitted out at Bombay (Mumbai) in India as an 'armed boarding vessel', which was basically an infantry landing ship. She was commissioned as HMS Fiona on 24 October 1939, having been given two four-inch guns and a single 12 pounder AA gun.

In July 1940, HMS Fiona was involved in a complicated, but successful, decoy operation covering convoys AN2 and AS2 in the Eastern Mediterranean. On the morning of 18 April 1941 HMS Fiona, captained by Commodore Arthur Griffiths RNR, was found cruising some 40 miles off the coast Egypt, North of Sidi Barrani by a group of at least 12 German Junkers 87 Stuka dive bombers. The result was never in doubt and she was sunk at 1105 local time. The Germans reported no losses. British losses were 54 dead but over 40 survived and were rescued later.

John Coote went down with the ship and thus has no known grave. As well as being named on the Sawbridgeworth Memorial, John is also named on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

It was usual practice at the time (and still was as late as the Falklands War in 1982) to offer the serving crew of a merchant vessel the chance to remain with that vessel upon requisitioning by the military. The crew 'signed on' for the duration of the conflict but were not transferred elsewhere and thus kept their 'home' and remained with their crewmates. It would seem, therefore, that John was already a cook ??? not mentioned before on SS Juna prior to requisitioning.



HMS Fiona seen pre-war as SS Juna

Henry Corden Lechmere Daynes

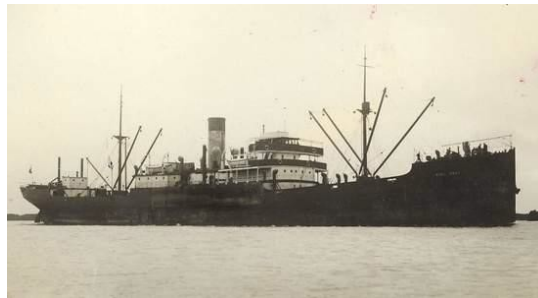
Note: some records give his name as Henry Gordon Daynes. I have used the spelling on the Sawbridgeworth War Memorial.

Henry Daynes was born in early 1924 at Edmonton, the son of Frederick and Alice (nee Ewens) Daynes. He had one older brother, Frederick, who was born in 1922.

Before the war Henry joined the Merchant Navy as an 'apprentice' and, with the coming of war, Henry simply stayed with his profession.

Henry's date of death is given as 22 November 1940. The only merchant ship recorded lost on this day was the 'King Idwal', a 5,115 tons ship built in Hong Kong, which was part of convoy OB 244, sailing from Liverpool across the Atlantic to Baltimore. She was one of six ships to be lost from this convoy. The 'King Idwal' was sunk by the German submarine U123. There were 40 sailors on board, of whom 12 died and 28 survived. Presumably Henry Daynes was one of those who lost their lives.

Henry Daynes has no known grave. He was aged 16 (the Tower Hill Memorial gives his age as 17). As well as on the Sawbridgeworth Memorial, Henry Daynes is also named on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.



The King Idwal pre-war

Lance Corporal Kenneth John Felstead 14403648

Kenneth Felstead was born in the summer of 1922 in Sawbridgeworth and was the son of Thomas James and Lilian (nee Howe) Felstead. In the Second World War Kenneth served with the 257th Field Company Royal Engineers. This was a part of the 59th (Staffordshire) Divisional Engineers.

After much training in Britain, this unit landed in Normandy on 27 June 1944, shortly after the D-Day landings and was involved in the immediate battles following. From 15-18 July, Kenneth's unit was attacking Caen as a preliminary to Operation 'Goodwood'. Kenneth's date of death was given as 18 July 1944, so it is probable he was killed in action on the last day of this particular attack.

Kenneth Felstead is buried at Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery, Tessel, near Caen, Normandy, in France. He was aged 22.



Royal Engineers at Caen 1944

Gunner Arthur Charles Ginn 1128257

Arthur Ginn was born in Sawbridgeworth in early summer 1904. He was the son of William and Margaret Ginn and had four siblings. In the Second World War Arthur served in the Royal Artillery as a gunner.

In 1944, Arthur landed in Normandy following the D-Day landings, and was involved in the fighting for Caen. He was killed in action on 16 July 1944 and is buried at Ranville War Cemetery near Caen in Normandy, France. He was aged 40.



Ranville War Cemetery, Normandy

Leading Aircraftsman Harry Ernest Hudgell RAFVR 1185599

Harry Hudgell was born at Clay Lane Sawbridgeworth in late 1911. His parents were Henry William and Elizabeth Ann (nee Carter), who worked on a farm there. In early 1939, Harry married Phyllis Mary Flack at Epping.

Harry Hudgell served in the RAF during the Second World War and was sent to Singapore in late 1941 in a failed attempt to halt the Japanese invasion. Harry was captured by the Japanese when Singapore surrendered on 15 February 1942. Harry's story after capture is obscure, but like many others captured at that time, it is likely that Harry was forced to work on the Burma Railway.

Having survived over three years as a POW Harry finally died almost at the end of the war. Harry Hudgell's date of death was given as 14 July 1945. He has no known grave, but as well as being on the Sawbridgeworth Memorial Harry is named on the Singapore Memorial at Kranji. He was aged 33.

Private Frederick Albert J Jansen 5831214

Frederick Jansen was born in the summer of 1917 in Oxford. He was the son of Frederick and Allison (nee Devonshire) Jansen. In the Second World War Frederick served in the 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment. This battalion was sent to Singapore in early 1942 in an attempt to reinforce the garrison there. It was to no avail and the battalion surrendered to the Japanese on 15 February 1942. As a prisoner of the Japanese, Frederick would have been brutally treated and put to work on the notorious Burma Railway. He probably was at some time housed in the POW camp at Kanburi.

Frederick's date of death is given as 28 July 1943. At this time there was a terrible outbreak of cholera in the POW camps, and this was the likely cause of his death. After 1945, the remains of those who died working on the Burma Railway were transferred to formal cemeteries. Consequently, Frederick Jansen's body was reinterred at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. He was aged 26.

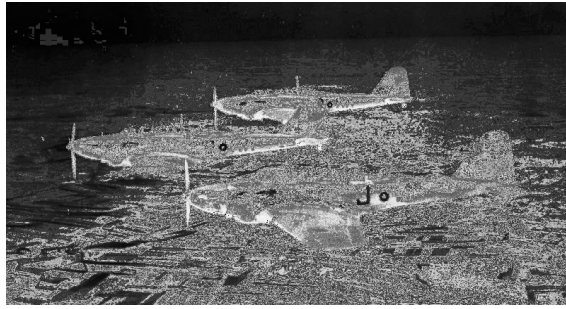


Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Squadron Leader Hector Yeates Lawrence RAF 37549

Hector Lawrence was born at Guildford in 1914, the son of James and Margaret (nee Forbes) Lawrence. Hector joined the RAF before the war and was already a Flight Lieutenant by 1939. He served in XV Squadron as a pilot, flying the Fairey Battle light bomber. In 1940 Hector's squadron moved to France and was involved in attempting to stem the German blitzkrieg through France and the Low Countries.

Although when first designed it was a good plane, by 1940 the Fairey Battle was obsolete and attacks using it proved to be almost suicidal, with the RAF taking losses of 50 per cent or more per sortie.



Fairey Battle light bombers over France 1940

Hector was shot down and killed in action 18 May 1940. He was buried at Preux-au-Bois Communal Cemetery, Northern France. Hector left behind a widow, Margaret, who lived at Ampney in Gloucestershire. He was aged 26.

Wing Commander James Hardy Marks RAF DSO and Bar DFC 39670



James Hardy Marks

James Marks was born 19 March 1918 at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, the son of James Samuel and Ida Mary (nee Burgess) Marks, both of whom were born in Cornwall. After James was born the family moved to Sawbridgeworth in 1920 living at 8 Knight Street, James attending the Fawbert and Barnard School nearby.

James joined the RAF in 1937 and became a pilot. At the outbreak of the war he was serving with 102 Squadron, flying Whitley bombers. He was promoted to Squadron Leader in April 1941. James also later flew Halifax bombers with 77 and 35 Squadrons and was further promoted to Wing Commander and became Commander of 35 Squadron in March 1942.

James completed at least 56 sorties including two against the German battleship Tirpitz, the first 50 of these before his 24th birthday. James was also instrumental in the formation of the Pathfinder force, being the commander of one of the first squadrons to be so designated. Sadly, on his first pathfinder mission raiding Flensburg, James was shot down by a Me110 night fighter. Although three of his crew escaped, James was killed.

James Marks was shot down near Blesme in France on 20 September 1942. He was buried at Choloy War Cemetery, France. He was aged 24. On 19 September 2004, at the Memorial Hall in Sawbridgeworth, James' sister Joan unveiled a memorial plaque to James and there was a fly-past by the BBMF Lancaster.



James' sister Joan unveiling the plaque in the memorial hall

James was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and also the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was further mentioned in dispatches twice.

Sergeant Ernest George Martin RAFVR 1151998

Ernest Martin was born Sawbridgeworth in the spring of 1917, the son of Ernest and Lilian (nee Witham) Martin. Ernest served in the Second World War with 82 Squadron at RAF Watton, flying Blenheim light bombers. Having served in Scotland and Malta, by July 1941 the Squadron was back in Britain flying anti-ship missions over the North Sea. Ernest's date of death was given as 30 July 1941, his plane being lost on such a mission over the sea.

Ernest Martin has no known grave, but as well as being on the Sawbridgeworth Memorial, he is named on the Runnymede Memorial (Air Forces Memorial) to the missing. He was aged 24.



Blenheim bombers of 82 Squadron

Flying Officer Leslie Frank Medway RAFVR 143849



Leslie Frank Medway

Leslie Medway was born in late 1923 in Camberwell, the son of Frank and Caroline (nee Tucker) Medway. Later the family moved to Sawbridgeworth. Leslie's father, Frank Medway, died in Sawbridgeworth in 1964. In the Second World War, Leslie served with 625 Squadron, who were based at RAF Kelstern in Lincolnshire, flying Avro Lancaster heavy bombers. His brevet, just visible in the photograph above, shows him to have been an air crew observer.

On the night of 3-4 May 1944, Leslie's aircraft was one of 346 Lancaster bombers involved in a raid on a Wehrmacht barracks at Mailly Le Camp in France. Sadly, Leslie's aircraft was shot down by German night fighters and Leslie was killed. Leslie Medway was buried at St. Agnan Communal Cemetery, France. He was aged 20.



An Avro Lancaster of 625 Squadron

2nd Lieutenant Charles Mackenzie Neuman 203032

Note. Some records, including his actual war grave, spell his surname as Newman. I have used the spelling on the Sawbridgeworth War Memorial.

Charles Neuman was apparently born in 1909 but I can find no definite record of his birth. He may have been born abroad (a number of people with this name were born in the USA) although it also appears likely that at some point Charles changed his name, possibly to become more 'Scottish'.

Charles joined the Army in the Second World War and served with the 1st Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Regiment. In 1939 Charles' unit was based in India and in 1942 was sent into Burma (Myanmar) as part of the 1st Burma Brigade in the failed attempt to oppose the Japanese advances there. They were involved in heavy fighting during the subsequent withdrawal back into India and it seems that Charles was mortally wounded at this time.

Charles Neuman died 10 July 1942, aged 33. He was buried at Delhi War Cemetery, India (under the surname 'Newman').

Private Reginald George Paveley 5830105

Note. The Sawbridgeworth War Memorial misspells the surname as Pavely, as do the Regimental records and Reginald's actual gravestone. I have used the spelling on his birth record, the Congregational Church of Sawbridgeworth records and photographic evidence showing and naming relatives.

Reginald Paveley was born in the summer of 1918 and was the son of Frederick and Edith (nee Savill) Paveley. Reginald was a professional soldier who served with the 5th Battalion Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment). On 26 January 1940, Reginald's unit arrived in France and was initially based at Lille. They moved forward on 16 May 1940 to counter the German thrust through Belgium but by 23 May were in full retreat to Dunkirk. Reginald's date of death was given as 24 May 1940, which means that he died in action during this retreat.

Reginald Paveley was buried at Bus House Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. He was aged 21.

Sergeant Pilot Robert James Scarff RAF 656067

Robert Scarff was born in Chelmsford in the spring of 1920, the son of Frederick and Florence (nee Saltwell) Scarff. Later the family moved to Sawbridgeworth. Robert served in the Second World War as a Sergeant Pilot aircrew. Unfortunately, I have not been able to establish his service record, thus I cannot give details of the planes he flew or how he died. However, the presence of his grave at Great St. Mary's indicates that he died somewhere in Britain and his body was repatriated.

Robert Scarff died on 20 March 1942 and is buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard, Sawbridgeworth. He was aged 22.



Tombstone of Robert Scarff

There is an R. J. Scarff named on a Roll of Honour covering both World Wars at the accountancy firm of Deloitte Plender Griffiths in London. This is probably the same person.

Pilot Officer Geoffrey Owen Sharpe RAF 168970

Records indicate that Geoffrey was born in 1921, however, his tombstone indicates that he was born in 1923. Possibly Geoffrey lied about his age when enlisting and his tombstone is accurate. In the Second World War Geoffrey was commissioned into the Royal Air Force as a Pilot Officer. After initial training and a spell at 1663 Conversion Unit at RAF Rufforth, on 8 September 1943 Geoffrey joined 77 Squadron, based at RAF Elvington near York. He served as a navigator on Handley Page Halifax bombers and completed nine successful missions over Germany.



77 Squadron personnel in front of a Halifax Bomber

At 1009 on the morning of 9 December 1943, Geoffrey took off on board Halifax LL 122 (KN-Y) for a training flight to practice fighter evasion manoeuvres with a Hurricane fighter. On the third pass of the Hurricane the Halifax bomber attempted too tight a turn and stalled. It then proceeded to spin rapidly into the ground from a height of 7,000ft. Because of the rapidity of the spin, only two crew

managed to bail out, the other five crew, including Geoffrey Sharpe perished in the crash which occurred at 1030 near Leavening, Yorkshire.

Geoffrey Sharpe died 9 December 1943 and is buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard in Sawbridgeworth. His tombstone gives his age as 20 (but he may have been 22). Geoffrey Sharpe is also named on the 77 Squadron Roll of Honour preserved at the Yorkshire Air Museum, formerly RAF Elvington, where there is also a 77 Squadron Memorial.

See also the history for Geoffrey Brittlebank (mentioned earlier) regarding a pennant discovered at Great St. Mary's church.



Tombstone of Geoffrey Sharpe

Guardsman William Arthur Stevens 2720698

William Stevens was born in 1919, the son of Walter and Mary Ann (nee Wakeling) Stevens. Walter and Mary were married in East London, but following William's birth the family moved to Sawbridgeworth to be near Mary's family.

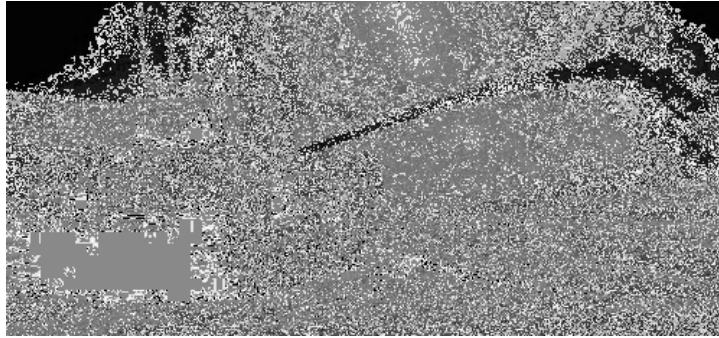
In the Second World War William served in the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. This unit fought in Norway and Tunisia before landing on 22 January 1944 at Anzio in Italy. It was here on 23 February 1944 that William died. William Stevens was buried at Anzio War Cemetery. He was aged 24.

Trooper Bernard Jack Woodcock 14333077

Bernard Woodcock was born in Sawbridgeworth in the summer of 1924 and he was the only son of Edmund and Elsie (nee Johnson) Woodcock. In the Second World War Bernard served with the 141st (7th Battalion. The Buffs [(Royal East Kent)] Regiment. After much training in Britain, this unit landed in Normandy 12 June 1944, just six days after the D-Day landings.

Bernard's unit operated the flame-throwing 'Crocodile' Churchill tank. This type of tank was used to spearhead an assault on prepared enemy positions such as strongpoints and pillboxes. The date of death given for Bernard Woodcock was 27 June 1944. On this day Bernard's unit was assaulting German positions East of Caen as part of Operation 'Epsom', the first real attempt at a breakout from the Normandy beachhead. It was here that Bernard died.

Bernard Woodcock is buried at Hermanville War cemetery, Caen, Normandy. He was aged 20.



Churchill 'Crocodile' in action

Lieutenant Russell Selwyn Samuel Young 138754

Russell Young was born in Sawbridgeworth in early 1918, the only son of Francis Samuel and Margaret (nee Good) Young.

In the Second World War Russell served as a commissioned officer in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He was originally posted to West Africa, where he was attached to the Royal West African Frontier Force, a part of the 3rd West African Infantry Brigade. Russell was later sent to the Far East as a part of the 21st Battalion of his Regiment in the summer of 1942, where he fought against the Japanese in the Burma campaign.

Russell's date of death was given as 17 April 1944. Although far from uncertain, this implies that he died either in the Battle of Kohima or the Battle of Imphal, both were interlinked.

Russell Young is buried at Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar (Burma). This cemetery was established in 1951 and the bodies of soldiers from many inaccessible battlefield cemeteries were reinterred there, including Akyab, Meiktila, Mandalay and Sahmaw. Russell Young was aged 26.



The Royal Fusiliers Museum, London

CIVILIANS

All the five civilians named below died on 10 October 1940 when a returning German bomber dropped a bomb alongside some council houses in Cambridge Road.

Constance (Connie) H. Baker

The daughter of Walter and Doris Agnes Baker (nee Branch), who were married at Hackney in 1921, Constance was born in early 1930 in Victoria Park Road, Hackney, East London. She was the youngest of four children having two sisters (Edwina and Margaret) and a brother (Derek). Constance does not seem to have had a good life. When she was aged just 5 her father died aged 38, leaving her mother to bring up all four children alone.

With the outbreak of war there was much talk of massed bombing attacks on cities, possibly even gas attacks. As a consequence of this, many children were evacuated from London to the countryside to escape the threat. Constance was one of those evacuees, she came to Sawbridgeworth in early 1940 and stayed with the Chappell family (who also suffered in the bombing). It is therefore doubly tragic that she should have been killed in such a manner by a stray bomb in the October of that year.

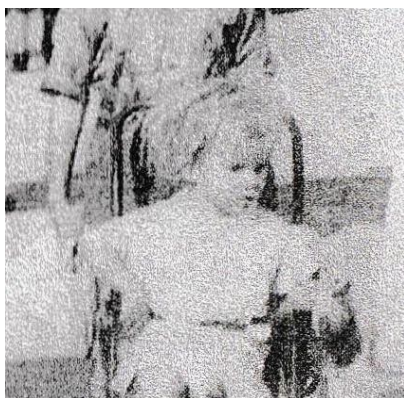
Constance Baker died 10 October 1940. She is buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard in Sawbridgeworth, in close proximity to those who died with her. She was aged just 10. In a heart-warming end-piece, when I visited the grave in October 2018, somebody had clearly been there recently, so somebody still remembers her.



Grave marker for Connie Baker

Derek John Frederick Burrell

Son of Alfred and Eva Burrell, Derek was born in Sawbridgeworth in 1937. Derek Burrell died 10 October 1940. He was buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard with his sister Jeannie, who died with him (and later) his parents. Tragically, Derek was aged just 3.



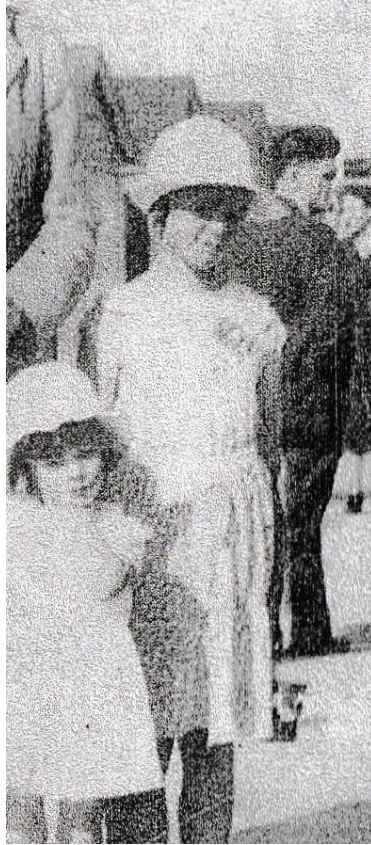
Derek Burrell in happier times on holiday at Clacton



Tombstone of siblings Derek and Jeannie Burrell (and their parents)

Jeannie Mary Winifred Burrell

Daughter of Alfred and Eva Burrell, Jeannie was born in Sawbridgeworth in 1930. She was buried with her brother Derek, who she died with (and later her parents) in Great St. Mary's churchyard. Jeannie Burrell died on 10 October 1940. She was aged just 10.



Jeannie Burrell with her younger sister Mollie

Dorothy Lucy Chappell

Dorothy Lucy Bagley was born at Chapel Street, Middleton Cheney, near Banbury in 1896. She was the daughter of Levi Edward and Caroline Bagley. In the 1911 census, Dorothy was working as a 'Domestic Servant'. She had four siblings.

In October 1918, Dorothy married James Ivanhoe Cullip at Barnet. In the 1911 census, James was a 'Gardener Nurseryman', but in 1914 he joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, and was to serve in Britain throughout the Great War (Number 293352). Rather sadly, this was to be an extremely short marriage. Within a month, on 4 November 1918, James died, presumably through sickness (possibly 'Spanish flu').

In 1921 Dorothy married again, this time to Alfred Walter Chappell at Great St. Mary's in Sawbridgeworth. Alfred was born in Sawbridgeworth, being baptised on 5 July 1896, also at Great St. Mary's. In the 1911 census, Alfred was a 'Domestic Servant', but he served in the Great War, like Dorothy's previous husband, in the Royal Garrison Artillery (Number 120398) on anti-aircraft duties.

Dorothy Chappell died on 10 October 1940. She is buried in Great St. Mary's churchyard. She was aged 44.



Tombstone of Dorothy Chappell

On 6 November 1961, whilst coming home from Australia aboard the liner SS Southern Cross, Alfred Chappell died and was buried at sea aged 65. He is, however, named on the same tombstone as Dorothy in Great St. Mary's churchyard.



SS Southern Cross

Alice Maud Fulker

The daughter of Josiah and Susannah Fish, Alice Maud Fish was born 11 August 1889 at Rook End, Sawbridgeworth. She was baptised on 15 September that year at Great St. Mary's church.

In the summer of 1920, Alice married Thomas Fulker, who was born in 1894 and who came from Hampstead. They were to have two children together, Evelyn, born in 1920 and Rosemary, born in 1927. Alice Fulker died in hospital on 10 October 1940 from severe shrapnel wounds. She had used her body to protect her two daughters. Alice now has no positively identifiable grave. It is known that she was buried in close proximity to the other four civilians who died at the same time, in the churchyard at Great St. Mary's, but her grave marker has now disappeared. She was aged 51. Her husband Thomas died in 1968 in Colchester.



Alice Fulker

REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

In compiling this history of those who fell in the Second World War, I have used too many sources to realistically allow full referencing. These sources have included written memoirs, many of which have been published online, along with Service diaries, and official Service records. Much information may surprisingly be obtained in many cases by simply typing in the person's name on a search engine. The attached list is given so that anyone with an interest may have a basis for further reading and research.

www.ancestry.com

Churchyard, Great St. Mary's. *War Graves and War Memorial*. Sawbridgeworth.

Coe, D. (2018) *Sawbridgeworth and the Great War. The Fallen*. Sawbridgeworth Local History Society.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Find War Dead*. www.cwgc.org

www.familysearch.org

Forces War Records. *Records, Units*. www.forces-war-records.co.uk

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. Hertford.

Herts and Essex Observer.

Jane's. (1947) *Fighting Ships of World War II*. Jane's, London.

National Census Records. 1891, 1901, 1911, 1939.

National Records Office. Kew.

Overy, R. (1989) *The Road to War*. Macmillan/BBC Books, London.

Sawbridgeworth Fire Brigade. *Images*. www.sawbridgeworthfirebrigade.co.uk

Wikipedia.

Wright, W.J. (1995) *Britain in Old Photographs – Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth*. Alan Sutton Publishing, Stroud.

Flt Lt Douglas Coe BSc RAFVR(T) Ret'd.

October 2018.

