

Parish of Friern Barnet

St John the Evangelist and St James the Great

Graves and Memorials of the Second World War

John Philpott



Act of Remembrance 11th November 2015, Friern Barnet Churchyard

Graves and Memorials of the Second World War

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The cover picture is from Friern Barnet & District Local History Society Photographic
Archive.

Introduction

The church of St James the Great, probably dating from the 12th century, but rebuilt and enlarged in the 19th, was the original parish church of Friern Barnet. It stands in the parish churchyard in Friern Barnet Lane. As the population grew in the 19th and 20th centuries, new parishes were created: All Saints' from the northern portion of the parish, St Peter-le-Poer to the south. The church of St John the Evangelist in Friern Barnet Road, completed in 1910, was built as a chapel-of-ease to St James's, to serve what had become the main centre of population of the parish, near the Colney Hatch Asylum (later Friern Hospital) and the railway station. To make full use of the two church buildings, since 2009 St James's Church has become the place of worship for the Greek Orthodox Community of St Katherine, with Church of England services taking place in St John's. In 2011 St John's was re-designated as the parish church.

The Parish First World War memorial, situated in the churchyard, commemorates the eighty-five men and two women, who had lived in the parish or worshipped here, who died as a result of war service. The dead of the Second World War are commemorated within each of the two churches, both memorials listing the forty-three men of the Parish who lost their lives. Those of the Friern Barnet daughter parishes of All Saints and St Peter-le-Poer are not (in general) included, as each has its own war memorial. In St James's Church there is also a memorial to members of the 199th North London Scouts, and a memorial to James Wallace Walker.

Within the churchyard there are two Second World War graves: one a Commonwealth War Grave Commission grave and the other a family grave.

In the following pages, the names and inscriptions on the Second World War memorials and graves are given. There is also a section giving brief biographies of those who died. The First World War memorials and graves are similarly covered in another booklet, *Parish of Friern Barnet: Graves and Memorials of the First World War*.

The sources for the information given include:

- The Commonwealth War Commission website;

- Ancestry website:

- Census returns and Electoral Registers,

- Birth, marriage and death indices,

- Probate records,

- Medal rolls,

- London Metropolitan Archives:

- Parish baptism, marriage and burial registers,

- Parish magazines.

- Parish of Friern Barnet registers in the custody of the parish.

- Government Record Office: Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

- W R Chorley: *RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War*, Midland Publishing 1997

Each year, on November 11th, a service is held around the war memorial in the churchyard, attended by parishioners and children from local schools, with the two minute silence observed at 11am. The dead of both World Wars are remembered.

John Philpott

August 2016

The Second World War Memorials

In both churches, the memorials are on wooden panels. In St James's Church, the memorial consists of two panels, originally placed on the east wall of the chancel on either side of the altar. The memorial was dedicated on the 2nd November 1952. The panels were moved to the north wall of the chancel in 1974, when a new east window was installed. In St John's Church, the memorial is on a single panel.

The memorial panels in St James's Church



The panel in St John's Church



Both memorials bear the same inscription, together with forty-three names:

To the Greater Glory of God and in Memory of those members of the churches of St James and St John Friern Barnet who fell in the Great War of 1939-1945

The souls of the Righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them

GEOFFREY ABBOTT	RICHARD C. HOPKINS
PETER BARR	AUBREY IVATT
ROBERT BARTLETT	ALLAN MACADAM
ROBERT C. BAUMBER	STEWART MACADAM
GEOFFREY BLAKE	LESLIE MEADOWS
DOUGLAS BROWN	ROBERT MILLBANK
JAMES BURKLE	JOHN I. MORRIS
KENNETH CLARKE	KENNETH L. MUNDAY
STANLEY COLE	HERBERT NEWSTEAD
RAYMOND C. COOPER	RONALD RYALL
FRANK COTSELL	WALTER E. RYALL
IAN COX	HOWARD SKINNER
TIMOTHY CROSS	NORMAN SKINNER
ERNEST DILLEY	CYRIL W. SMITH
PETER FRY	KENNETH W. SMITH
DENNIS GRIFFITHS	FRANK SNOOK
DEREK HARVEY	ROBERT SWIFT
JAMES HAWKINS	KEN TARR
RONALD HERYET	JACK TURNER
JOHN HINDE	RONALD VAUGHAN
LESLIE A. HOLT	JAMES W. WALKER
ERNEST WHITE	

199th Group Boy Scouts War Memorial]



199TH GROUP
BOY SCOUTS
NORTH LONDON
IN HONOURED MEMORY OF
SCOUT FRANK COTSELL
ROYAL NAVY
TROOP LEADER PETER FRY
AND
ROVER JOHN MORRIS
ROYAL AIR FORCE
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR
KING AND COUNTRY
1939-1945

The memorial, on the north wall of the nave of St James's Church, was dedicated in February 1949 by the Revd B J M Thackery, founder and first group scoutmaster of the 199th North London Group. The Revd Peter Braby, another former group scoutmaster, preached the sermon.

Memorial to James Wallace Walker

This originally consisted of an altar reredos in St James's Church, with an inscription to the memory of James Wallace Walker, killed in action at Anzio in 1943, aged 22. The reredos and the parish war memorial panels (originally placed either side of it) were made by James Walker's father's firm. They were dedicated on the 2nd November 1952. The reredos was removed and the war memorial panels resited on the north wall of the chancel when the new east window was installed in 1974. The name of James Wallace Walker is included in the new window, which was designed by Alan Younger. (The reference to Anzio was an error; the battle of Anzio began in January 1944.)

St James's Church in the 1950's, showing the reredos to the memory of James Wallace Walker, and with the parish Second World War memorial panels still in their original position.



The 1974 east window:



Detail, showing the memorial to James Wallace Walker:



Second World War Graves in Friern Barnet Churchyard

The references in brackets are to the locations of the graves as given in the survey *St James the Great, Friern Barnet: Monumental Inscriptions*, North Middlesex Family History Society, 1989.

JOHN DOUGLAS STEPHENS and HARRY BERNARD STEPHENS (H16/9)



WING COMMANDER
J.D.STEPHENS D.F.C
PILOT
ROYAL AIR FORCE
30TH AUGUST 1943 AGE 25

HIS BROTHER
SQDN. LDR. H.B.STEPHENS D.F.C.
WAS KILLED 6.5.1944 AGE 32
BURIED IN HOLLAND R.I.P.

FRANK THOMPSON (F61)



IN
LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR BELOVED SON
CPL

FRANK THOMPSON
KILLED NOV 26 1942
AGED 26
13020441 OBLI
AIRBORNE

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.
VERILY VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU
HE WHO LIVETH BY THE SWORD
SHALL PERISH BY THE SWORD

TO MY BELOVED HUSBAND GEORGE THOMPSON
APRIL 22 1957

TO MUM 20 OCT 1964. REUNITED

Brief biographies of those commemorated

(W=parish war memorial, M= memorial in church, G=grave in churchyard)

Geoffrey Frederick Abbott (W)

Flying Officer RAFVR, 524 Squadron, died 9 July 1944, commemorated on the Runnymede memorial panel 204. Geoffrey lived at 12 Ferncroft Avenue. He was the son of Frederick Abbott.

524 Squadron was a Coastal Command squadron, based Davidstowe Moor, Cornwall, flying Wellingtons on patrols against E-boats off the Welsh coast.

The parish magazine of August 1944 reports that "Flying Officer Geoffrey Abbott is missing".

Ronald Atkinson (not on the war memorial)

Squadron Leader RAFVR, DFC, 16 Squadron RAF, died 14 Aug 1944, aged 25, funeral at Golders Green Crematorium.

He was the son of William Edward and Mary Atkinson of New Southgate. His father had died in 1929.

At the time of his death, Ronald's home was at 59 Friern Barnet Lane.

In 1944, 16 Squadron was a Photo reconnaissance unit, part of 2nd Tactical Air Force. It was based at RAF Hartford Bridge, Hants (better known by its later name Blackbushe), flying Spitfires over Europe, supplying PR in preparation for D-day and subsequently.

The parish magazine of September 1944 regrets to report that Sqn Ldr Ronald Atkinson DFC, who served through the Africa Campaign from El Alamein to Tunis has been accidentally killed at an aerodrome in our own country and expresses deep sympathy to Mrs Atkinson and her family.

Peter Barr (W)

Sergeant (Flight engineer), RAF, 76 Squadron RAF, died 27 July 1942, aged 24. He is buried in Beclingen War Cemetery.

He was the son of John Louis and Florence Ethel Barr of 56 Macdonald Road, Friern Barnet. He was married to Florence Mary Barr; they also lived at 36 Macdonald Road. Their son, Christopher Peter, was baptised in St John's Church 19 Sep 1942.

76 Squadron RAF, of 4 Group, Bomber Command, was based at Middleton St George, Co Durham, flying Halifaxes. His aircraft crashed near Hamburg in a raid on that city during the night of 26/27 July 1942.

Reginald Robert James Bartlett (W)

Lieutenant, Royal Irish Fusiliers, died 11 Mar 1945, aged 26. Buried in Faenza War Cemetery, Italy.

Robert was the son of Robert James and Florence Bartlett. His father had died before the war. On 5 Dec 1941 he was married to Eirene Marguerita Browne in St James's Church, Friern Barnet. Their home was at 1 St John's Avenue, Friern Barnet.

The parish magazine of April/May 1945 reports that: Robert Bartlett has been killed in action in Italy. A memorial service was held on 4th April at St James's Church. He is described as having been "full of life and vigour". He had been a boy in the choir at St James's, then a server, then a sidesman. He was educated at Friern Barnet Grammar School.

Robert Charles Baumber (W)

Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), RAFVR, 12 Squadron RAF, died 8 Sep 1941, aged 28, buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany (created after World War 2 when burials were brought from all over West Germany).

Robert was the son of Ben and Kate Baumber of 87 Manor Drive, Friern Barnet.

In 1941, 12 Squadron was based at Binbrook, Yorkshire, flying Wellingtons. Robert's aircraft was lost in a raid on Berlin during the night of 7/8 September 1941.

Geoffrey Roy Blake (W)

Sub Lieutenant (Air) RNVR, HMS *Gannet*, died 3 June 1944, aged 25, commemorated on the Lee on Solent Memorial.

Geoffrey was the son of John Robert and Elizabeth Blake of 51 Lewes Road, Friern Barnet.

HMS *Gannet* was a Fleet Air Arm station in Northern Ireland, from which 1847 Fleet Air Arm Squadron provided convoy air cover during the 2nd Battle of the Atlantic.

Douglas Edwin William Brown (W)

Pilot Officer (pilot) RAFVR, 58 Squadron RAF, died 8 November 1941, aged 22, buried in Kiel War Cemetery. Douglas was the son of William and Amy Brown of 64 Goldsmith Road, Friern Barnet. 58 Squadron was a Bomber Command squadron, from April 1940 to March 1942 based at Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire, flying Whitleys in the night bombing offensive over Germany. Douglas's aircraft was lost during a raid on Berlin on the night of 7/8 November 1941.

Gordon James Burkle (W)

Leading Aircraftman, RAF, died 23 May 1941, aged 28, buried in St Peter's Churchyard, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire. James was the son of Charles Robert and Claire Louise Burkle of 177 Friern Barnet Lane. He was married at St James's Church Friern Barnet 19 Aug 1939 to Sylvia Patricia, daughter of James Sweet of Sweet's Nurseries. No 6 Flying Training School was established at RAF Little Rissington during the Second World War. *Daily Telegraph* obituary: Burkle in May 1941 Jim Burkle LAC beloved husband of Sylvia Patricia and son of Mr and Mrs C R Burkle of Whetstone.

Kenneth Frederick Clarke (W)

Lance Bombardier, Royal Artillery, 135 (Herts Yeomanry) Field Regt, died 26 Jan 1942, aged 26, commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. Kenneth was the son of Frederick and Alice Clarke, and the husband of Joan Barbara Clarke. 135 Field Regt RA: went to India in 1941, then, in October, to Singapore, subjected to Japanese air raids from December. Following the Japanese invasion in February 1942, the regiment went into captivity.

Stanley Christopher Cole (W)

Lieutenant RNVR, HM Landing Craft Infantry (L)132, died 17 Jun 1944, aged 27, buried firstly on Elba, later transferred to Bolsena War Cemetery on the Italian mainland. Stanley was born in Wood Green 1 Jun 1917, the son of Christopher Albert and Edith Ruth Cole. He had two sisters: Constance, who was six years older, and Irene, three years his junior. The family lived at 31 Bethune Avenue, Friern Barnet. He was educated at Friern Barnet Grammar School. Stanley was in command of a landing craft at the invasion of the Island of Elba by Royal Marine Commandos and Free French forces. His boat was sunk by shellfire, with heavy casualties. The invasion of Elba began at 4am, 17 Jun 1944, in preparation for Operation Anvil in August. Inscription on the monument commemorating liberation of Elba: THIS MONUMENT COMMEMORATES THE VICTORIOUS ALLIED LANDINGS ON 17TH JUNE 1944 ON THE ISLAND OF ELBA THEN OCCUPIED BY THE GERMANS. THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION GREATLY ACCELERATED THE LIBERATION OF ITALY AND OF FRANCE. The parish magazine for August 1944 reports: Tempy Lieut Stanley C Cole lost his life on Sat 17 June during the Allied assault on Elba

Raymond L Cooper (W)

Sergeant (Navigator) RAF, 619 Squadron RAF, died 30 Sep 1943, aged 24, buried in Cambridge City Cemetery. Raymond was the son of Frank and Elsie Cooper of Friern Barnet. 619 Squadron, Bomber Command, was based at Woodhall Spa, Lincs, flying Lancasters, Raymond's aircraft crashed at Caldwell Hill, Lincolnshire.

Frank Cotsell (W and Scouts' Memorial)

Ordinary Seaman, RN, HMS *Victory I*, died 25 Apr 1943, aged 18, commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Frank was born in 1925, the son of Francis James and Violetta Julia Josephine Marguerita Cotsell, of 8 Hartland Road, Friern Barnet. He was baptised in St John's Church, 13 Oct 1934, together with his brothers Lionel and Norman and sister Heather. HMS *Victory I* was the accounting and holding barracks for the Fleet based at Portsmouth

Ian Harry Grant Cox (W)

Trooper, RAC, 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), died 29 May 1942, aged 25, commemorated on the Alamein Memorial. Ian was the son of Edward Scrivenor and Edith Nellie Constance Cox. The family lived at 94 Torrington Park, Friern Barnet. 4th County of London Yeomanry went to North Africa in October 1941 as part of 22nd Armoured Brigade. From 26 May to 21 June 1942 it was engaged in Battle of Gazala around Tobruk. The War Diary reports 2 tanks lost 29th May running into enemy guns at close range in poor visibility.

Timothy Oliver Kynaston Cross (W)

Lieutenant, Rifle Brigade, attached 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, 20, died of wounds 15 Nov 1944, aged 20, buried in Mierlo War Cemetery, Netherlands. (The cemetery contains casualties from the battle of September to November 1944 concerned with clearing the banks of the Scheldt Estuary to open the port of Antwerp.).

Timothy was born in 1923, the eldest child of Philip Kynaston and Margaret Constance Cross. He had a brother David and sister Gillian. The family lived at Rookwood, 92 Torrington Park, Friern Barnet. Timothy was educated at Shrewsbury School and New College Oxford.

The parish magazine of December 1944 reported: "Lieut Timothy Cross has died of wounds in the battle for Germany ... a young man of extraordinary promise ...".

Ernest James Dilley (W)

Petty Officer Stoker RN, HMS *Electra*, died 27 Feb 1942, aged 41, commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

Ernest was born in 1900, the son of Jesse and Charlotte Dilley. He was baptised at Holy Trinity, East Finchley.

He had a sister, Alice, three years older. In 1911 the family was living at 1 Park Place, The Walks, East Finchley

He served in the Royal Navy during the First World War, from June 1916 to June 1919.

In 1926, he married Kathleen Agnes Ison. They lived at 13, East Road, New Southgate.

In late 1941, HMS *Electra* was in the Far East as part of Force Z, consisting of the battleships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*, escorted by four destroyers, including *Electra*. *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* were sunk by Japanese aircraft on 10 December 1941; 1000 survivors of *Repulse* were rescued by *Electra* and *Vampire*. *Electra* was sunk 27 February 1942 in the Battle of the Java Sea. This action was fought by a force of five cruisers and nine destroyers to intercept a Japanese invasion force. The cruiser HMS *Exeter* was critically damaged and *Electra* was sunk while covering her. Of *Electra*'s crew of 173, there were 54 survivors, picked up by an American submarine.

Peter Denis Fry (W and Scouts' Memorial)

Sergeant (air gunner) RAFVR, 460 RAAF Squadron, died 4 May 1944, aged 20. The crew of his Lancaster (3 Australian, 4 British) are buried in Avant-les-Marcilly churchyard, France.

Peter was born in 1923, the son of Ernest and Emmeline Fry. The family lived at 112 Mayfield Avenue, Friern Barnet.

The parish magazine records that he was a server at St James's and a member of the parish Scout Troop. In April 1941 he was a patrol leader and awarded the King's Scout Badge. In 1942 he left to join the RAF and by 1944 had trained as an air gunner. In June 1944 he was reported missing from night raid over France and in October 1944 came official news of death in action.

In 1944, 460 Squadron was based at Binbrook, Lincolnshire, flying Lancasters. On the night of 3/4 May, it was part of a force of fourteen Mosquito Pathfinders and three hundred and forty-six Lancasters in an attack on a German army Panzer dépôt near Mailly-le-Camp in France, part of the preparation for the Normandy landings. The target was severely damaged, but the bomber force, partly because of a communications delay, suffered heavy losses. Forty-two Lancasters were shot down. Of these, six were from 460 Squadron with a loss of thirty-nine lives (three of the crew from one Lancaster survived and were protected by French families). Peter Fry's Lancaster was shot down by a night fighter after turning for home.

Dennis William Griffiths (W)

Gunner Royal Horse Artillery, 11 (Honourable Artillery Company) Regiment, died 29 May 1942, aged 26, buried in Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Libya (25 miles west of Tobruk. ("Knightsbridge" was chief of the defensive "boxes", linked by minefields, against Rommel's drive towards Suez. The graves of many who died in Libya are gathered there.)

Denis was the son of William and Maud Griffiths. The family lived at 72 Beaconsfield Rd, Friern Barnet.

11th (HAC) Regt RHA: served at Battle of Knightsbridge. It was in action during the Battle of Gazala, of May/June 1942, during the retreat of the 8th Army, leading to the loss of Tobruk.

Derek Walter Harvey (W)

Private, Royal Norfolk Regt 7th Battalion, died 17th August 1944, aged 18, buried in Bayeux War Cemetery, Normandy. (The cemetery contains over four thousand Commonwealth burials from the Normandy landing and the fighting that followed in the advance reaching the River Seine in August).

Derek was the son of Walter Ronald and Mary Joyce Harvey of 77 Ashurst Road, Friern Barnet.

The 7th Royal Norfolk Regiment landed in Normandy following D-day. In August it was taking part in the fighting to establish a bridgehead over the River Orne.

James Edward Hawkins (W)

Stoker RN, HMS *Acheron*, died 17 Dec 1940, aged 20, commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

James was the son of James and Emily Hawkins of 40 Ashurst Road, Friern Barnet.

The destroyer HMS *Acheron* took part in the 1940, Norwegian campaign. In August she returned to Portsmouth for a refit, followed by refit trials in December. On 17 Dec 1940, she struck a mine off St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, and sank in 4 minutes. All 196 on board were lost.

Ronald William George Heryet (W)

2nd Lieutenant, King's Own Royal Regt (Lancaster), 8th Battalion, died 23 Jul 1941, aged 29, commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial (3,500 who died in World War 2, with no known grave, where circumstances precluded inclusion on any campaign memorial.)

Ronald was born in 1911, the son of William and Julia Heryet. The family lived at 23 Parkway, Friern Barnet.

Newspaper obituary: "In July 1941, killed on active service, 2nd Lt Ronald William George Heryet, The King's Own Royal Regiment, only son of Mr and Mrs William J Heryet of Hamdon, 23 Park Way, Friern Barnet, formerly of Alexandra Park, aged 29 'God holds the key'."

In July 1940, 8th Battalion, King's Own Royal Regiment, left the British Isles to join the Malta garrison, where it was to serve throughout the siege. On 23rd July the convoy in which it was sailing came under air and E-boat attack. Ronald was among those who lost their lives at sea.

Ernest John Frank Hinde (W)

Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps, died 10 Aug 1941, aged 28. He died at sea of wounds received as a result of enemy action and was buried at sea. Commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial.

He was the son of Dr Ernest Hinde and Isabel Hinde of Norwich. He was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and Guy's Hospital (LRCP, MRCS). He was married in St James's Church, Friern Barnet, 20 Feb 1940, to Norah Evelyn Steeds of 37 Friern Barnet Lane.

He is commemorated also by a memorial plaque in St Andrew's Church, Norwich.

Leslie Albert Holt (W)

Sergeant (Pilot) RAFVR 601 Squadron, died 9 Aug 1944, buried Florence War Cemetery.

Leslie was the son of Albert William and Gladys Violet Holt. In 1938, they were living at 3 Hollyfield Avenue, Friern Barnet; by the time of Leslie's death they had moved to 45 Petworth Road..

From October 1943, 601 Squadron, RAuxiliaryAF, was in Italy, flying Spitfires on ground attack missions in support of Allied armies.

Parish magazine of October 1944: "Sergeant Pilot Leslie Holt is missing ... his machine crashed outside Florence after being hit by AA guns."

(Florence, centre of the Arno Line, was taken by the Allies on 13 August 1944. The war cemetery contains 1,600 burials.)

Richard C Hopkins (W)

Radio Officer, Merchant Navy, died 28 Oct 1945, aged 25. He died in Napsbury Hospital of acute pneumonia.

Richard was born in 1920 the son of Frederick Arthur, Dorothea Alice Hopkins. The family lived at 2 The Ridgway, Friern Barnet.

Aubrey Vernon Ivatt (W)

Telegraphist RN Patrol Service, HM Trawler *Wallasea*, died 6 Jan 1944, aged 20, buried in Penzance Cemetery.

Aubrey was son of John Edward and Evelyn Ivatt. They lived at 8 Hemington Avenue, Friern Barnet.

Parish magazine February 1944: "Aubrey Ivatt RN, serving in a minesweeper, has given his life ... our sincere sympathy to his parents in their sorrow."

Daily Telegraph 25 June 1952: Ivatt Aubrey Vernon Tel RN ... Son and Brother on this his 29th birthday, killed in action 6 Jan 1944.

HM Trawler *Wallasea* was sunk by a surface craft torpedo in Mounts Bay, Cornwall, 6 January 1944. She was with the destroyer HMS *Mackay* and other escorts in the Western Approaches for coastal convoy defence. In an action against E-boats, *Wallasea* and two merchant ships were lost. Penzance Cemetery contains the graves of twenty-two sailors who lost their lives, seventeen from *Wallasea*.

Alan Gilchrist McAdam (W)

Flight Lieutenant (pilot) RAF, DFC AFC, 183 Squadron, died 14 Jan 1944, aged 23. Buried in Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery.

From April 1943 to February 1944, 183 Squadron was based in Cornwall, flying Typhoon fighter-bombers in attacks on enemy shipping and airfields in France.

Stewart Coutts McAdam (W)

Sergeant (pilot) RAFVR, 254 Squadron, died 15 April 1941, aged 24. Buried in Trondheim Cemetery, which contains 155 burials in the war plot, the majority shot down attacking German shipping in Norwegian coastal waters.

From January to May 1941, 254 Squadron, a fighter squadron of Coastal Command, was based at Sumburgh, Shetland, flying Blenheims engaged in shipping protection and providing fighter escorts for anti-shipping raids.

Alan and Stewart were the sons of Alexander and Jessie McAdam of 17 Petworth Road, Friern Barnet. Both were pupils of Woodhouse School.

In 1940, Stewart was married to Vera Simmonds.

Parish magazine, August 1944: "Flt Lieut Alan G McAdam AFC, mentioned in dispatches for service in Malta, previously reported missing, is now reported killed."

Leslie Frank Meadows (W)

Sergeant (Navigator/Bomber) RAFVR 214 Squadron, died 15 Oct 1942, aged 28. Buried in. Uden War Cemetery, Holland.

Leslie was the son of Frank and Ethel Mary Meadows of 6 Parkhurst Road, Friern Barnet.

He was married in 1939 to Joan Mary Ward.

In October 1942, 214 Squadron was based at Chedburgh, Suffolk, (a satellite of Stradishall) flying Stirlings, on raids over Germany and Italy, and in mine laying operations. On the night of 15/16 October 1942, the target was Cologne; Leslie's aircraft crashed in Holland

Robert Douglas Millbank (W)

Driver, 214 Army Field Company, Royal Engineers, killed in action 29 May 1940, aged 21. His name is on the Dunkirk Memorial, which commemorates 4,500 casualties of the British Expeditionary Force who died 1939/40 and who have no known grave. The evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from the Dunkirk beaches took place between 27 May and 4 June 1940.

Robert was born in 1919, son of Albert and Anna Millbank. The family lived at 6 Stanford Road, Friern Barnet.

John Ingram Morris (W and Scouts' memorial)

Sergeant (observer) RAFVR 115 Squadron, died 22 Jul 1942, aged 21, buried in Eindhoven Cemetery.

John was the son of James and Eva Gertrude Morris.

The parish magazine of December 1941 reports that: Sergt Obs John Morris has just returned from Canada after training under the Empire Training Scheme.

In July 1942, 115 Squadron was based at Marham, Norfolk, flying Wellingtons. On the night of 21/22 July 1942 the squadron was on a raid on Duisburg in the Ruhr. John's aircraft crashed in Holland.

Kenneth Lawson Munday (W)

Serjeant, Rifle Brigade, 7th Battalion (1st Battalion London Rifle Brigade), died 26 Oct 1942, aged 27. Buried in El Alamein War Cemetery.

Kenneth was the son of Joseph and Violet Elizabeth Munday of 24 Macdonald Road, Friern Barnet.

1st Battalion, London Rifle Brigade was redesignated 7th Battalion, Rifle Brigade in 1941. It served in Egypt, Libya and Italy. The Battle of El Alamein was fought at the end of October 1942.

Parish magazine of December 1942: "The news of the glorious victory in North Africa was bittersweet to some in our midst ... Our hearts go out to Mr and Mrs Munday for the sacrifice of their only son Kenneth."

Herbert Grant Newstead (W)

Flight Sergeant RAFVR, 211 Squadron, died 12 Feb 1942, aged 27. Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial (24,000 casualties with no known grave).

Herbert was born in 1914, the son of George Graham and Mary Jane Newstead of 2 St James Close, Friern Barnet.

After service in the Middle East, 211 Squadron was sent in January 1942 to the Far East, equipped with Blenheims. Singapore had already fallen by its arrival. During operations in Sumatra and Java from 6 to 21 February, ten aircraft were lost (out of an original strength of twenty-four), with nineteen aircrew killed or missing. At the fall of Java on 8 March 1942, at least 340 were taken prisoner of whom 179 died in captivity.

Ronald Ryall (W)

Ordinary Seaman RN, HMS *Sphinx*, died 4 Feb 1940, aged 18. Buried in Wick Cemetery.

HMS *Sphinx* was a minesweeper. In February 1940 she was deployed in the Moray Firth and was hit by a bomb during an air attack and capsized. 54 of the crew lost their lives.

Walter Ernest Ryall (W)

Gunner Royal Artillery, 242 Battery, 48 Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, died 27 Apr 1945, aged 28. Buried in Jakarta War Cemetery, Java (contains the graves of over 1,000 who died during Japanese advance of 1942, or later as prisoners of war).

48 Lt AA Regt RA, left the Clyde 6 December 1941, bound originally for the Middle East, but diverted to the Far East. It arrived on Java 4 February 1942. 28 February/ 1 March 1942, a Japanese force landed on Java. 9 March 1942 the Dutch and British forces surrendered. Over the next few weeks the prisoners of war were concentrated in large camps, from which regular drafts were sent to Japan to work in coal mines or to Thailand to work on Burma railway. Walter was reported to be a prisoner of war 14 July 1943.

Ronald and Walter were sons of George and Rose Ryall of 25 Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet.

Howard John Skinner (W)

Sergeant, Royal Army Service Corps, died 7 Jun 1944, aged 32

Norman William George Skinner (W)

Captain, Royal Army Service Corps, died 7 Jun 1944, aged 38.

Both are buried in Hermanville War Cemetery in Normandy. The village of Hermanville lies behind Sword Beach, where British troops landed on D-day, 6 June. The cemetery contains 1,003 war dead, most of whom died on 6 June or during the first days of the drive to Caen.

Norman, born 1906, and Howard, born 1912, were the sons of John Henry and May Skinner of 147, Friern Barnet Lane (the house which is now the Rectory).

Norman was married in 1936 to Gladys Florence Woods. They had two children.

Newspaper obituaries:

Killed in France in June 1944 Capt N W G (Togo) Skinner, husband of Gladys (née Woods) and 2nd son of Mr & Mrs J H Skinner of Friern Barnet Lane

Skinner Lance Sgt Howard John Skinner RASC of Friern Barnet Lane killed in action in North West Europe on the same day as his brother Togo

Parish magazine, August 1944: "Capt Norman Skinner and L/Sgt Howard Skinner, sons of Mr and Mrs Skinner of 147 Friern Barnet Lane, were both killed on the Normandy beaches on 7 June."

Cyril William Upton Smith (W)

2nd Officer, Merchant Navy, SS *Kirnwood*, died 10 Dec 1941, aged 25, commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial.

SS *Kirnwood* sailed from New York with a cargo of grain, joining convoy SC57, which left Sydney, Nova Scotia, 28 November 1941, bound for Liverpool. The convoy was attacked by a U-boat 10 December 1941, shortly before midnight, west of Rockall. *Kirnwood* and two other merchant ships were torpedoed and sunk. Of the 45 aboard *Kirnwood*, her master and eleven crew died; the remainder were saved by the convoy's rescue ship *Dewsbury*.

Cyril was born in 1916, the son of William George and Elsie Emma Smith, of 9, Friars Avenue, Friern Barnet. In 1941 he was married to Mary Josephine; they lived at 7 Brunswick Crescent, New Southgate.

Kenneth William Smith (W)

Fusilier, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), 2nd Battalion, died 9 Jul 1944, aged 21, buried in Fionna Della Chiana War Cemetery, Italy. (The cemetery contains 256 burials, mostly from the fighting of the first two weeks of July 1944.)

Kenneth was the son of William George and Elsie Emma Smith. The family lived at 9 Friars Avenue.

2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, was engaged in the Italian campaign from March 1944, particularly in the battle for Monte Cassino. In June and July 1944, the battalion was involved in heavy fighting in the Chiana valley, where the German army made a stand in front of Arezzo and the Arno.

Frank Snook (W)

Lance Serjeant, Royal Artillery, 7 Medium Regiment, died 28-29 May 1941, aged 31, commemorated on the Athens Memorial (which carries the names of 3,000 who died during the 1941 campaign in Greece and Crete and later campaigns in area).

Frank was born in 1910 in Hampshire, the son of Benjamin and Lily Snook. The family lived at 8, Friern Barnet Lane. Benjamin, was a regular soldier in the Royal Artillery at the time of Frank's birth and served at the Front throughout the First World War.

7 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, served in North Africa from 1939, fighting with the Western Desert Force from 1940. In April 1941, it was sent to take part in the defence of Greece, but, with the British defeat, on 22 April it was evacuated to Crete, having first to destroy its guns which it was unable to take with it. When the Germans invaded Crete, it fought as infantry from 20 May to 1 June, when, with the British withdrawal, it returned to Egypt. Frank was reported missing 28-29 May, later presumed killed.

Harry Bernard Stephens (G, H16/9)

Squadron Leader (pilot), RAFVR, DFC, 109 Squadron died 6 May 1944, aged 32. He is buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Holland.

John Douglas Stephens (G, H16/9)

Wing Commander (pilot), DFC, Royal Air Force, 15 Squadron, died 30th August 1943, aged 25. He is buried in Friern Barnet churchyard; the burial service was conducted by the Rector and the RAF chaplain from Mildenhall.

Harry was born in 1912, the son of Arthur and Mary Stephens. By 1918 when John was born, the family had moved from Hendon to Friern Barnet and were living in Oakleigh Road. At the time of John's birth, his father was serving as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. John became a pupil at Woodhouse School, North Finchley. He joined the R.A.F. in 1936 at the age of 18. After training as a pilot, he was posted to No 31 (Army Cooperation) Squadron in India. Before the war, Harry was working as the representative of a hosiery firm.

After the outbreak of war, John, back in England, converted to flying the Sterling heavy bomber. At the end of 1942 he was posted to 149 Squadron, flying from Lakenheath in Suffolk. During the first half of 1943 he flew on night operations to Germany, Italy and France. The furthest mission was to Turin: take-off 1811 hours, landing 0150 hours the next day. Other targets included the Krupps works at Essen in the Ruhr and the U-boat bases at Lorient and St Nazaire on the coast of Brittany. He was awarded the DFC. In June 1943, at the age of 24, he was promoted to Wing Commander, and given command of 15 Squadron, flying Stirlings from Mildenhall, another Suffolk airfield. Operations continued, still with the same seven-man crew that came with him from 149. On the 17th August he led five of his squadron's Stirlings to take part in the 600 bomber raid on Peenemunde, the establishment on the Baltic where the V-weapons, flying bombs and rockets, were being developed, one of the most successful and significant bombing operations of the war, although losses were heavy. This was his last operation. On the 30th August he left Mildenhall on a local flight, piloting a Defiant single engine, two-seater fighter aircraft. Immediately after take-off, the engine failed and the plane crashed, killing him and his passenger, a ground crew corporal.

In 1941 Harry followed his younger brother into the R.A.F., joining the Volunteer Reserve. He too became a bomber pilot. In 1942 he married Dorothy Westlake and the couple moved into 59, Pollard Road. From February 1943 he was flying Mosquitoes with 109 (Pathfinder) Squadron, which had pioneered the development of the Oboe radio target location equipment. By May 1944 he had flown on nearly seventy operations; not many bomber crew survived that long. He too was awarded the DFC. In 1944, in preparation for the Normandy invasion, targets were switched from locations such as the Ruhr, Hamburg and Berlin to concentrate mainly on rail and road communications in north-west Europe. At 2130 hours on the 6th May he took-off from the squadron's base at Little Staughton in Bedfordshire, the target Leverkusen in north-west Germany. The squadron's operations record book entry for that night reports that his Mosquito was followed over the target by an aircraft from another Pathfinder squadron and was seen to turn off in the normal manner; "nothing further is known". It was some months before their squadron or families received the news that Harry Stephens and his navigator, Flight Lieutenant Norman Fredman DFC, had been shot down and were buried in Holland.

Robert Arthur William Swift (W)

1st Radio Officer, Merchant Navy, SS *Langleegorse*, died 23 Jan 1941, aged 29, commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial.

On 23 January 1941, the cargo ship SS *Langleegorse* was *en route* from Durban to London when she was attacked and sunk by a Focke-Wulf Condor, 200 miles off the west coast of Ireland. All hands were lost.

Earle Cyril Clarence Swift (not on Friern Barnet war memorial)

Volunteer, 16th Warwickshire (Coventry) Battalion, Home Guard, died in Coventry 23 Oct 1940, aged 26. The “Coventry Blitz”, air raids by the Luftwaffe on the city, began in August 1940, culminating with a devastating attack on 14 November.

Robert and Earle were the sons of Charles and Emmie Swift. Just before the war, the family was living in Stoke Newington, but moved to 135A Friern Barnet Road. Earle was married to Irene.

Kenneth Douglas Tarr (W)

2nd Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment, 1/8th Battalion, died 29 May 1940, aged 20. He is buried in Lille Southern Cemetery, which contains casualties from the French & Belgian Campaign of 1939/40.

Kenneth was born in 1919, son of Robert Octavius and Alice Emma Tarr. His mother, Alice, died in 1937. In 1939, his father was remarried, to Minnie Elizabeth Rogers. The family lived in Woodhouse Road, Friern Barnet; in 1937 they were living at 229a but by 1940 had moved to 207. Kenneth’s father, Robert, died in 1941.

Frank Henry George Thompson (G, F61)

Corporal, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, Airborne, died 26 Jan 1942, buried in Friern Barnet churchyard.

Ox & Bucks L I, 2nd Battalion, was part of 1st Airlanding Brigade, formed in 1941 to pioneer the new rôle of landing by glider. Frank was accidentally killed during training at Netheravon Airfield, Wiltshire. (In 1944 a company of 2nd Bn OBLI, landing in Horsa gliders, captured “Pegasus Bridge”, the Caen canal crossing, ahead of the Allied advance on D-day.)

Frank was born in 1916, son of George and Rose Thompson of 1100 High Road, Whetstone.

Jack Sydney Turner (W)

Sergeant, RAFVR, 467 Squadron, died 19 Feb 1943, aged 23, commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.. 467 Squadron RAustralianAF (although originally with predominantly British personnel) was formed in November 1942, part of 5 Group Bomber Command. From 24 November 1942 to 12 November 1943, the squadron was based at Bottesford, Leicestershire, flying Lancasters.

Jack was the son of Sydney and Ethel Olive Turner. In 1941 he was married to Cicely Amelia Jackson. Before her marriage, Cicely’s home was 48 Torrington Park Friern Barnet; she was still living at this address (together with her father) in 1945.

Ronald Oliver Vaughan (W)

Sergeant (pilot) RAF, 460 Squadron RAustralianAF, died 13 Jun 1943, aged 22, buried in Ijsselmuiden General Cemetery, The Netherlands, where are the graves of 6 airmen, 4 British, 2 Australian.

From mid May 1943, the squadron was based at Binbrook, Lincolnshire, flying Lancasters. Major targets included Berlin and the V-weapons development centre at Peenemunde.

Ronald was the son of Oliver and Alice Vaughan of 95 Oakleigh Road, Friern Barnet.

James Wallace Walker (W, M)

Lieutenant, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), died 5 Oct 1943, aged 22, buried in Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy.

Mainland Italy had been invaded 3rd September 1943 by the Allies, who fought their way northward, with the British 8th Army on the eastern, Adriatic flank, until, by the end of October 1943 they were facing the German defensive Gustav Line, which extended from Garigliano in the west to the River Sangro in the east.

James was the son of James Wallace and Annie Walker of 85 Friern Barnet Lane.

Ernest White (W)

There are many war casualties with this name, but it has not been possible to establish a connection with Friern Barnet for any of them.
