

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2



REMEMBERING 75 MEN AND WOMEN CONNECTED WITH ASTON TIRROLD & UPTHORPE SECOND WORLD WAR

Thomas Powell
Cyril Ray
Frederick Ray
Royden Ray
Peter Scutt
Godfrey Silver
Frederick Smith
Thomas Stone
Eric Tappin
Edwyn Tappin
Sheela Turner
Philip Venvell
Philip Wadsworth
Robert Wadsworth
Harold Waldron
James Wells
William Wells
Ronald Wheeler
Eryl Williams
Elizabeth Williams
Henry Wigley
Ronald Wood
Hannah Wright
Herbet Adby
Jack Aldridge
James Aldridge
Leslie Aldridge
Alma Avery
Wilfrid Avery
William Batchelor
Ernest Batchelor
Herbert Batchelor
Wilfrid Batchelor
Eric Batchelor
Thomas Barlow
John Bisgood
Herbert Blake
George Brewerton
Muriel Burge
Sidney Burge
Rosemary Clay
William Coling
Gladys Coling
Gilbert Corderoy
Philip Cross
Michael Cross
Timothy Cross
Frank Cundell
John Cross
Kenneth Cundell
William Deane
Roland Dearlove
George Didcock
William Didcock
Alec Douglass
Reginald Dix
William Didcock
George Didcock
Roland Dearlove
William Deane
Kenneth Cundell
Frank Cundell
John Cross
Timothy Cross
Michael Cross
Philip Cross
Gilbert Corderoy
William Coling
Gladys Coling
Rosemary Clay
Sidney Burge
Muriel Burge
George Brewerton
Herbert Blake
John Bisgood
Thomas Barlow
Eric Batchelor
Wilfrid Batchelor
Herbert Batchelor
Ernest Batchelor
William Batchelor
Wilfrid Avery
Alma Avery
Leslie Aldridge
James Aldridge
Jack Aldridge
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Thomas Stone
Frederick Smith
Godfrey Silver
Peter Scutt
Royden Ray
Frederick Ray
Cyril Ray
Thomas Powell

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JAMES ALDRIDGE



Died on the 25th May 1940 and is Remembered with Honour
He is buried at the Haverskerque British Cemetery, Row EE, Grave 13.
James was 19 when he died

Haverskerque British Cemetery

The Cemetery was begun in March 1918, by the 33rd and 54th Casualty Clearing Stations, and was still in use during the Battles of the Lys. After the Armistice a small number of graves were brought in from isolated positions. There are now nearly 100, 1914-18 and 50, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. From the 1939-45 War, over 20 are unidentified. The Cemetery covers an area of 403 square metres and is enclosed by a stone rubble wall.



Private James Peter Aldridge

Corps: 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment
(Prince Charlotte of Wales) Infantry, British Army
Service Number: 5338050

EARLY YEARS

James Peter Aldridge was born in 1921, in Ireland, the son of Harry Aldridge and his Irish wife Mary Jane (nee Murphy). His father Harry was serving in the British Army in 1920/1921 during the Irish uprising and was stationed near Dublin where he met his wife. The Aldridge family originated from the Astons and Blewbury. Harry's parents were James Aldridge and Alice (nee Ayres) who was previously married to Peter Didcock. Both of whom lost brothers (William Aldridge) and brothers in law (Mark and George Didcock) in the First World War.

WAR YEARS

The 1st Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment were stationed in France and Belgium during September 1939. By May 1940 they had taken up positions along the River Dyle in Belgium which runs south from Antwerp. In late May they made their first contact with the German forces and for several days they held their ground, but had to withdraw due to lack of shells, fuel and manpower, abandoning vehicles along the way and moving west, mostly on foot, towards Dunkirk. They were heavily shelled as well as bombed by the Luftwaffe along the way.

Dunkirk and the 2nd Division

James' Regiment were part of the 6th Infantry Brigade in the 2nd Infantry Division. The HQ Divisional diary makes little mention of them, other than that James was fighting with his battalion close to Merville in France between the 24th - 26th May 1940. Much communication between HQ Division and the front line had been lost by the 27th May.

If any division was truly sacrificed to allow the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, then it was probably the 2nd Division. They were deliberately positioned to absorb the full force of the German advance towards Dunkirk to buy as much time as possible to get the British Army evacuated from the beaches. Casualties were very heavy.

James was killed in the fighting close to Merville on the 25th May, just before his battalion was given its orders to retreat.

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LEONARD LILLINGTON



Sergeant Major Ivor Leonard Lillington

Corps: 18th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

Service Number: 1056617

EARLY YEARS

Ivor Leonard Lillington (known as Leonard) was born in 1902 in Coombe, Hungerford to his parents Albert and Mary Ann (nee Gifford). Albert was a gamekeeper. In 1911, the family were living at Sheencroft in Blewbury. Albert was aged 44, and his wife was aged 41. They had six children by then who were Claude aged 15 and working as an estate labourer (he died in the First World War), Ivy aged 13, Flossie aged 11, Leonard aged 9, Lucy aged 7 and Phyllis aged 2.

THE WAR YEARS

Leonard had been serving in the British Army before the outbreak of the war in 1939. He enlisted on the 21st March 1924 in Reading, Berkshire, signing up initially for six years and six months. His job on enlisting had been as a stockman. He was 22 years old.

The Second World War had begun in western Europe on the 1st September 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. In Belgium and France there was a long winter of waiting as German and Allied forces, including the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), faced each other along the border defences. The 18th Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery was made up of the 59/93 and 94/95 Batteries. They were sent to France at the outbreak of the war with the BEF. As the German troops advanced, all the BEF plus several French and Belgium troops were cut off in a pincer movement encircling the Belgium port of Dunkirk.

On the 10th May 1940, two German armies moved eastward. A smaller one swept through Holland and Belgium into northern France, drawing the main Allied forces north to meet it. The main German force advanced through Luxembourg, broke through the French lines at Sedan, and sliced across northern France to the coast. Moving rapidly with armoured columns, these armies trapped the Allies in an ever-decreasing pocket. The Germans took Boulogne on the 25th May and Calais the next day, leaving Dunkirk as the only viable port from which the BEF, part of the French army and the remains of the Belgian army could escape.

OPERATION DYNAMO

This was a rescue operation implemented by the Royal Navy. It was co-ordinated by Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay and his small team in Dover Castle. There, beneath the fortress, a network of tunnels deep within the cliffs became the nerve centre controlling the evacuation of Allied forces.

Hundreds of boats of all sizes from Royal Navy war ships to the smallest privately owned boat set off from Dover and Ramsgate bound for Dunkirk to help evacuate the troops - who were pinned down on all sides and being shelled and bombed by the Germans as they waited on the beaches with little or no cover.

Died on the 31st May/1st June 1940 and is Remembered with Honour Leonard is buried at St James' Cemetery Dover, Row F Grave 14.

Leonard was 38 when he died

The Dunkirk Evacuation: 26th May to 4th June

Leonard managed to board a boat that was helping to evacuate the men from the beach on the night of the 31st May 1940 but tragically, he died either that night or in the early morning on 1st June 1940.

Leonard had two death certificates

1st death certificate: 31st May 1940. Reads 'Killed during evacuation of Flanders'. Landed at Dover UD (Unitary District)" Gives only initials and surname, age is missing. Correct service number, and regiment. Cause of death was "due to war operations". Signature of informant: "Certificate received from the Officer Commanding Dover Garrison".

2nd death certificate: Issued on 1st June 1940 by an unnamed medical doctor in Dover. Gives correct service number. Rank as Company Sergeant Major. Full name. Age 38. Country of Birth, England. Date of death 1.6.1940. Place of death. At sea, France. Cause of death. Killed in action.

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REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

DAVID LANGMORE



Lee on Solent Memorial

Died on the 18th December 1941 and is Remembered with Honour
He is remembered at Lee on Solent Memorial Bay 1, Panel 6. He has 'No known Grave'.
David was 31 when he died

David's plane and his body were never recovered. A special plaque was commissioned by his grieving parents and erected inside the Lady Chapel at St Michael's Church, Aston Tirrold in memory of David, their only child.

Many Prophets and Kings have desired to see the things ye see



David's plaque in St Michael's Church, Aston Tirrold



Albacore Torpedo Bomber

David Erskine Langmore D.S.C

Corps: 828th Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy

Service Number: 1094294

EARLY YEARS

David was born on the 23rd June 1910 in The Red House, Aston Upthorpe. His father, Dr Herbert Richard Langmore, trained as a medic at St George's Hospital in London. On the 30th September 1903 he married Sophia Jenkins in Tideford, Cornwall. They moved to Aston Upthorpe in about 1908 and they are featured on the 1911 census for the village, living at The Red House along with nine month old David and a number of servants.

WAR YEARS

David had a long career in the Royal Navy and by the start of the war, he was already an exceptionally experienced Navy Lieutenant and was mentioned in the London Gazette on the 17th October 1941. He was awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** for bravery on board the Aircraft carrier HMS Victorious. In October 1941, HMS Victorious attacked enemy shipping off Norway, damaging two merchant ships with bombs.

Around the end of November 1941, David was sent to Fort St Angelo, Malta where he flew Albacore Torpedo bombers on missions to patrol the Mediterranean and North Africa. By December they were supporting the 'lifting' of the siege of Tobruk (Operation Crusader) which happened on December the 10th. The Malta squadron were tasked especially to take out enemy U boats.

828 Squadron off Malta 1941

OPERATIONS REPORTS FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 1941

Royal Navy ship HMS Utmost returned from patrol in Gulf of Taranto, having obtained a hit on a Garibaldi class merchant vessel. Ships, Aurora, Penelope, Havock, Lance, Lively arrived. Penelope and Aurora both damaged by mines. Neptune was sunk 30 miles off Tripoli and the Kandahar was reported to be sinking. Jaguar sailed to rescue survivors

OPERATIONS REPORTS FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 1941

Hal Far (in south Malta) Night 18/19th December 1941 828 Squadron Fleet Air Arm Six Albacores despatched to attack convoy of six destroyers and three merchant vessels approaching Tripoli harbour. Two hits claimed on 2000 ton merchant vessel. One Albacore failed to return: the missing crew Lt Greenwood, pilot, and Lt Commander Langmore, observer. 828 Squadron. Five Swordfish despatched to continue attack on the convoy previously attacked by the Albacores. The convoy was not sighted. One Swordfish crashed on landing. Crew unhurt.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

HAROLD WALDRON



Flight Engineer & Navigator Harold Frank Waldron Corps: Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA)

EARLY YEARS

Harold 'Harry' Frank Peter Waldron was born on the 11th May 1915 in Blewbury. He was the second son of Frank Waldron and Elsie (nee Bennett). In 1912, his father Frank was working as a shunter at Didcot for The Great Western Railway earning 23/- (shillings) a week. Later he became self-employed as a chauffeur and gardener. He and his wife Elsie had four children.

By 1935, Harry had married Fannie Winfield in Oxford. They had a daughter born later on that year who they called Jeanette but sadly she died soon after birth. There were no other children born to them. The couple did not stay together and Fannie remarried in 1948.

Died on the 22nd April 1943 and is Remembered with Honour

On Panel 288 at Runnymede Memorial, Sussex.

He has 'No known Grave'. Harry was 27 when he died

He is remembered on the Aston Tirrold and Upton War Memorial and on the Muster Roll at St Michael's Church, Aston Tirrold.

Harry's body was never recovered from the sea.

The Air Forces Memorial, or Runnymede Memorial, in Englefield Green, near Egham, Surrey is a memorial dedicated to some 20,456 men and women from air forces of the British Empire who were lost in air and other operations during World War II. Those recorded have no known grave anywhere in the world, and many were lost without trace. The name of each of these airmen and air women is engraved into the stone walls of the memorial, according to country and squadron.



Runnymede Memorial plaque

AERO ENGINE FITTER AND THE WAR YEARS

Prior to the war, Harry was an Aero Engine Fitter which was a reserved profession. This meant that he was exempt from being called up. However, he chose to join the Air Transport Auxiliary Force (ATA).

The Air Transport Auxiliary was originally a civilian organisation formed in the WW2 to deliver aircraft and supplies from factories to the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. During this period, it was supported by the RAF. It was not formally part of the UK Military but was vital to the ongoing operation of the RAF. It did not operate overseas or in combat zones. Many of its members were disabled qualified personnel and women. Many of the women flew and delivered planes to other airfields up and down the country throughout the war. Harry was not a trained pilot but served in the capacity as Flight Engineer and Navigator on all his missions. His unit was 4, Ferry Pilots Pool. He was based at Prestwick, Ayr, Scotland. On the 22nd April 1943, he was on board a training flight in his role as Flight Engineer and Navigator. The pilot was in training, overseen by training instructor Pilot Jose Carreras from Spain, and his crew were making a landing in a Catalina after a routine training flight. The plane swung as it was approaching land and the wing hit the water which resulted in the plane flipping. The plane crashed in the sea between Largs and Cumbrae on the Firth of Forth, West Scotland.

A report of the accident is given below.

Certificate of Commendation:

"On 22 Apr 1943. Flight-Captain Carreras (a Spaniard who had fought in the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939) was instructing a trainee pilot on a Catalina aircraft. Through no fault of his own the aircraft crashed into the sea and the crew were thrown into the water. F/O Gibbs lost an arm, and but for Flt-Capt Carreras's efforts would have lost his life. Flt-Capt Carreras also made the utmost efforts, but just failed, to save Flt-Engineer H.F.P Waldron from drowning, and helped other members of the crew to safety. He himself had experienced considerable shock and bruising."

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KENNETH HORN



**Sergeant & Flight Engineer Joseph Kenneth Horn
90 Squadron, Group 3, Royal Air Force
Service Number: 574273**

Kenneth Horn was born on the 16th February 1923 at Glebe Farm, Barton, Westmorland to William and Alice. He was the seventh child of eight boys. His father William was a farmer. In 1939 his family were living and working at Carrimer's Cottages, Carrimer's Farm, under the employment of J.F.K "Frank" Cross of The Manor, Aston Tirrold.

At the start of the war, our records show that Joseph had already 'signed up' and was based out of Tuddenham Air Base in Suffolk which was part of 90 Squadron Bomber Command. Originally 90 Squadron were flying Stirling Mark III planes, but by early June 1944 they were flying Lancaster Bombers.

OPERATION BIENNAIS

Kenneth's plane was part of a 721 strong bomber operation that was sent out to destroy V-I flying bomb sites located at Etainpius-Biennais, Normandy France. The mission was twenty-one days after the D-Day landings on the 6th June 1944. Late in the evening of June 27th 1944, the crew, including Kenneth, took off in an Avro Lancaster III (Serial Number NE 145) from their air base at Tuddenham. Conditions were clear. Their mission was successful, dropping 2,000 lb "cookie" high explosive bombs over the designated target. They headed for home in the early hours of the 28th June when a Messerschmitt (Me410) intercepted their plane at 2.27am over the sea. The aircraft was shot down seven miles North West of Bury St Edmunds and they crashed at Canada Farm, Icklingham, resulting in all of the crew losing their lives.

**Died on the 28th June 1944
Buried with Honour**

Beck Row, St. John's Churchyard. Row E. Grave 9
Kenneth was 21 when he died

IN PRIDE PASS THIS STONE, NOT
IN SORROW; AND STRIVE TO LIVE
AS NOBLY AS HE DIED



SERVICEMEN ON BOARD

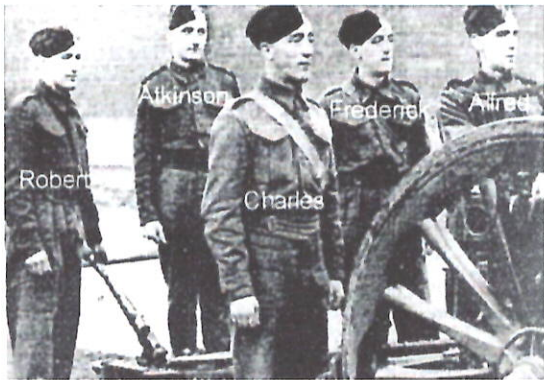


HAWKES, R. J. T. Flight Sergeant
HORN, J.K Sergeant Flight Engineer
BURNETT, W. A. Sergeant Operator
FERRANS, R. J. Sergeant Navigator
SAYER, C.T. Sergeant Air Gunner
SMITH, D.J. Sergeant Air Gunner
TODD, C.J. Pilot Officer Pilot

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

FREDERICK RAY



PRIVATE FREDERICK EDWARD RAY
125TH ANTI TANK REGIMENT
SOLDIER NUMBER: 1094294

Frederick Ray was born on the 26th February 1914 in the cottage on Chalk Hill, Aston Tirrold which was occupied by the Ray family from 1901 to 1918. He was the seventh child of eleven. His mother was Georgina Maria (nee Hazell) and his father was James Henry Ray who was an agricultural worker employed by Mr. Frank Cross. James Ray and Georgina were married in 1900 in Blewbury. At the start of WW2 in 1939, Frederick was working as a general farm labourer in Aston Tirrold.

In the autumn of 1940, Frederick RAY, aged 26, married Emmerline Groves who was 20, in Wallingford. Soon after his marriage, Frederick joined up to serve in the war and was posted to The Royal Artillery and then the 125th Anti-Tank Regiment

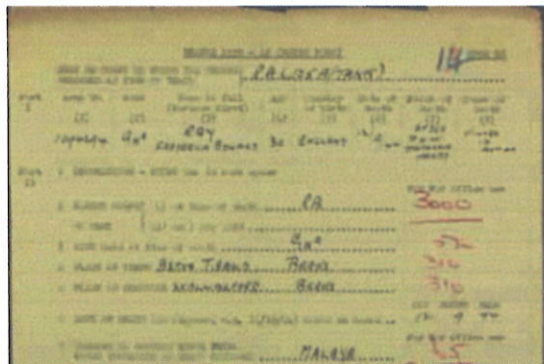
FALL OF SINGAPORE & PRISONER OF WAR

After spending sixteen months in the UK training, he was sent to aid the defense of Singapore. He left Bristol on the 28th October 1941 and arrived in Singapore on the 5th February 1942.

Singapore fell to the Japanese on the 15th February 1942 which is shown in Frederick's P.O.W records as his capture date. Frederick was imprisoned in Changi Jail in Singapore and then later moved to Camp 4 on the notorious Burma/Thailand Railway. The Burma/Thailand railway was completed by November 1943. Of the 800 men from the 125th Anti-Tank Regiment who arrived in Singapore, 200 men in this regiment died in captivity. In 1944 some men who were considered able bodied and in better health were taken on ships to work in Japan.

The ship Frederick was on was the Rakuyo Maru which was hit by two torpedoes that were fired by the USS submarine Growler which sunk the Rakuyo Maru on the 12th September 1944. 159 British and Australian men were saved. 1,141 P.O.W's drowned or were missing assumed killed including Frederick.

The USA were aware that Japanese ships had some P.O.W's on board. It was later revealed that they had intercepted the Japanese encrypted naval code, but not attacking the ships would have revealed to the Japanese that their codes had been broken.



Missing on the 12th September 1944
Remembered with Honour
at Kranji Singapore Memorial. Column 28 Row E
FREDERICK WAS 30 WHEN HE DIED

He is remembered on our village war memorial and the WW2 Muster Roll in St Michael's Church.

He was formally documented as Lost at Sea and he has

'No Known Grave'



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

TIMOTHY CROSS



Lieutenant Timothy Kynaston Cross

Corps: The Rifle Brigade. (Prince Consort's Own)
Attached to 1st Middlesex Regiment.

Service number: 296762

Timothy Oliver Kynaston Cross was born on the 12th December 1923 in Paddington, London to Phillip Kynaston Cross and his wife Margaret Constance (nee Steed). He was the grandson of Francis John Kynaston "Frank" Cross of The Manor, Aston Tirrold. He lived at Rookwood, Torrington Park in Middlesex and he was the eldest son with his younger siblings being John, David and Rachel. He attended Shrewsbury School and New College Oxford.

WW2 SERVICE

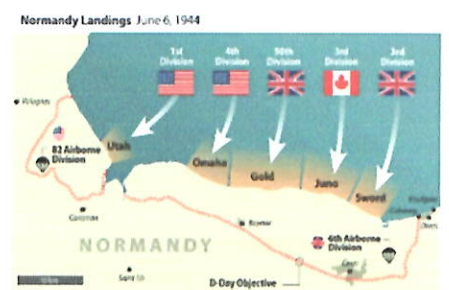
Timothy served in the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) where he was promoted from a cadet to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on the 23rd October 1943 and from 2nd Lieutenant to full Lieutenant on the 23rd April 1944.

OPERATION OVERLORD - D-Day

Attached to the the Middlesex Regiment he embarked for Normandy from Portsmouth early in the morning of the 6th June 1944. His regiment was part of 29th Armoured Brigade of the 11th Armoured Division. His regiment landed on **SWORD BEACH** in Normandy. This was one of the British and Canadian beach landings, the other being **GOLD BEACH**. Among the five beaches of Operation Overlord, Sword was the nearest to Caen. The landings were achieved with low allied casualties but the advance from the beach was slowed by traffic congestion and resistance in defended areas behind the beach. Further progress towards Caen was halted by the only armoured counter-attack of the day, mounted by the 21st Panzer Division.

The British sustained over 630 casualties on SWORD BEACH on D-Day. After fighting to gain a foothold in Normandy and securing Caens, he moved north west into the Netherlands.

Timothy was injured in one of the assaults during the Battle of the Scheldt which was connected to opening up the shipping route to Antwerp. He was taken to a Casualty Clearing Hospital near Mierlo, where he died of his wounds.



Timothy died on 15th November 1944 and is
Buried with Honour
at the CWGC cemetery in Mierlo, Netherlands
His grave is in Row II C.7
Timothy was 20 when he died

He is remembered on our village war memorial and the plaque and Muster Roll in St Michael's Church.

The Mierlo cemetery contains casualties from the battles around Antwerp from September to November 1944 which were concerned with clearing the banks of the Scheldt Estuary to open the port of Antwerp.



*'For God made him
To be an image
Of his own eternity'*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

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FRANK FURLONG



Lieutenant Frances Charles Furlong

Corps: The Royal Fleet Arm. 800Z squadron

EARLY YEARS

Francis Charles Furlong was born on the 6th December 1910, in Glanmire, County Cork, Ireland. He was the son of Major Noel Charles Furlong and Rosemary St John Murphy. His father Noel was a General Merchant and Flour Miller and they all lived at The Hermitage, Riverstown, County Cork. His father became a race horse trainer and owner in Ireland and then moved his family to Hall in Leicestershire where he ran his own training stables.

HORSE RACING AND WINING THE GRAND NATIONAL

Frank grew up under his father's tuition and learnt to train and race horses for his father's stables where he flourished. He also developed a passion for flying. On the 10th May 1934, at the age of 24, he passed the flying test which enabled him to join the Wiltshire School of Flying and later that year he joined the Royal Aero Club. In 1935, his father Noel entered his horse **Reynoldstown** into the 1935 Grand National which took place at Aintree near Liverpool. Frank rode Reynoldstown as an amateur jockey and won!

One amusing newspaper headlines the following day read:

"Reynoldstown won by two Furlongs".

1935 was a good year for Frank. He became engaged on July 13th and was married on the 26th September 1935 in St Marylebone Church, York Gate, Middlesex to Pamela Gladys Kingsmill.

At the 1936 Grand National, the Furlong family won the Grand National for the second time with Reynoldstown, this time with the British jockey Fulke Walwyn. Immediately after this win, Reynoldstown was retired. The Furlong family with their young daughter Griselda (who was born in May 1938 in Marylebone, Middlesex), had moved to Aston Tirrold by August 1938. Frank took over the horse training and the running of the racing stables in Aston Upthorpe, working alongside Frank Cundell, the owner of Blewburton Hall, the Stud and the Racing Stables (Frimley Stables) after the death of Frank Cundell's father Leonard who died in December 1939.

THE WAR YEARS

Before the onset of war in 1939, Frank held a commission in the Queen's 9th Royal Lancers as a 2nd Lieutenant. These are the two Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) records for Frank. The first record shows he was a Lieutenant, attached to HMS Daedalus, based at Lee on Solent (near Southampton). It states he was "on loan to Vickers Armstrong" as a test pilot. MID = Mentioned in Dispatches (meaning he was commended for something noteworthy). The second shows he was operating from HMS Victorious and was involved in the hunting of Bismarck in 1941. He was attached to 800Z Squadron.

Died on the 13th December 1944 and is Remembered with Honour
Frank is buried in St Lawrence's Graveyard, Marston St Lawrence, Northamptonshire.
Frank was 33 when he died

TEST PILOT

Frank flew a Supermarine Spitfire NN660. He was part of a top secret team of test pilots who had been chosen to work with Jeffrey Quill (British test pilot who served on secondment with the Royal Air Force) on new Supermarine Spitfires. On the 13th September 1944, in a mock-combat dog fight at low elevation over Boscombe Down in Wiltshire, Frank along with another pilot were testing an unmodified Spitfire NN660. The plane was reported to have flipped over, inverted and then, in an out of control dive, hit the ground and killed both men.



Frank Furlong and his wife Pamela 1935



Skeffington Hall in Leicestershire

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

HENRY WIGLEY



© Musee de la Reddition de Reims. Creative Commons Attribution

Died on the 5th March 1945 and is Remembered with Honour

He is buried at Løgstør General Cemetery, Denmark
Henry was 23 when he died

On their way to the drop zone whilst approaching the Danish western coastline, their plane was shot down by a Kriegsmarine Flak ship and crashed into the sea off Livo Island in the Limfjorden northeast of Nykobing. It crashed into the Limfjorden at 02:53 hours 5 March 1945, on the position 56° 55' 51 N 09° 05' 22 E.

**All of the crew lost their lives.
The wreck of LK312 was salvaged by
the ship M/S Gudrun in June 1945.**



Løgstør General Cemetery, Denmark

Flying Officer Henry Thomas Wigley DFC

Corps: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR)

Service Number: 179769

EARLY YEARS

Henry Thomas Wigley was born in North Moreton on the 23rd of October 1921 to Frederick Wigley, who was a seaman in the Royal Navy, and Dorothy Clarice (nee King). Dorothy was born in Aston Tirrold in 1901. Henry was brought up in both Aston Tirrold and North Moreton. His grandparents, Robert and Mary, were living in the Ham Cottages, on the Moreton Road. His mother Dorothy was living in North Moreton and it appears that his father Frederick was absent from home, serving in the Royal Navy.

WAR YEARS

By 1939, His parents were living at 4 Vernham Road, Winchester with his father shown as serving in the Royal Navy, on leave. Henry was 18 years old in October 1939, so it's likely he joined up to serve, straight away.

Air Bomber Command

His service record shows that in 1945 he was serving as a Flying Officer in 161 Squadron, Air Bomber Command. RAF Volunteer Reserve. Prior to that he had been attached to 138 Squadron in 1944 which is where he received his Distinguished Flying Cross.

Operation Tablejam

This was the code name given to all flying missions to arm and supply the Danish resistance. Planes would approach a given drop zone at a time, date and place arranged by covert wireless operators in Denmark. The planes would then parachute in boxes over the drop zone. Each TABLEJAM flight/operation was given a different code They mostly flew at night. Henry's operation was given the codename **TABLEJAM 209**.

The Stirling bomber with 7 crew on board took off at 23.34 on 4th March 1945 from RAF Tempsford in Bedfordshire. Their intended location for this drop was between Hjørring and Frederikshavn in Northern Jutland, Denmark

The aircraft with Henry Thomas WIGLEY on board belonged to RAF 161 Squadron Bomber Command and was coded MA-W. Those onboard were:

Pilot	Wing Commander Michael Andrew BROGAN DFC RAFV
Navigator	Flying Officer Norman CLARKE RAFVR
Air Gunner	Warrant Officer Eric Edward GRAY
Air Gunner	Warrant Officer Frederick MAHONEY
Wireless Operator	Flight Lieutenant Harold Owen SHARMAN DFC RAFVR
Flight Engineer	Flying Officer Frederick John WATSON DFM RAFVR
Air Bomber	Flying Officer Henry Thomas WIGLEY DFC RAFVR

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ERNEST BACHELOR



Lance Corporal Ernest Oliver Bachelor

Corps: Royal Berkshire Regiment & Sherwood Foresters

Service Number: 5342301

EARLY YEARS

Ernest Oliver Bachelor was born on the 26th October 1918. He was one of six brothers and two sisters. His father was George Bachelor and his mother was Myra (nee Jarvis) who married in Aston Tirrold on the 26th December 1901. His father served in the Army Service Corps, Royal Regiment of Artillery and Royal Field Artillery.

THE BACHELOR FAMILY

Ernest's five other brothers in date of birth order were:

George Norman, William Charles, Herbert Arthur, Wilfred Henry and Eric Terrence. All six brothers served in World War II.

They appeared in a press clipping (date unknown) which includes Ernest and a daughter-in-law.



Newspaper clipping saved by the family.

Died on the 19th July 1947 and is Remembered with Honour
He is remembered on the Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe War Memorial and is buried in the village cemetery next to his parents
Ernest was 28 when he died

He was found on the electoral roll for South Down Cottage for the years of 1945, 1946 and 1947.

He died in the Abingdon TB (Tuberculosis) Hospital (known as the Abingdon Joint Hospital).

The inclusion of Ernest on the Astons War Memorial is sufficient evidence that he was considered, at the time the stone was cut, to be a casualty of war.

The date for people suffering from injury or illness sustained during WW2 to be considered for inclusion as 'commemorated as official war dead' was set as 31st December 1947.

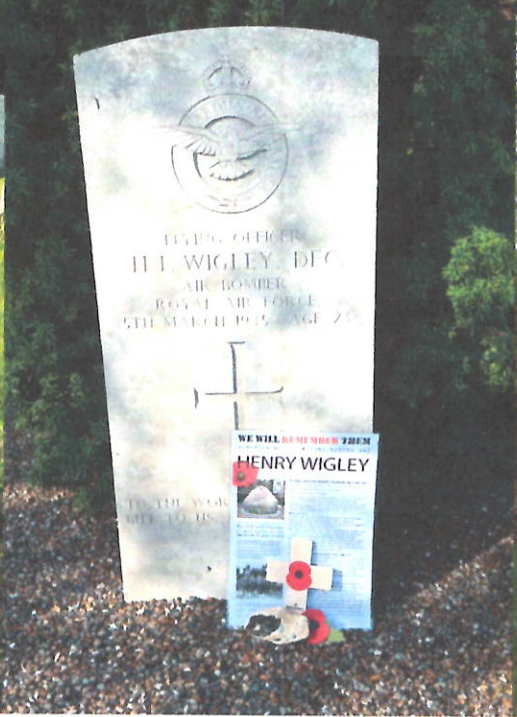
Text from the clipping left to right:

- Gunner G.N. Bachelor R.A (now discharged).
- Bdr W.C. Bachelor, R.A (in Burma).
- Pte H.A. Bachelor, Royal Berkshire Regiment (wounded at Dunkirk).
- **L/Cpl E.O. Bachelor, Sherwood Foresters (in Italy).**
- Pte W.H. Bachelor, Wilts Regiment (wounded in Sicily, now serving in Italy).
- Pte E.T Bachelor, late Royal Berks, now serving with the Worcestershire Regiment, B.L.A. Cpl. B. Bachelor of the A.T.S.
- Barbara Gertrude Bachelor (nee Bye).

THE WAR YEARS

At the start of the war, in 1939, Ernest was living with his parents at South Down View Cottage (now demolished), which was next to the School on Aston Street. He was working as a farm labourer. Ernest served as a gunner in Italy and may have served in the North Africa campaign before that. According to his family, Ernest contracted Tuberculosis (TB) sometime during the war.

Tuberculosis was a major public health problem in Italy during World War II. The disease was spread in crowded camps and barracks.



ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT PUBLICATIONS:

1. Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe: a history, by Lucy Fuller. (1921). A fascinating record of village life, given as a talk to the Astons Women's Institute. An Astons History Group reprint. 2005.
2. Sir John Leigh Hoskyns: Rector of St. Michael's Church Aston Tirrold 1846 to 1911, by Vivien Biggs. The life of a Victorian rector whose 60-year tenure saw many changes in village life. 2006.
3. Sir John Leigh Hoskyns' Diary of a village. Extracts, selected by Vivien Biggs. 2000.
4. The Stockwell Players, by Robin Sewell. 2000. *A drama group who performed outdoor productions for nearly thirty years, with early appearances by Prunella Scales and Alan Bates. Forerunner of the Blewbury Players.*
5. Wee Joe: From Galloway to Flanders Fields. 2018.
6. Astons Fallen Soldiers. *Lives of the sixteen Astons soldiers who lost their lives during WW1.* 2018.
7. The Astons Home Front: the Role of Women during WW1. 2018.
8. An Astons Journal: The 'diary' of Stephen Elliott and Tom Powell: 1885 to 1984, transcribed and annotated by Judy Barradell-Smith. Compiled and collated by Jancis Smith. 2019.
9. The Astons Poor Relief Book, 1788-1821. A partial transcript, with research and annotation by Stephen Whitwell and Judy Barradell-Smith. 2023.
10. Astons Fallen Soldiers. *Lives of the ten Astons soldiers who lost their lives during WW2.* 2025.
11. The Forgotten War: Frederick Ernest Ray. 1914-1944, by Judy Barradell Smith. 2025.
12. A History of the Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe War Memorial: 1921-2021. 2021 (updated 2025).

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