

THE 55 PUPILS WHO DIED IN THE 2nd WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945

“LEST WE FORGET”

DONALD WILLIAM ARCHER -

SGT. DONALD ARCHER (1931-32), R.A.F.V.R.

Don Archer was lost in a raid on Germany. He was at School for a comparatively short time and was intimate to few. He had a shy modesty that made him difficult to know. To those who possessed his friendship he gave without reserve. His intense loyalty was realised by few. When his parents left Lewes he passed on to a school of high sounding title and prestige. But his heart was always in Lewes County School. So deep was this feeling that he renewed old ties by coming with the School party to Les Audelys in 1933. We deeply regret his loss. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

ERIC GODFREY BAKER

LIEUT. ERIC GODFREY BAKER (1930-34), R.E.

Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid to Eric Baker is the universal regret and deep respect of all Old Boys who served with him in the 2nd (Seaford) Company of R.E.s. There were originally about a dozen Old Lewesians in this Company and all sorrow at his loss. In the Army he had proved his worth beyond all doubt. He soon found himself a Sergeant with Old Boys under him. He was in the early fighting in France and came back via Dunkirk. Afterwards he fought with his Company in the North African Campaign and was pressed to take a commission. Thereupon he was attached to the Canadians for a time, afterwards returning to England. He went to France once more on D Day and saw five days' severe fighting around the beaches. He was killed in the night when a bomb struck the Officers' sleeping quarters. Cheerful, genial and kindly, he was in the best sense a good fellow. We mourn his loss and offer to his wife and parents our deepest sympathy. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

THOMAS BAKER -

PRIVATE TOM BAKER

Tom was at School only a short time and is remembered rather as third brother to the better-known Jim and John. We were, however, very grieved to hear from John, when he visited us, that Tom had been killed in Italy. The barracks occupied by his unit blew up some weeks after the Germans had left. We sympathise very deeply with his widowed mother. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

JOHN ARCHIBALD BARNES

SECOND-LIEUT. J. A. BARNES (1932-35), R.A.

It is hard to realise that Jack Barnes, who showed a great affection for the School has gone. He came to us with his twin brother Bob after attending Weymouth College. A pleasanter fellow would have been hard to find. After passing School Certificate he entered a bank and was there until joining the Gunners. A member of the School XV, and a keen cross-country runner, he also played rugby for the Lewes Club. He appeared to find life in the Army very congenial and his letters indicated a gaiety of spirit which led one to suppose that he might have remained in the Forces after the war. A letter received just before his death showed that he was living life to the full, mingling his duties with riding, tennis and squash. He died of fever on the North-West Frontier where he was serving with his Battery. " J.A." was capable of a deep loyalty to those he loved and the School is poorer by his untimely death. Our deepest sympathy is offered to his parents, and to his brother and sister. (Barbican 18 Spring 1943)

ROBERT WALTER BARNES

LIEUT. ROBERT WALTER BARNES (1932-36), Pioneer Corps.

Bob Barnes has followed his twin brother Jack, who gave his life on the North-West Frontier last autumn. Bob was drowned in Iraq. He was a pioneer among Old Boys. A Prefect, member of the Rugger XV, and Cross-Country runner, he was our first Old Boy at Cambridge. He was still in residence there when war broke out. At Selwyn College he won the Lyttleton Scholarship for Geography and gained a first in the Tripos. In 1938 he explored Central Europe on a push-bike and in 1939, immediately before the outbreak of war, he hitch-hiked round the Baltic and reached as far east as Moscow. Defective vision compelled him to enter the Pioneer Corps. As a ranker he performed heavy manual duties without complaint, until he was singled out for a commission. Had he lived, he would undoubtedly have had a distinguished career. A double measure of sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, who have lost twin sons of high promise and attractive character in the service of their country. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

CHARLES BATTEN -

FLT-LIEUT. CHARLES BATTEN (19??-36), D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R.

Charlie Batten, whose gallantry was recognised by the award of the D.F.C., survived hostilities only to become the victim of a flying accident. Charles had a good academic record at School and passed the competitive Civil Service examination. He was gay, handsome, and had charm of manner. But his engaging qualities were mere adornments to a character which was sound throughout. His tragic loss was a crippling blow to his parents and friends. We mourn with them. (Barbican 22 1946)

WALTER RAYMOND BECK -

SEAMAN WALTER RAYMOND BECK (1930-34), R.N.V.R.

Walter was on the S.S. "Britannia," which was sunk in the Indian Ocean by a German raider. Beck died in one of the ship's boats from exposure. After leaving School he obtained a post in the County Medical Officers' Department and was making good progress there. He joined the R.N.V.R. before the outbreak of war. His stay at school was marked by hard work and steady progress, and a promising and useful career has been untimely cut short. (Barbican 16 1941) (From Lewes War Memorial Roll of Honour website) Able Seaman Royal Navy. SS "Britannia". Lost when the ship was attacked by the German raider "Thor" 7 April 1941. Aged 23. Son of Walter & Violet Beck of 2, Windover Crescent, Neville Estate. Commemorated on The Royal Naval Memorial Southsea.

HARRY EDWIN BLACKMAN

L/CPL. HARRY EDWIN BLACKMAN (1930-35), East Surrey Regt.

It was with deep regret that we learnt only this term of another Old Boy who lost his life during the war. H. E. Blackman came to the School when it opened in 1930 and left in 1935. He decided to make the Army his career and enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment. In 1938 he was posted to Shanghai and was serving in Malaya when Japan entered the war. He was taken prisoner and worked on the Siam to Burma railway. Evidently he was being moved with other prisoners to China, as the ship he was on, believed to be the *President Harrison*, was sunk on September 12th, 1944, some 60 to 100 miles from the China coast, two days' sailing from Formosa. We deeply deplore his death and offer his parents our deepest sympathy. (Barbican 24 1948)

RONALD CHARLES BLYTHE

PILOT-OFFICER RONALD CHARLES BLYTHE (1934-41), R.A.F.

Ronnie Blythe was known to everyone of his generation. Captain of the School, of Rugger and Cricket, winner of the Povey Trophy, Sergeant in the A.T.C., he carried on the tradition of the School at Oxford, where he gained a Freshers' Rugger Trial. Modest to a degree, he was a gentleman in every sense. A brother officer told the writer that he was one of a "wizard" crew (he was on Lancasters) and one of the best navigators they had ever had on the station. He is missing from a raid on Cologne.

(Barbican 19 Autumn 1943) More items of news have come in while the Magazine was being prepared for the Press. We deeply regret that the body of Blythe [see above] has been reported to have been washed up on the North German coast, and he is now officially reported "missing believed killed." He is our first A.T.C. casualty

(From Lewes War Memorial "Roll of Honour" website) Flying Officer/Navigator

RAFVR. 49 Bomber Squadron (Lancasters). Shot down over the Dutch Coast returning from night operations over Germany 17 June 1942 Aged 20. Son of Charles & Ada Blythe of 5, Manor Terrace, Potters Lane, Southover. Buried in Vlissingen Northern Cemetery, Holland

JOHN ERIC BOULTON -

FLYING-OFFICER JOHN ERIC BOULTON (1930-32), R.A.F. (Leader of a Czech Squadron).

Boulton was only with us two years before leaving the district. But we remember him as one of the attractive little fellows -- the original 140 -- with whom we opened the School in 1930. He was shot down in operations against the enemy. (Barbican number 15, 1940) Looking through a file of Old Boys' Notes we have come across the official notification of the Czech War Cross which was awarded posthumously to John Boulton (Barbican 18 Spring 1943)

THOMAS XAVIER BRADBURY

LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN T. X. BRADBURY (1930-33), R.A.F.V.R.

The news that Tom Bradbury had been killed while on a reconnaissance flight came as a great shock. The high esteem in which he was held is evinced by the number of Old Boys who have mentioned him in their letters. After leaving school he entered the Ringmer Building Company and was as highly thought of there as at school. His death was all the more tragic in that he expected to be commissioned within a few weeks on finishing his aircrew training. We offer our deep sympathy to his young widow and parents. (Barbican 17 1942)

(From Scout war memorial website - Aged 25 years. Killed when plane crashed in Irish Sea, 17th October 1941. 5th Lewes Group.)

ROY ERNEST BROWN -

SERGT. OBSERVER ROY ERNEST BROWN (1930-32), R.A.F.

Roy has been reported missing since the Spring. Brown was handsome and debonair. He entered the R.A.F. from School as an Aircraft Apprentice and had been offered a commission but had refused it. He was a good boxer and footballer, and shot for the R.A.F. at Bisley in 1939. He went to France in March, 1940. There is still a faint hope that we may hear of him. (Barbican number 15 1940)

DENNIS FREDERICK BURTENSHAW

F/SERGEANT DENNIS FREDERICK BURTENSHAW (1937-39), R.A.F.V.R.

Dennis Burtenshaw came to us when his parents moved into the East Sussex area. He returned to his first school for a final year when his parents again left East Sussex. All the more reason for paying tribute to his loyalty to us. We understand that the school scarf always accompanied him on his flights over Germany and that his school cap hung, in his room. While at Lewes he proved himself an excellent swimmer, and gained the bronze medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society. After holding a clerical appointment with the Brighton Electricity Company, he joined the R.A.F. His prowess as an airman can be judged from the fact that he was on Pathfinders. He lost his life in a raid on Berlin when only twenty. A quiet determined fellow; we feel deeply for his parents in their sad loss. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

JOHN ANTHONY CALWELL

CORPL. JOHN ANTHONY CALWELL (1934-40), Somerset Light Infantry.

It was with great regret that we learnt of the death in action of J. A. Calwell. Twice he had been to see us since he joined the Army and each time he had left us with a sensation of some indescribable quality that might burgeon forth in action. To the writer he appeared like one of the great rank and file, unnoticed in the mass, who suddenly bursts into prominence by an act of great valour. No wonder then that his Commanding Officer says that he was a Section Leader who did not know the meaning of fear. For a long time he was a Lance-Corporal Instructor with a pretty tough crowd in the Oxford and Bucks L.I. Transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry, he was again given a stripe and could have used this to remain in England on instructional duties. He surrendered this stripe to go to Italy, but was made a Section Leader, and was shot on July 2nd. We sympathise most deeply with his parents at the loss of one who, had he lived, would almost certainly have gained distinction. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

BRIAN CORNWALL

TROOPER BRIAN CORNWALL (1937-42), R.A.C.

We have received news of the death of Brian Cornwall. He was killed only six days after landing in France. So quick and tragic an end of one so young (he was only 18) is a grievous blow. It was only just two years ago that he passed School Certificate and left to enter the County Land Drainage Department. He regarded his job merely as a temporary appointment until he was old enough to join the Royal Armoured Corps. He was very keen on farming, and intended to take up this career after the war. His was a merry disposition and whatever might be the mood of the moment, a smile was never far away. Brian never won any outstanding School honours in work or games. He was just a good fellow,

an assessment which necessarily described the majority of our lads. But that general standard - especially where our Old Boys are concerned - is a very high one, as the war has proved. What he had he was always willing to give, and when the challenge came he gave all. (Barbican 20, Oct 1944)

MILES CROSTHWAITE -

SUB-LIEUT. MILES CROSTHWAITE (19??-41), R.N.V.R.

Miles Crosthwaite was killed while serving with the Fleet Air Arm. At School his record was without blemish. Of him it can be truly said that pleasant was he in life. His friends in Seahaven House will miss him greatly. After leaving School with a good School Certificate he went into the County Surveyor's Department, where he would, no doubt, have qualified as a civil engineer. His parents' grief is shared by all of us who knew him. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

DONALD JOHN DOWDEN

F/LIEUT. DONALD JOHN DOWDEN (1938-39), R.A.F.V.R.

Donald Dowden's career at School was comparatively brief but outstandingly distinguished. He came to us at the age of 16 from a Public School, where he had been a boarder. A fellow of meaner parts might have been a misfit and lived in the past. Dowden from the first threw himself into the life of his new School and charmed all by his winning personality. A big fellow he was a tower of strength in the School Rugger Pack. In 1939 he accompanied the Public Schools' expedition to Newfoundland under Commander Murray Levick. While there, war was declared. He returned to England and was one of fifteen fellows selected by the Dunlop Company for scholarships to undergo a two-year course of training in business organisation, a period which was intended to cover the gap between leaving school and the then calling-up age of twenty. The holders of these scholarships were drawn from some of the most famous Schools, including Eton, but the reports received from the Dunlop Company by the Headmaster on Dowden's work showed that he was more than holding his own. All the time, however, he was chafing at not playing his part in his country's struggle, and he relinquished his scholarship in 1940 to join the R.A.F. After training as a Pilot, he was at once commissioned, but to his chagrin was selected as an Instructor. At last he achieved his ambition and was posted to a Fighter Squadron. He saw considerable service in the Mediterranean and accounted for some of the enemy. He was then posted to Ceylon, where he was accidentally killed when landing a plane, due to a mechanical defect. News of his death came as a great blow to those of us who knew him, and we realise the loss it must be to his parents. Some idea of his qualities may be judged by the following extract from his Wing Commander's letter : "Don was always my most reliable Officer and was at all times the airman's idol. The men thought the world of him." The C.O. adds that he had just selected Dowden to command a Flight.

Although junior to others, he was by far the most suitable and was the most popular Officer in the Squadron. He adds "I cannot speak too highly of his courage, loyalty and devotion to duty. His cheerfulness was always an inspiration to the Squadron. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

PETER FRANCIS DUKE

LIEUT. PETER FRANCIS DUKE (1930-35), R.N.

Peter Duke has been missing since October, 1943. Those who knew him will receive this news with the deepest regret and will sympathise whole-heartedly with his parents. His loss is more than normally tragic viewed against the background of his service. Peter joined the Navy as a Seaman Boy in 1935. He trained at Gosport and on passing out won prizes for Scripture and Gunnery. From the outbreak of war until four days before she was sunk, he served on the Ark Royal and survived all the hazards of that most famous ship. He was the youngest Petty Officer in the ship's company, and of a crew of 1,600 was the only one sent home for a permanent commission. After a course at Collingwood, he was gazetted Sub-Lieutenant and in six months he had gained his second ring. On the cruiser *Charybdis* he helped to cover the Salerno landing and then returned to a home port. Almost immediately the ship was ordered out again to take part in a channel sweep. She was sunk by E boats on a misty Saturday afternoon near the Channel Isles. Peter was on the bridge when she went down, but nothing has been heard of him since. His outstanding success in the Navy indicated that had he survived he would have achieved high rank and brought further honour to the School. He was a delightful fellow and was equally popular with Officers and, a much more difficult achievement for one who has risen from the lower deck, with the men under him. He was our first Old Boy to gain a permanent Naval Commission. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

SIDNEY ALEXANDER EAGER

PETTY OFFICER SIDNEY ALEXANDER EAGER (1930-32), R.N.

S. A. Eager entered the School when we opened in 1930. He was a good footballer and played for the School. On leaving he entered an office, but, disliking the confinement of an indoor life he joined the Navy. Since then we had rather lost touch with him; but we have reason to believe that he still held the School in affection and his open and honest nature is certainly remembered by his contemporaries who have expressed deep regret at his loss. He was lost in the *Algerine* in operations off the coast of North Africa. We offer our deepest sympathy to his mother. (Barbican number 18 1943)

FRANK BERNARD EDWARDS -

2ND LIEUT. FRANK BERNARD EDWARDS (1935-36), R.A.

Edwards came to us from East Grinstead and obtained a commission a few months before war broke out. He went to France in the autumn of 1939 and took part in all operations up to the evacuation of Dunkirk. The destroyer on which he was returning to England was torpedoed and nothing has been heard of him since. Although ill, and justified had he gone sick, he stuck it to the end, says his Commanding Officer. He was a loyal old boy and attended the School Play when on leave in April (Barbican no. 15 1940)

ROBERT GABBITAS -

FLT.LIEUT. ROBERT GABBITAS (19??-??), R.A.F.V.R.

Robert Gabbitas was one of the many sterling fellows the School gave for the R.A.F. In the happy pre-war period when school days were occupied with the little things of life, few of us realised that lads of his generation possessed those hidden qualities which would save the country in its darkest hour. He was commissioned on completing his training in Canada, flew a bomber back to England and then served with Coastal Command. Transferred to Transport Command, the plane he was flying crashed in a storm in India and he, with the rest of the crew, was killed. His loss was a sad blow to his parents and friends. We grieve with them. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

CHARLES EDWARD GREVETT -

SERGT. CHARLES F. GREVETT (1937-40), R.A.F.V.R.

Charles Grevett was a quite young boy at School when the war commenced. He was evacuated to Bedfordshire in the dark days of 1940 and, leaving school, was employed first in the motor industry and then in forestry. He volunteered for the R.A.F. and obtained his air-gunner's wing in Southern Rhodesia in 1944. He was killed when his plane crashed on a practice flight in Warwickshire. He was only 19. Although we had not seen him since he left the district, we remember him for his sturdy qualities. The impressive tribute paid at his funeral by friends and representatives of organisations which had known him after he left us was sufficient indication of the affection and respect he inspired. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

JOHN VICTOR HANAGAN

AC1 J. V. HANAGHAN (1932-35), R.A.F.

Aircraftsman 1st.Class Hanaghan crashed on the day before his 21st birthday and was killed. We sympathise very much with his parents who are in India, where his father holds a regular commission. (Barbican 15 1940)

GORDON WILLIAM HANCOCK

SERGT. GORDON WILLIAM HANCOCK (1936-39), R.A.F.

Gordon Hancock left School, where he had shown great promise as a runner, to enter the regular R.A.F. as an Aircraft Apprentice. He completed his training and could have remained in comparative safety for the rest of the war. Instead he remustered as a Flight-Engineer and was posted to Lancasters. Last spring he came to see us and filled the Common Room with his gay and generous spirit. Now, at the age of 19, he has been shot down in operations over Germany. Another Old Boy lives in the proud and loving memory he has left with us. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

FREDERICK FRANK HARVEY

SEAMAN F. F. HARVEY (1930-34), R.N.

Another of the 1930 boys. He was drowned off Norway when the *Afridi* was sunk. He was an honest good-natured Sussex lad whose death we deplore. (Barbican 15 1940)

THOMAS ALFRED HAYWARD -

PTE. THOMAS A. HAYWARD (1930-??), Oxford and Bucks L.I.

Tom Hayward's name brings back memories of 1930. He was one of the boys transferred to us when we opened in that year. Tall, handsome and attractive in appearance, he had a pleasant guileless disposition which made him popular with his friends. In the days when we played soccer, he achieved prominence as a back in the School XI and was afterwards active in the Old Boys' Association. He was killed when serving with B.A.O.R. His Regimental Headquarters were being shelled and Tom was hit by the first shell when carrying straw from a barn. We shall miss him at Old Boys' reunions and are deeply sorry for his mother and young wife. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

RONALD FRANKLIN HOLFORD

PETTY OFFICER WRITER, RONALD FRANKLIN HOLFORD (1931-36), R.N.

Ronald had been serving for over two years on board the cruiser "Dunedin," which was torpedoed last November in the Atlantic. He was among those who were not picked up. Holford was one of our most loyal Old Boys and had acted as Secretary to the Old Lewesians' Association. After leaving school he entered the County Clerk's Department and was there esteemed most highly. Just before the war he enlisted in the Navy as a writer. He had already done well enough to show that he would have had a successful Naval career. In fact, his promotion to Petty Officer in so short a time was remarkable. He had an orderly mind and a very mature judgement for one so young. He was also a good soccer player and played for his ship. His death is deeply felt by all who knew him at school. (Barbican number 17 1942)

HARRY CECIL HOLMANS

SERGT. PILOT HARRY CECIL HOLMANS (1930-32), R.A.F.

One of our Old Uckfield boys, he entered the School from Uckfield Grammar School when we opened in 1930. He was a keen scout and camper and attended the first School camp at Shanklin in 1932. He had moved to London since leaving School and had recently married. We heard from him last January in North Africa. His letter was full of the gaiety which was always characteristic of him. Shortly afterwards, his plane was shot down and nothing more has been heard of him. His was a humorous and sunny nature that caused him to face life with a smile. (Barbican 16 1941)

PETER LESLIE HUMPHRIES

F/SERGT. PETER LESLIE HUMPHRIES (1936-40), R.A.F.V.R.

We deeply regret having to record the death on active service of P. L. Humphries. We have not received any authentic information of his career in the Air Force or of how he met his end, but we know that he did his training at Miami in U.S.A. and that he put to good use the games ability he showed at School in Air Force matches. We understand that he lost his life when flying night fighters. He had an attractive personality and disposition and his death will be much felt by his old friends in Seahaven House. We feel very deeply for his parents in their great loss. (Barbican 20 October 1944)

BRIAN JOHN KETCHELL

SERGT./PILOT BRIAN JOHN KETCHELL, R.A.F. (1930-38).

At the time of going to press, there is no news of Tim Ketchell, who has been missing for some weeks after a raid on Turin. To write about Ketchell is to write about the School during the first eight years of its existence. Like Jack Towner he came to us in 1930 as a Junior Scholar. Before he left he had captained the School, won his Rugger Colours, passed his School and Higher School Certificate and sealed his academic record by success in the highly competitive examination for Executive Officers in the Civil Service. He had also won the Povey Trophy the highest award the School has to offer. After leaving school he was a valued forward in the Lewes Rugby Club and he also played for his R.A.F. Wing at rugger - a sufficient testimony to his football abilities. His influence in the School was undoubtedly great. A sound fellow with level-headed and mature views for one so young he could not fail to exercise a great influence for good. Perhaps those who knew him best will remember most vividly his activities in the VIth Form Society, where his sturdy expression of opinion soon brought to earth the purveyor of impracticable fancies and hot air. Those who taught him will also think of his tremendous industry especially when working for the civil service examination. He knew that his object could only be achieved by a supreme effort. He was determined to succeed and succeed he did. When once he had

completed his operational training, he very quickly became Captain of a Halifax bomber. His qualities were such that he could not have failed, with reasonable luck, to have gone far in the R.A.F. His last visit to School, only a few weeks before he was reported missing, has left memories of a modest, but very capable and determined pilot whose like the School is proud to claim as alumni. We shall still hope that he may be safe. (Barbican 18, 1943)

EDWIN JAMES KNOWLES -

F/OFFICER EDWIN J. KNOWLES (1934-39), R.A.F.V.R.

Edwin Knowles wrote to us shortly before he was killed. We have just re-read his letter. Its quiet humour and delicacy of feeling reveal that here died a very gallant gentleman. Knowles passed the Civil Service examination in 1939 and commenced his duties in London just as war broke out. In 1942, having reached military age, he volunteered for aircrew duties and did his training in Canada, where he was commissioned. Returning to England, he was transferred to gliders and completed his training on these machines early in 1945. The authorities were preparing for the Rhine crossing. In the same squadron was David Marande, serving, like Knowles, as a pilot. The great day arrived. Let David tell the story. In a letter he says : " It may interest you to know that just before we took off Knowles said to me ' This is just one more page of history in which Old Leweseans are represented,' and though it was said half in jest the old School was not forgotten, preoccupied as we were."

When they came over the landing zone a German smoke screen blotted out land marks. Marande came through safely after hair-raising experiences. Knowles did not come back. David continues': " I think that he, like many others, had been unable to find the landing zone and came down right into the muzzles of some German guns." Knowles was married and was the father of a month-old baby when he lost his life. May God comfort his wife and his parents, too. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

KEITH GILBERT LAWRENCE

F/SERGT. KEITH GILBERT LAWRENCE (1934-38), R.A.F.

Keith Lawrence has been missing from air operations since June. Joining the R.A.F. as an Aircraft Apprentice he did excellently during his training at Halton, and when this was completed, re-mustered as Air Crew. He came to see us at the end of the first fortnight of operational flying. He had completed six trips over Germany in fourteen days and had taken part in the raid on Berlin when we lost 72 bombers, and in that on Nuremberg when we lost 94. Although tired, he was cheerful and did not complain. This did not surprise us in view of the high spirits and stamina he always displayed at School. Lawrence had recently married the sister of an Old Boy - Leslie Carter. To her and to his parents we offer our deepest sympathy. (Barbican 20 Oct 1944)

RONALD STANLEY MACKIE

PILOT-OFFICER RONALD STANLEY MACKIE (1931-6), R.A.F.

Ronald Mackie's name has also to be added to those we mourn. At School he gained an Intermediate Scholarship a year after entry and followed this up with a good School Certificate. On leaving school he entered the Berkeley Square office of the Motor Union Insurance Company. We who remembered his liveliness and verve at school were not surprised to learn that he had joined the R.A.F. as a Pilot. After gaining his wings in Canada he was granted a commission and was soon a Fighter-Pilot, chasing odd Huns who ventured over here. After a period on operations he was selected for instructional work and sent for training to the Air Force Mecca - the Central Flying School, - the place where "aces train the aces to train the pilots". Mackie was the second Old Boy to go there. It may be remembered that Geoffrey Moon was actually on the staff there when he met his death. It was from Upavon that Mackie last wrote to us. His only reaction at being selected for this work was chagrin at being taken off "ops." He has now been accidentally killed at a flying school.

Like so many of our Old Boys, absence had not dimmed his affection for the School. We shall always remember him - not least on future fete days. For at School Fetes Mackie was always to the fore working his "Spinning Jenny" to swell the funds. Present boys who enjoy the facilities of the School swimming bath are his debtors. He did his full share in procuring it. (Barbican 18 Spring 1943)

GEOFFREY EDWARD MOON

PILOT-OFFICER GEOFFREY MOON (1931-34), R.A.F.

Geoff Moon was killed in a crash while engaged in instructional duties. His death is a sad loss to the R.A.F. and to all who knew him. His career in the Air Force had been brilliant. A Sergeant Pilot when war broke out, he passed out with the mark "Exceptional," was granted a commission and sent as a member of the Staff of the Central Flying School. This school trains instructors. Moon was, therefore, an instructor to instructors. The writer was informed by an Air Ministry Officer, that only brilliant pilots form the staff. His was a gay and gallant, spirit. (Barbican 15 1940)

FREDERICK MARTIN MOORE -

SAPPER FREDERICK M. MOORE (1930-??), R.E.

Fred Moore was another of our Old Boys who entered the School when we opened in 1930. To all his friends he was known as "Smiler," as good a nickname as any fellow could wish. After leaving School he took up an appointment with W. H. Smith, and Sons and was doing so well that soon he would undoubtedly have become a branch manager. He was killed in action in

Italy on October 2, 1944. He was a sound, quiet fellow with many excellent qualities. He is sadly missed by his young wife, parents and friends. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

(From Lewes War Memorial *Roll of Honour" website) Sapper The Royal Engineers. 207th Field Company. Died of wounds in Italy 2 October 1944. Aged 27. Son of Daniel & Edith Moore of Southover. Husband of Mrs Alma Moore of 23, Dale Road, Winterbourne. Buried in Coriano Ridge War Cemetery Italy

DENNIS GEORGE MOPPETT -

L.A.C. DENNIS G. MOPPETT (19??-??), R.A.F.V.R.

Dennis Moppett was an upright fellow who would have wilfully harmed no one. After leaving School, where he obtained a good School Certificate and was one of our most enthusiastic campers, he entered an insurance firm. Joining the R.A.F., he was in Malaya when the Japs overran it. He escaped to Java, but when this was in turn captured he was taken prisoner of war. He survived the brutalities of the Japanese until January, 1945. The innocence of his life makes his death the more sad. An only son, his loss is a tragic blow to his parents and all who knew him. (Barbican 22 1946)

(From Lewes War Memorial "Roll of Honour" website) Leading Aircraftman RAFVR. Taken prisoner by the Japanese in Singapore and died in captivity at Ambon 6 January 1945 Aged 24. Resident of Abinger Place, Lewes. Buried in Ambon War Cemetery, Moluccas Islands, Indonesia

BASIL CYRIL OLIVER

CORPORAL BASIL CYRIL OLIVER (1933-37), R.A.F.

Basil has been accidentally drowned while serving in the Middle East. Oliver was a good all-rounder, taking School Certificate in his stride and making his mark as a goal-keeper. He was successful in the R.A.F. Apprentices' examination and underwent the usual training at Halton. He was a reliable, quiet, modest fellow of sterling character. His death is deeply felt and very much deplored.

DOUGLAS OLIVER

SERGT.-PILOT DOUGLAS OLIVER (1933-37), R.A.F.

We heard with sorrow that Douglas Oliver had been accidentally killed on active service. On leaving School he entered the office of Messrs. Watson and Sons, auctioneers and accountants, of Heathfield. He did his flying training overseas, and at its conclusion was offered a commission as an instructor. To have accepted would have meant remaining there. He wished to participate in operations here, and so returned as a Sergt.-Pilot. He had a brilliant flying record and had quite recently again been offered a commission, which he would probably have accepted. His untimely death in an accident is doubly tragic. His

memory is commemorated at School in the Henderson-Oliver Cross-Country Trophy. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

ALAN FREDERICK ORCHARD

SUB-LIEUT. ALAN FREDERICK ORCHARD (1933-36) Fleet Air Arm.

Alan Orchard last visited the School with his father, Alan in the F.A.A., his father a Flying Officer R.A.F. One hardly knew which to admire most, the father a veteran of the last war, who had again taken up arms, or Alan, the embodiment of that debonair spirit so characteristic of our Naval Forces, no matter which branch. Underneath this gaiety one sensed a certain determined pugnacity which would evince itself in a tight corner. It is doubly tragic that he should have been killed when the plane in which he was travelling crashed into a hillside in Northern Ireland, to add to the list of Old Boys of outstanding parts who have met their deaths through accidents. He had quite recently returned from the Mediterranean, where he had served on the *Illustrious*, providing fighter cover at Salerno and Naples. Had he lived he would undoubtedly have gone far, whether in the Services or in civilian life. He had distinct artistic gifts and a passion for seeing the world. As a schoolboy he had paid two visits to Stuttgart and the Black Forest and had used his training period overseas to explore a good deal of Canada and the U.S.A. including New York. We share his parents' grief at his loss and their pride at his achievement. As a young School, our list of Old Boys who would undoubtedly have brought distinction to its record grows tragically long.

(Barbican 20 Oct 1944)

SIDNEY WILLIAM PARKER

L.-CPL. SIDNEY WILLIAM PARKER (1932-34), R.A.C.

We believe that Parker was our first Old Boy to join the Tank Corps. His stay at School was not long enough to achieve distinction, but his contemporaries, no doubt, remember his splendid physique and sturdy character. He left School to enter the motor industry and this perhaps explains his choice of a motorised unit in the Army. He was killed in the fighting in Tunisia, a member of the famous Eighth Army. We offer his parents our deepest sympathy. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

(From the Kingston War Memorial roll of Honour.com) Corporal 7915884 , 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), Royal Armoured Corps. Killed in action in Tunisia 23rd April 1943. Aged 22. Son of Mr & Mrs Parker of Whitchurch, Hampshire. No known grave. Commemorated on Medjez-El-Bab Memorial, Tunisia. Face 2.

ELLIS ARTHUR PILLINGER

SGN. ELLIS ARTHUR PILLINGER (1936-38), Royal Corps of Signals

Like Parker, Pillinger's stay at School was comparatively brief, and he was known to fewer than was his elder brother John. For a short time he was in the A.T.C. on its formation, but preferred to serve in the Army. Here he became a despatch-rider in the Royal Corps of Signals. He met his death under most tragic circumstances, receiving fatal injuries on his twentieth birthday a few hours after landing in North Africa. To his family we extend our deep sympathy. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

HENRY IVAN PRYKE

PILOT-OFFICER HENRY IVAN PRYKE (1934-37), R.A.F.

Old members of Uckfield House will learn with sorrow that Ivan Pryke has been missing from a special mission since the night of February 4-5th. Pryke was a quiet fellow, whose sterling qualities were only known to those who were well acquainted with him. His quiet disposition, and the comparatively early age at which he left School precluded him from holding a prominent position among his contemporaries, but like so many of our Old Boys he proved his worth when the great test came after leaving. Joining the R.A.F. in 1941 he was trained in Canada and U.S.A. After a period as a Sergeant, he was promoted to Pilot Officer, an indication of his merits as an airman. We sympathise most deeply with his parents at the loss of a splendid son (Barbican 21 October 1944)

FREDERICK HENRY RUFFLE -

FLYING OFFICER FREDERICK RUFFLE (19??-??), D.F.C. R.A.F.V.R.

Fred Ruffle lived a full life at School, gained an excellent School Certificate passed the competitive Civil Service examination and played for the School XV as a scrum half. In the R.A.F. his career was equally distinguished, culminating in the award of the D.F.C. The citation states : " One night in October (1944) he took part in an operation involving a mine-laying mission. His task was to detract the concentrated fire of the defences. Gun positions and searchlight defences were relentlessly attacked and a number of them put out of action. The results obtained reflect the greatest credit on the ability and resolution of Ruffle and another officer, whose efforts contributed materially to the success of a hazardous mission." Ruffle, who was navigator of his plane, had to time his arrival on the target only a few seconds before the arrival of the mining force. Great skill and perfect co-ordination were necessary. We believe his target was the Kiel Canal. He had previously carried out a similar mission over the Dortmund-Ems Canal. Little more than a month later he was killed in a flying accident. Like Knowles he leaves a widow and young child. Fred's home was at High Hurstwood. He was one of the country lads who have given Uckfield

House so outstanding a record in this war. A finer set of fellows could not be found anywhere. We mourn his loss. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

JOHN SIMMONS

SERGT.-PILOT JOHN SIMMONS (1933-38), R.A.F.

John Simmons has been killed in operations over Germany. We had not seen John since he joined the R.A.F., but we shall always remember him for the good fellow that he was, sincere, hard working, staunch through and through. His o1d friends in Seahaven House, of whom there were many, will join us in offering our deepest sympathy to his parents. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

Note - This is almost certainly the J Simmons inscribed on the war memorial at Seaford.

GEORGE RICHARD SIMPSON

SERGT. W/OP. AIR GUNNER GEORGE RICHARD SIMPSON (1933-39), R.A.F.

The news of Simpson's death was a shock to all who knew him at School. Although only 19 he had done a lot of operational flying and had recently visited the School while enjoying a well-earned rest. His plane was badly damaged during a raid and crashed in the Shetlands on trying to land. The crew of three were killed. The Squadron Leader states that Simpson had been recommended for promotion to Flight Sergeant. He was a most popular boy at School, merry and kind, always willing to give a helping hand, and liked by everyone. (Barbican number 16, 1941)

JAMES EDWARD STEVENS -

FLYING OFFICER J. E. STEVENS (19??-??), R.A.F. V.R.

Stevens was one of our Hove boys whose successors now attend the County School there. Like Ruffle, he was active in many spheres of School life. He was a member of the School XI when we played soccer and took one of the leading parts in our production of "The Pretenders." He had a good voice and excellent presence. After gaining a School Certificate he entered a Brighton office but he intended ultimately to take Orders and to be ordained. He had already commenced reading to that end before entering the R.A.F. He gained his wings and a commission in South Africa, served in the Middle East and then with Coastal Command based on Malta. On the night of September 12-13, 1944, his plane a Ventura, failed to return from a convoy escort. No further news has been heard of him. So passes a very likeable and gallant fellow. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

VERNON ARKRIGHT STEVENS

SERGT. W/OP. AIR GUNNER VERNON ARKWRIGHT STEVENS (1933-37), R.A.F.

Stevens was killed on his first raid, being shot during a daylight sweep over France. The plane got back and made a forced landing near Pevensey. After leaving School Stevens was employed in a Brighton insurance office. He came to see us in the summer term after completing his R.A.F. course. He was keen to get on with the task which lay before him and glad to be one of the old Lewesians serving in the R.A.F. He was at School a most reliable and trustworthy lad, with a blameless record. His untimely death has brought sorrow to all who knew him. (Barbican 16 1941)

DONALD CASTLEMAN STONE

PILOT-OFFICER DONALD CASTLEMAN STONE (1931-36), R.A.F.

Don Stone played for the School at cricket and rugby football and was the very embodiment of that gay gallantry that R.A.F. pilots have made a tradition of the Service. His was a sunny nature and one will never think of him without visualising his cheery smile. After he left School he was a stalwart in the Buxted football team. He was, with Blythe, an articled pupil in a Lewes accountant's office. He is missing from operations with Coastal Command. We offer our deep sympathy to the parents of these Old Boys in their anxious periods of waiting. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

(From Uckfield War Memorial Roll of Honour.com - Flying Officer RAFVR Lost on operations over Northern Europe 18th May 1943. Aged 23. Son of George and Emily Castleman Stone of Uckfield. Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

FREDERICK BRUCE TINDALE

No news has been received of Bruce Tindale, who, as we recorded in our last issue, is missing. When last seen he was trying to launch one of the ship's boats. The night was black and the vessel had been torpedoed. His death, therefore, can be presumed. We are deeply sorry for his parents. Bruce was an excellent fellow (Barbican Oct 1944)

(From Lewes War Memorial website) Cadet Merchant Navy/Royal Fleet Auxilliary. M V. Empire Stanley (Greenoch). Torpedoed by U 197 in the Indian Ocean. 17 August 1943 Aged 18. Son of William Hall & Mary Tindale of 3, Priory Street, Southover.

MAURICE JOHN TOMLEY

SERGT./PILOT MAURICE JOHN TOMLEY (1932-38), R.A.F.V.R

Maurice was accidentally killed on 31st July, 1942, the anniversary of his brother's death a year previously. Tomley obtained his School Certificate with Matriculation exemption. After a short period in the VIth Form he became a pupil of Dr. Woodhead, the County Analyst. He joined the R.A.F. soon after the outbreak of war and had been flying with Coastal Command. At School he was an outstanding games player. He was a prominent wing-threequarter who played in the Public Schools Trial Match at Bexhill. He was also a member of the all-conquering Fifteen of 1936-37. At cricket he played for the School as a fast bowler, but in his first season after leaving he scored a century for the Seaford Club. Memories of a slim, light-haired figure dashing for the line or pounding up to the crease to deliver a "snorter" will remain with all those who knew him. His modesty and charm rendered him rightly popular with his former school-fellows who mourn his death. (Barbican 18 Spring 1943)

JACK TOWNER

PILOT-OFFICER JACK TOWNER (1930-35), R.A.F.

Jack Towner has joined the gallant company of the few to whom we the many, owe so much. He was shot down in a daylight raid on Essen. He was one of our first batch of Junior Scholars who entered when the School opened in 1930. A lad of few words, with a slowly expanding smile, there was in him a suggestion of the dreamer and the poet. Several of his verse contributions to THE BARBICAN, written when he was only 13 or 14, were of distinct merit and showed a great love and feeling for the objects of the countryside. He probably disliked the routine of the Civil Service Office, which he entered after leaving school, as he undoubtedly loathed the cruelties of war. His sense of playing the game carried him into the Forces, as his love of freedom from confinement probably led him to choose the R.A.F. Another old Rigger Colour has played the game and played hard to the final whistle. (Barbican 18 1943)

BARRY O'BRIAN TURNER

LIEUT. BARRY O'BRIEN TURNER (1934-36), R.A.

Barry Turner always gave of his best, but he was so modest a nature, that few except his most intimate friends realised how good that best was. Thus at the outbreak of war he was mobilised from his bank at Harrow into the Territorials, which he had joined in 1938. He proceeded to France with the Royal Corps of Signals and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was invited to apply for a commission and was gazetted to the Royal Artillery. In May 1942, he proceeded to North Africa with the 44th Division and had been with the Eighth Army ever

since. He was with the first wave which went ashore in Sicily on July 10th. His friends found his body, killed by German mortar fire, on July 19, by the side of a forward gun of the artillery troop that he commanded. His end was typical of a very gallant Old Boy whose achievement mingles our grief with pride. His Commanding Officer wrote, "He was one of the best officers I have ever had. Every man in his troop admired him." He would have asked for no greater reward. (Barbican 19 Autumn 1943)

DENIS PETER WILL

Fit Lt DENIS PETER WILL 89840

No. 65 Spitfire Squadron, Shot down and killed over France on August 6th 1944. Age 23. Son of George Frederick and Catoline Margaret Will. Husband of Magaret Isabel Will of Storrington. Buried in Le Thuit Churchyard, France.

LEON JOHN WILSON

SERGT./PILOT L. J. WILSON (1935-40), R.A.F.V.R.

He was only 18 when killed in a flying accident. At school he showed that he had more than average ability and got a good School Certificate with Matriculation exemption. Soon after leaving school and by giving a wrong age he got into the Air Force and secured his wings after the normal training in England. His station regarded him as a good pilot and a promising career has been cut short. We offer his grandparents with whom he lived our heartfelt sympathy. (Barbican 17 1942)

JOHN KEATS WINTON -

2/LIEUT. JOHN WINTON (19??-??), South Staffordshire Regiment.

John Winton was obviously a leader. Everything he did proclaimed it. These qualities were emphasised by a handsome presence. As a small boy he captained his Form and was always the dominating figure in games periods on the football field. When the County School at Hove was opened he was transferred there. But he never forgot us. He served as a Sergeant with the South Staffordshire Regiment in the Far East and was one of the famous Chindits. He was awarded an immediate commission for gallantry in action against the Japanese. A few days later he was killed. His fine qualities were never more in evidence than during the last days of his life. His Colonel writes : "Before his death he performed many acts of bravery and gave fearless exhibitions of gallantry in carrying out some of the hardest tasks given to an N.C.O. It was on this account I offered him an immediate commission. I feel sure you will treasure his memory as a great boy who had the makings of a great leader in battle and who unselfishly gave his life for his King and country fighting this scourge of the world so as to make a place where decent people can live

the way they deserve."

Let the Colonel's words on John Winton be the epitaph -- a fitting one on all those sons of the School who have died so gallantly and set so great a tradition for those of us who follow. (Barbican 22 July 1946)

The dates given are those the boys attended the school. The Barbican was the school magazine.