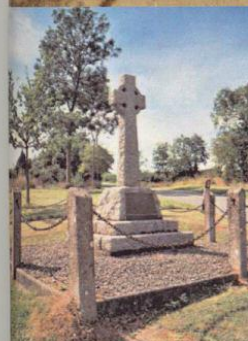
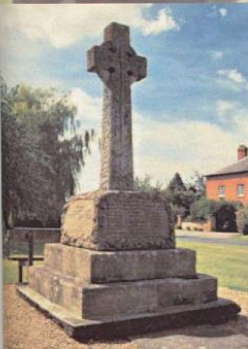
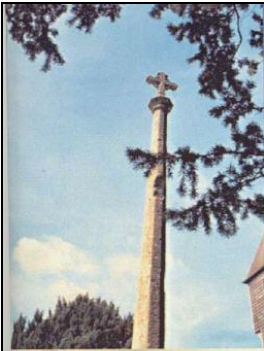


# “Never has so much been owed...”

A commemoration of those from Tewkesbury and district who lost their lives during the Second World War, 1939-1945



John Dixon



Publication Number 4

First published in 2005

# TEWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Publication No. 4  
[VE75 Website Edition]

***"Never has so much been owed ...."***  
**Commemoration of Local War Dead in World War II**

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*Tewkesbury Historical Society*  
**"Never has so much been owed ...."**  
**Commemoration of Local War Dead in World War II**  
**Introduction**

This book is an attempt to provide biographical information upon the 63 men and women who sacrificed their lives in this war and who are commemorated in some way in the localities of **Tewkesbury**,<sup>1</sup> **Twynning**, **Forthampton**, **Apperley** and **Tredington**.<sup>2</sup>

The main sources of information are

- ✓ The invaluable website of the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** which has so meticulously logged the data of the war dead, but which also tends so lovingly their graves all over the world. In this task, I am grateful for the **CWGC** permitting us to use their images and to **Jade Atkinson**.
- ✓ The **Tewkesbury Register** (the ancestor of the "Echo") which is patiently researched by the late **David Willavoy**. We are also very grateful to **John Pocock** who has patiently transcribed information researched by David. We have used photographs taken with a digital camera, but the quality is inevitably variable.
- ✓ **Sam Eedle** for his superb cover design.
- ✓ Those families who have responded to press appeals for more information. An exhibition was mounted at the Tewkesbury Library between 9 and 21 July 2005 and we learned more information about individuals as a result of this exercise.<sup>3</sup>

There are two major innovations in commemorating the war dead of this War:

- ✓ Service women who lost their lives are included unlike in WWI
- ✓ One civilian, who lost his life in a Flying Bomb attack, is included

There are, however, inconsistencies and we hope that, as a result of this exercise, those names omitted from the Memorials will be included, even though the gesture would be 60 years late.

The Exhibition and this book have been supported by the **Home Front Recall Fund** of the **Big Lottery** and we must express deep appreciation for this.

In limiting this book to featuring the biographies of those who died, we are conscious of the sacrifice made by many others who survived the conflict but whose lives were indelibly changed by the war; those whose wounds have caused suffering in the past sixty years, those who lost husbands and wives and those who lost fathers. It was very humbling to meet, at the Exhibition, wives who lost husbands so soon after being married and those "children" who lost their fathers without really ever knowing them. They have been so supportive in bringing this book to fruition.

We also salute the wounded and those who have cared for them over the past six decades.

I was born in 1946. My father volunteered after war broke out and saw action after being parachuted into the sea during the Norwegian campaign. He then was seriously injured in a training accident and, although he was fortunate enough to resume his teaching career, I was always conscious as a child how his wounds affected his health and temperament. Eventually, it contributed to his death. Now I have reached the age of retirement myself, I am very conscious that it is because of the sacrifice of all who lived through this "total war" that I have enjoyed such a peaceful and prosperous existence.

**"Never has been so much owed.....":** thank you all.

**John Dixon, President of T.H.S**

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<sup>1</sup> Re-Edited for **VE75** by the author

<sup>2</sup> **Twynning** has been included because of the research assistance of the late **Gordon Baker**. If anyone wishes to add information on their village war dead, then please supply [johnhistory46@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhistory46@btinternet.com) with a digital photo of the memorial and the list of names or telephone 016784-294262.

<sup>3</sup> Thanks also to the late **Kathleen Hall** for her memories of several of these people.



## The Contribution of Local War Dead to World War II

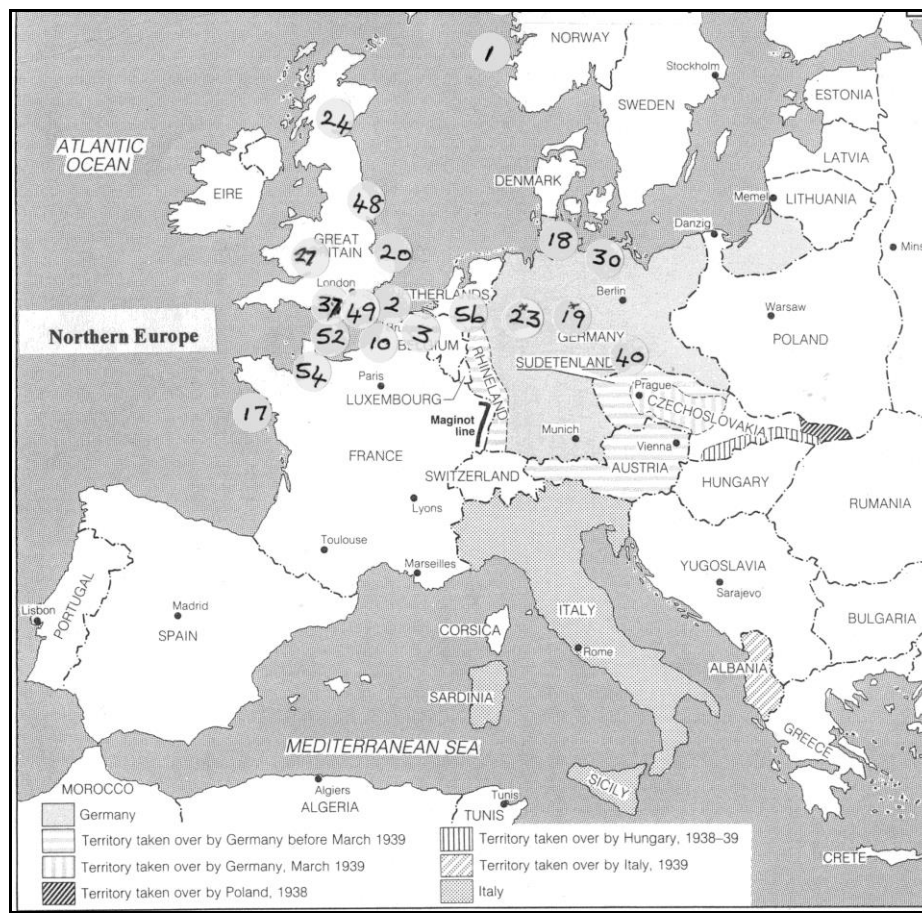
Nobody from our local area made a hugely significant contribution to the war effort but it is interesting to see how local people played their part in so many fronts and theatres in this 'total war'. In compiling this account, we must invest a little supposition using reported information and that from websites. Often it is only information we have of the death which suggests the role yet, when we are in possession of detailed records, supplied by families, we do obtain a glimpse of other campaigns that one of our servicemen survived.

### 1939-40: Phoney War

War was declared on 3 September 1939 - but it is clear that a significant number of local men had joined the colours before that date. Some were regular servicemen who may have joined up because of family tradition or to avoid the unemployment of the 1930s - when jobs in Tewkesbury were scarce.

The first seven months of war saw no losses of local personnel because, in the so-called "*Phoney War*", fighting was confined to the Nazi invasion of Poland - '*Blitzkrieg*' was not suited to winter conditions. However, Europe's attention was drawn to the long drawn out campaign of *Soviet Russia* to subdue Finland in their winter war. It was a time when evacuees arrived in Tewkesbury - but gradually departed as it appeared to be a 'false alarm'.

### Map of the North European Theatre of War<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> The maps in this section are taken from C. K. Macdonald, *The Second World War* (Blackwell, 1984)

## 1940-1 Facing the Nazi Onslaught

There was nothing false about the Nazi *Blitzkrieg*<sup>5</sup> attack on the west when the weather had improved in April 1940. The first major campaign which brought local casualties was the attempt of a combined naval and military force to save Norway. A professional seaman, **C.P.O. Banfield**<sup>6</sup> on *H.M. Submarine Tarpon*, was our first casualty. He died 22 April 1940. By 3 May the Nazi invasion had succeeded except for Narvik where, aided by British and French forces, the Norwegians held out until 28 May before allied troops were recalled to meet the Nazi onslaught on France. Another professional seaman, **P.O. Gyngell** was serving on *HMS Curlew*; it was sunk in the Norwegian Campaign on 25 May 1940, but he survived to fight again - only to lose his life later.

That onslaught in France ended up in the retreat to Dunkirk, which commenced upon 26 May 1940. Three days later we lost two local soldiers, **Pte. Reginald Haynes** of the 5th Battalion, *Gloucestershire Regiment* which helped to hold the Dunkirk outer perimeter at Cassel and Ledringhem, "fighting with great determination for four days. The 2nd Battalion was annihilated."<sup>7</sup> An engineer, **Sapper Walter Clapham** lost his life on the same day, but we do not know the unit to which he was attached. **Charles Hemming** survived Dunkirk to die in a Japanese POW camp in 1943.

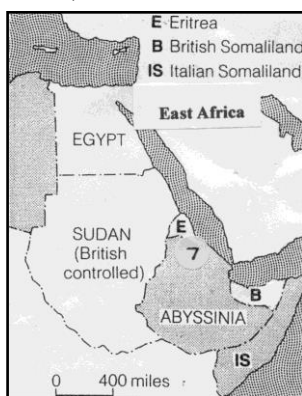
The RAF lost no lives in this onslaught but Squadrons with which we know local men fought later were involved. **Sgt. Strickland's 15 Squadron** was heavily engaged, losing most of its aircraft. **Squadron Leader Long** was at Chalons-sur-Marne but he flew his plane back to the UK under duress on 15 June 1940, losing his belongings including his Log Book.

After Dunkirk, the UK was preoccupied with the *Battle of Britain* and the *Blitz* on British cities. No local people lost their lives in this vital campaign, although we do not know if any took part. Certainly, eyewitnesses record local fireman attending the *blitz* on Coventry and on London.

## The North African Campaign

This started soon after Mussolini joined victorious Nazis in June 1940. He had imperial dreams in North Africa and, in September 1940, he staged an unsuccessful attack on British-occupied Egypt from the Italian colony of Libya and an equally abortive invasion in October of Greece. In response to the latter move, the British occupied airfields on Crete and in Greece.

**Trooper Alfred Parker**, of 3rd King's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps, was a victim of this campaign even though he died of so called 'natural causes' on 13 December 1940. After France had fallen, the 3rd Hussars were sent to Cairo to join the 7th Armoured Brigade of "Desert Rats". In December 1940, General Wavell was countering an attack on Egypt from Libya mounted by Italian Fascist leader,



Mussolini. Trooper Parker no doubt missed their first action during the closing stages of the *Sidi Barrani* where they sustained 25 casualties, but helped to capture with the allied units so many Italian prisoners that "there were about five acres of Officers and two hundred acres of other ranks".

A regular soldier with the *Worcesters*, **Sgt. John Bostok** was killed ten days before the capture of the seemingly impregnable defences on the ridge over the *Keren* pass, which led to the Italian surrender of the local capital, *Asmara*. This happened during a little-known campaign in East Africa, in Eritrea, over the last Italian stronghold in Eritrea; it was the scene of the most decisive battle of the war in East Africa.

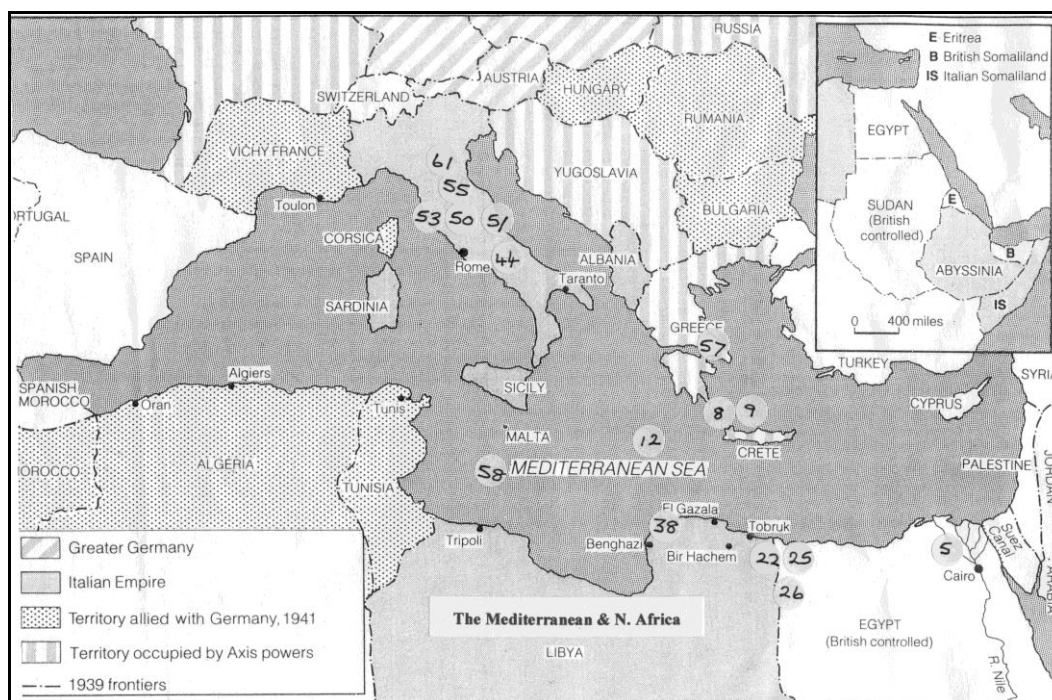
The impending defeat of Mussolini in North Africa was undermined by

<sup>5</sup> *Blitzkrieg* meant 'lightning war' when the surprise and overwhelming power of aircraft and tanks swept aside traditional defending forces in record time.

<sup>6</sup> All those who lost their lives, and are commemorated, are written in bold script

<sup>7</sup> Website: <http://www.glosters.org.uk/gl-post1900.html>

the Nazi attack on Greece aimed to save him. After defeating Greece, the Nazi airborne forces invaded Crete and the British despatched a naval force to try to prevent it. In this campaign two local sailors were lost. In the first phase on 22 May, when the Navy sought to stop the invasion, *HMS Gloucester* was sunk northwest of Crete by *Ju-87* and *Ju-88* Stuka dive-bombers.<sup>8</sup> **A.B. Kenneth Nash** perished with the ship. The next day **P.O. Stoker Albert Hannis** lost his life when destroyer *H.M.S. Kashmir* was sunk. In the same incident, the more famous *H.M.S. Kelly*, commanded by Capt. Lord Louis Mountbatten's was lost – and became famous in the propaganda film, "*In Which We Serve*", made by Noel Coward. Subsequently, over 15,000 British and Dominion troops were evacuated, with 10,000 left behind and the loss of 2,000 sailors.



In the same campaign, on 27 May, battleship, *H.M.S. Barham*, covering a supply mission, was hit by a bomb from a *Ju-88* in a dive-bombing attack to the northwest of Alexandria but it did survive and was sent to South Africa for repairs; it then took part in further operations by the Mediterranean Fleet. Was **Midshipman Hugh Salmon** then part of the crew?

### Sea war, 1940-5

The *Battle of the Atlantic* was the theatre whereby Nazi U-Boats tried to sink allied convoys of supply ships which the UK needed for its very survival. Many Merchant Seamen lost their lives in this battle – but none seemed to be from Tewkesbury. We did lose **Chief Engine Room Artificer Ralph I. Moore**, the brother of **AC L. D. Moore**.<sup>9</sup> The *Register* recorded his death in action aged 44 on 18 October 1941 when *H.M.S. Broadwater* was sunk by *U-101*. Interestingly this ship was built in 1919 for the U.S. Navy as *USS Mason* but it was sent to the U.K. as part of the 'lend-lease' package; it was renamed after two towns found both in the U.S.A. and the U.K.. It was lost doing its duty of escorting merchant convoys from Newfoundland.

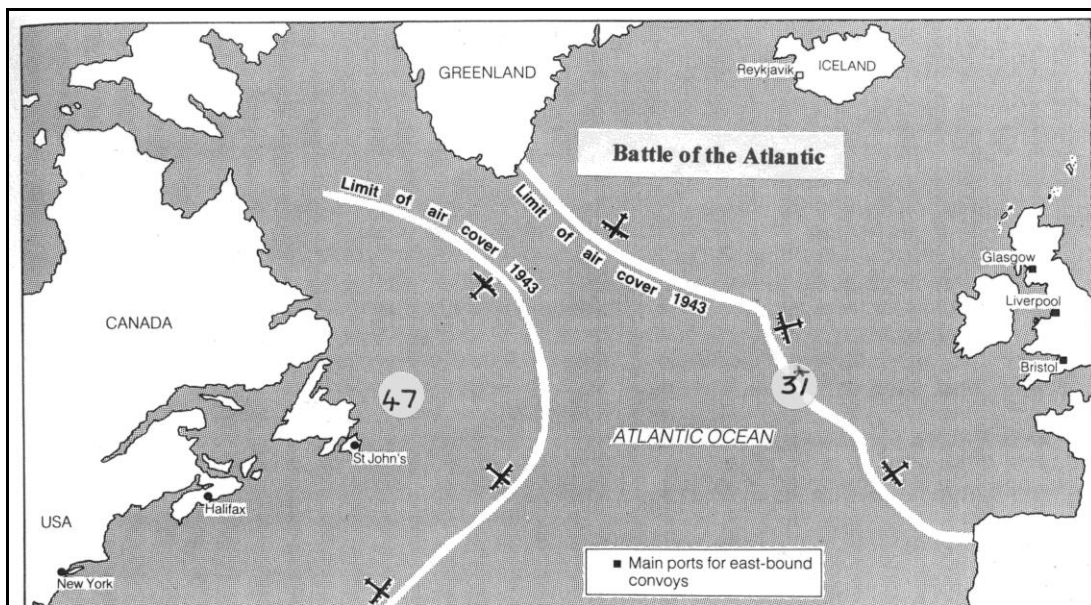
<sup>8</sup> Website: <http://www.naval-history.net/WW2CampaignsBalkans.htm>

<sup>9</sup> **Ralph Moore** does not feature on our local Memorial possibly because he lived away from Tewkesbury.

Less well known are the convoys and their escorts which supplied our armies in North Africa, a crucial factor which ensured our later victory at *El Alamein*. Having perhaps survived the Crete campaign, **Midshipman Salmon**, of *H.M.S. Barham*, was killed on 25 November 1941, while the battleship was steaming to cover an attack on Italian convoys; *HMS Barham* was hit by three torpedoes from the German submarine *U-331*.<sup>10</sup>

Another crucial battle for our navy was to ensure that convoys supplying Russia and ensuring that the Eastern front was kept open after 22 June 1941. These were the famous Arctic Convoys. Having survived the 1940 Norwegian campaign, **P.O. Gyngell** had a new ship, *HMS Matabele*, which was ordered to join the escort of the infamous convoy PQ-8. This convoy, rightly or wrongly, was ordered to disperse leading to huge losses. On 17 January, just off Kola Inlet, *HMS Matabele* was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-454*<sup>11</sup> and sank in two minutes. Even in that short time, many had managed to abandon ship only to be frozen to death in the icy waters, including **P.O. Gyngell**.<sup>12</sup>

**Lt. C. Gough** found death with some glory whilst serving on *H.M.S. Campbelltown* on 28 March 1942. This converted American destroyer, with its bows packed with explosives, smashed into the lock gates of the *Normandie Dock* in St. Nazaire, France. This was the only dry dock on the Atlantic seaboard, able to service or repair the German battleship *Tirpitz* should she ever breakout into the Atlantic and return to the western seaboard. The mission was successful and eventually *Tirpitz* was sunk by air power hiding in a Norwegian fjord in November 1943.



The sea battle to ensure the necessary supplies was unremitting throughout the war. **Able Seaman Alec Howes** was killed on 3 March 1943. He was a gunner employed to defend individual merchant ships. **Telegraphist Reg. Dickenson**, of *H.C.M.S. Valleyfield*, was a 'River' class Frigate met its end when it was torpedoed and sunk by *U-548* on 7 May 1944 off Newfoundland. As late as 17 February 1945, **Lt. Ian Mackie** lost his life off the *Kola Peninsular* in Russia when still protecting Russian convoys. It was so near to the end of the war.

<sup>10</sup> Attached to Salmon's biography is a bizarre postscript to this episode, revealed by **Michael Portillo** in *State Secrets*.

<sup>11</sup> *U454* was sunk at 1400 hrs. on 1 Aug, 1943 in the Bay of Biscay, by depth charges from an Australian *Sunderland* aircraft, leaving 32 dead and 14 survivors.

<sup>12</sup> His family had to wait until 2016 to receive a belated Campaign Medal.

## 1940-45: Turning the Tide in North Africa

The contribution of the navy and merchant ships was no less vital to what Churchill labelled "the end of the beginning of the war": this took place in North Africa in late 1942 and early 1943. Although technically a member of 6/3 Maritime Regt., Royal Artillery, **Gunner William Booth** was possibly killed, or drowned, during the North African War on 29 October when convoys were supplying the Army at a time when the 8<sup>th</sup> Army was defeating Rommel at the *Battle of El Alamein*.

There were two battles known after this then insignificant railway town. After a ceaseless battle with Rommel's *Afrika Korps*, when the battle oscillated over the whole North African desert, the first (and less heralded) *Battle of El Alamein* cost the life of **Sapper Cyril Walker**. It has been judged that "the turnabout in North Africa began on August 31, 1942, when **Rommel** was stopped at the Alam El Halfa Ridge, and was thrown back by September 7."<sup>13</sup>

**Trooper Harold Hargraves** lost his life 28 October 1942, five days after the beginning of this classic tank battle whilst serving with the Royal Tank Regiment. The artillery was also vital in this victory and **Gunner John Hopton**, of the *Royal Horse Artillery* lost his life on 14 November 1942. However, because the battle lasted from 23 October to 4 November, one can only surmise that this mobile artilleryman was killed either as a result of wounds sustained earlier or in the chase of Rommel's retreating army. It took until May 1943 for Rommel's army to surrender in Tunisia, freeing the 8<sup>th</sup> Army to join in *Operation Husky* - the invasion of Sicily and then the mainland of Italy that started in July 1943. Two local soldiers, **Driver Alfred Bishop** and **Pte. Harry Allen**, were both present during *El Alamein* but lost their lives in the attack on what was hoped to be yet another "soft underbelly of Europe".

Even after May 1943, there were battles to fight in North Africa and the Mediterranean. **LAC William Clifford**, who died on 3 August 1943, is remembered with honour in *Benghazi War Cemetery*, Libya. His 227 Squadron<sup>14</sup> was reformed in Malta, in August 1942, with its *Beaufighters* used in a long-range fighter role. It was mainly employed on operations against enemy shipping and convoy escort duties in Mediterranean and Aegean areas. It only moved to Italy in August 1944.

## 1943-5 Turning the Tide in Italy

Turned it may have done, but it was very slow and very much a "crimson tide". The victorious survivors of *El Alamein* lost their lives here. Perhaps the most unfortunate and heroic was **Captain Harry Ricketts** who was, therefore, unlucky enough to be twice in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was taken prisoner in Tunisia. This was the prelude to the defeat of **Rommel's Afrika Korps** by the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army and the Americans on 13 May 1943. He was transferred to Italy was a P.O.W., after which the Allies invaded Sicily on 10 July 1943, crossing into Italy on 3 September 1943 when **Mussolini** was deposed. He evidently escaped in the confusion at that time - but was killed when he walked on a mine. Subsequently, Italy was invaded by German forces that held up the allied advance until 1945 and his unit, the 2/5th Bn., *Leicestershire Regiment*, was caught in the bitter fighting at *Monte Casino* in December 1943, at the same time as his untimely death.

There followed the slow march up the mountainous Italian peninsular which the Nazis defended desperately. *El Alamein* veteran, **Harry Allen**, a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> *Reconnaissance Unit* of the *Royal Armoured Corps*, was killed in late April 1944 as the Allies tried to push north before seizing Rome in early June.<sup>15</sup> The Nazis then made great efforts to stop them from advancing further north in bitter fighting in June-July 1944. **Pte. Leslie Barrett**, of the 2nd Bn., *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry*, died at the end of June 1944 and was buried, in the same cemetery at Assisi, north east of Rome, as Harry Allen. Many of the burials at Assisi date from June and July 1944, when the Germans were making their

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<sup>13</sup> Microsoft® Encarta® Reference Library 2002. ©

<sup>14</sup> Website: <http://www.rafweb.org/Sqn226-230.htm>

<sup>15</sup> *Tewkesbury Register*: 15/07/1944 + 22/07/1944



first attempts to stop the Allied advance, north of Rome. **Pte. Clarence Key**, of the *2nd Bn., Somerset Light Infantry*, died on 2 July 1944. It is likely, therefore, that he was killed in this phase of fighting, after victory seemed nigh. As the Allies crawled north under heavy fire the other *El Alamein* veteran, **Driver Alfred Bishop**, of the *Royal Army Service Corps*, was burned to death in August 1944 supplying the troops in the mountains.

The last local soldier to die in Italy was **Cpl. Francis Jenkins**, of *242 Field Coy., Royal Engineers*: he died 04 July 1945 - after the war had ended. During the autumn campaign of 1944, the front inched forward, but with divisions transferred to support the new offensive in France, and the Germans dug into a number of key defensive positions, the advance stalled as winter set in. The war cemetery at *Faenza* was formed during these months for the burial of those who were killed in the static fighting before the Allied advance was renewed in April 1945. It is likely that **Cpl. Jenkins** died of wounds sustained in this bitter stalemate.

### The Air War 1941-4

The veterans of North Africa and Italy have been rightly lauded but post war inhibitions about the morality of mass bombing has led to an apparent snub of those who participated in the vital air war. This campaign gradually deprived the Nazi armed forces of vital supplies. Detailed biographies of certain service men have enabled us to track the growth of the bombing campaign. **Squadron Leader Long** was "converted" to *Wellington Bombers* in early 1941 for the purpose of night bombing of Germany. The first local man to die **Sgt. Donald Beale** lost with life with *139 Squadron*, which began attacks against enemy ports and airfields. We can, therefore, only assume that **Sgt. Beale** was killed during a raid in the Boulogne area or en-route to such a raid.<sup>16</sup> Indeed, research on the web located "a 'maximum effort' on the night of 12/13 October 1941, for example, saw 12 *Wellingtons* sent off to attack Germany, nine to *Nuremberg* and three to *Bremen*. Losses were all too frequent and two aircraft (X9822 and Z9926) failed to return that night". Could **Sgt. Beale** have lost his life during those raids? Why did it take so long to release this news after his death?

The raids continued. **Sgt. Edward Hunt** died in July 1942 as a 'Sgt. air-gunner/wireless operator'. He was involved in the first of the "thousand bomber raids" and he was killed after 29 operations. **Sgt. Algernon Strickland** of *15 Squadron*, died in May 1942, bombing *Kiel* possibly flying in a *Short Stirling*, used to bomb *Berlin*, *Kiel* and *Hamburg*. Operations continued in ones and twos, the first loss being on 10 May when the CO failed to return. Was **Sgt. Strickland** killed during this mission? In September 1942, **Pilot Officer Ellis** lost his life, possibly as a result of his flying with *115 Squadron*, in *Mark III Wellingtons*, where he may have been involved in 'pathfinder' activities, dropping flares, for these "Thousand Bomber Raids" on Germany. The *Register* comments that "he was a *Spitfire* pilot, had seen much service, and had two enemy victims to his credit".<sup>17</sup> It is possible, therefore, that he was involved as a fighter pilot protecting bomber squadrons.

It was in October 1942 that **Squadron Leader Long** was awarded *D.F.C.* after a bombing operation on *Genoa* in Italy. He continued to win the *Air Force Cross* and was twice 'Mentioned in Despatches' for his bombing raids on *Turin* (Italy), *Berlin*, *Dusseldorf* and - tragically for his family - *Hamburg*.

The air war continued with its toll. **Sgt. Robert Allen** was killed in an unexplained flying accident in May 1943, while **Flying Officer Edward Hyett**, of *76 Squadron*, was killed 28 August 1943. He was the only local airman to have lost his life during a bombing raid on *Munich*.

It was clear from the report and his memorial that the body of **Pilot Officer John Ashton** was not recovered, and war time censorship does not allow us to estimate in which theatre he was killed

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<sup>16</sup> Website: <http://www.rafweb.org/Sqn136-140.htm>

<sup>17</sup> 29/05/1943

### 1944-5: D-Day to Berlin

The air war, costly in human life of both sides, was one of the few ways the eastern allies could pressurise Germany as it prepared for its own invasion of the west: **D-Day**. We have already noted that veterans of *Alamein* and Italy were withdrawn to join this epic campaign, but local losses were young men, no doubt fighting their first campaign as conscripts. Both died in close proximity but in vastly different infantry regiments with no evident local connections. In addition, both died after D-Day in the desperate fighting against fanatical and determined Nazi troops who knew that this battle had to be won. After the hopes of a speedy end to the war after the success of D-Day, the slow break out from Normandy was very dispiriting. The first to die was **L/Cpl. Edwin Davis** of the *King's Shropshire Light Infantry* who was killed on 1 July 1944. He was involved in *Operation Epsom*, the first costly attempt to reach Caen and it is likely that he was killed in a fierce counterattack by *Waffen-SS*. After that attack petered out, it was the turn of *Operation Goodwood* and **Pte. George Savins**, fighting, perhaps bizarrely, with the *City of Glasgow Regiment*, died on 19 July 1944. He fell near the Odon River, this time south of Caen. The Nazis then fought a dogged rear-guard action until the retreat started on 20 August 1944, after which Paris was liberated. Again, high hopes that the war would end soon were dampened by the Nazi defence of the *Fatherland*.

### 1944-5 Land War to Berlin

Montgomery's attack on *Arnhem* in September 1944 was designed to be a strategy to end the war but it failed, costing the lives of thousands of soldiers. The *Coldstream Guards* had taken part in this campaign, but we do not know if the young **Lt. Reginald Longueville** took part. He was subsequently killed in the Netherlands, just before the invasion of Germany when the unit was clearing out the Nazi troops from the *Maas* region during severe fighting in October and November. Lt. Longueville was the last local soldier to be killed on the Western Front.

A further blow to hopes of an end to the war in 1944 were the *Flying Bomb* attacks on the south of England: perhaps surprisingly they caused the loss of the lives of two emigrants from Tewkesbury. In June came the *V1* a pilot-less plane which turned into a bomb when its engine cut out. This weapon caused the deaths of **Hubert Dudley**, who was killed on 18 June 1944. There followed the indestructible *V2* rockets which killed **Florence Davis (née Ryland) and her husband** on 29 July 1944. There was no way of shooting down this weapon - its effect was only terminated by the capture by land forces of the launch pads in Western Europe. An important change of attitude in this 'total' war was that since 2005 civilians have been commemorated on war memorials.

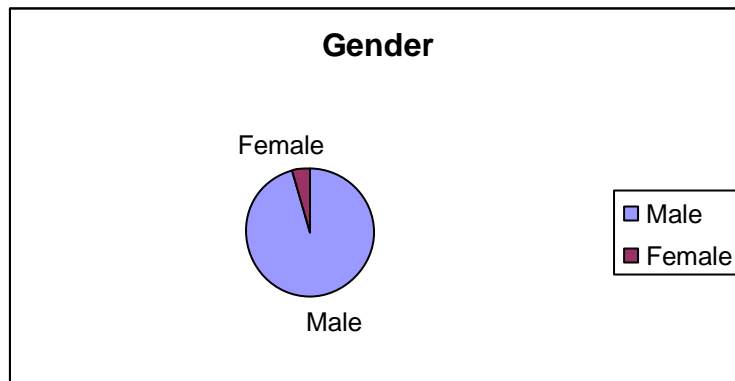
A postscript to the war in Europe, which turned into a political sore in the post war period, was the campaign in *Greece*. It started out as a way of supporting local forces expel the Nazi invader. However, as some of the most potent resistance came from Communist guerrillas, it turned into a Civil War after the end of the international war. It was in this theatre that **Sgt. Edward Page**, of the *R.A.F. Regt.*, lost his life on 18 December 1944. Although he was rightly accorded a military burial, his family have been subsequently been informed that the body of Sgt. Page bore irregularities which might suggest that he was one of the first victims of the later Civil War.

### The War against Japan, 1941-5

This will be continued in our Commemoration of VJ Day on 15 August 2020

## Statistics

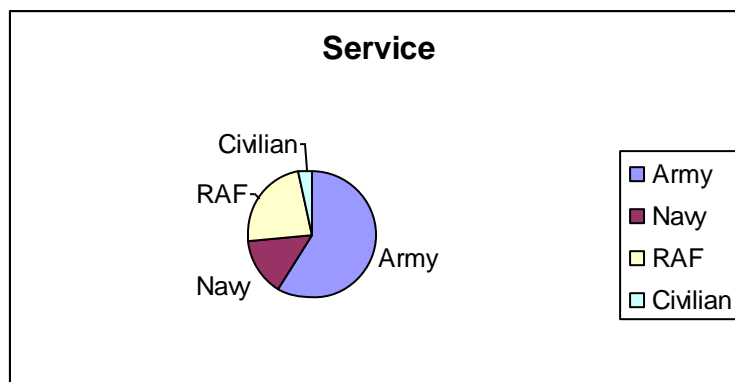
### Gender



Males 59; Females 3: Total 62

The most important change in World War II was the inclusion of females upon war memorials.

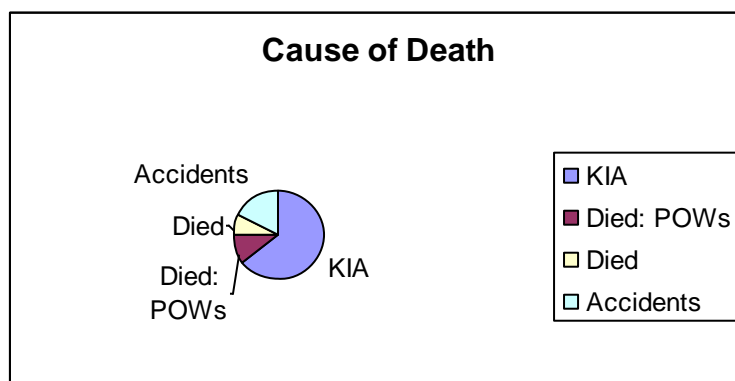
### Service



Army 36; RAF 15; Navy 9; Merchant Navy 0; Civilians 2: Total 62

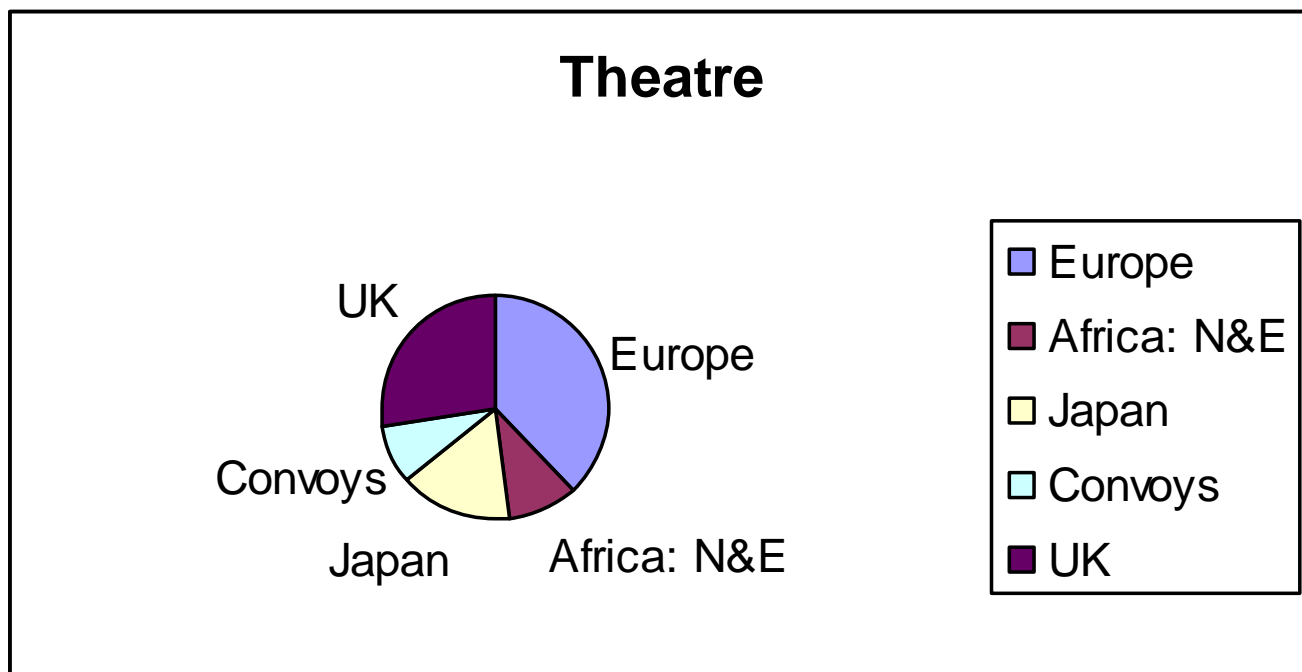
The inclusion of *Civilians* on War Memorials underlined the importance of "Total War"

### Cause of Death



Killed in Action 40; Died as POW 6; Died 5; Accidents 11: Total = 62

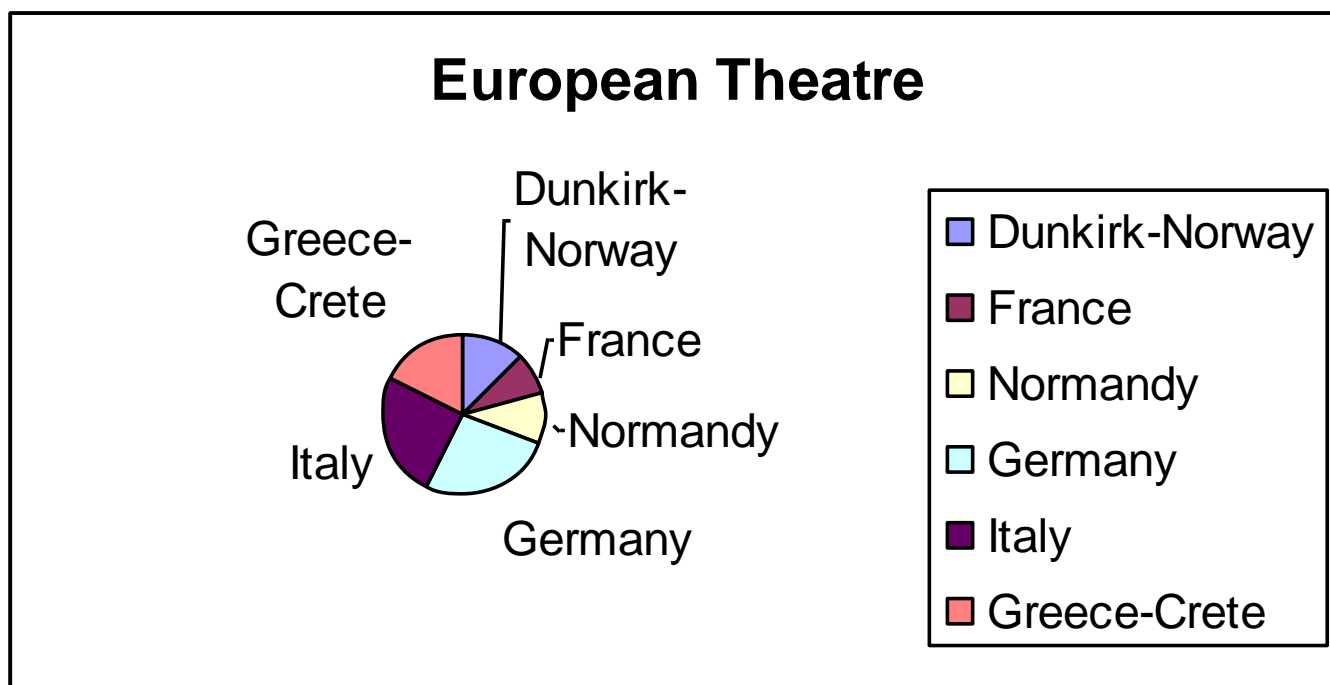
## Theatre



UK 17; Europe 23; Convoys 5; Africa, N&E 6; Japan 10; Query 1: Total 62

Most of losses in the UK due to accidents or natural causes

## Theatre-Europe



Dunkirk-Norway 3; France 2; Normandy 2; Germany 6; Italy 6; Greece-Crete 4: Total 23



# Parish Rolls of Honour:

## Tewkesbury



<u>Rank</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
Trooper	Alfred Henry	Allen	Army	30/06/1944
P/O	Francis Henry John	Ashton	RAF(VR)	31/05/1942
Pte.	Leslie P.	Barrett	Army	28/06/1944
Gunner	Ronald William Ernest	Bartlett	Army	01/01/1942
Sapper	Jack	Bassett	Army	27/09/1943
Sgt.	Donald	Beale	RAF(VR)	13/10/1941
Driver	Alfred John	Bishop	Army	17/08/1944
Gunner	William	Booth	Army	29/10/1942
Sgt.	John Leslie	Bostok	Army	17/03/1941
Sapper	Walter George	Clapham	Army	30/05/1940
A.C.W.2	Barbara Mary	Dee	WAAF	03/08/1942
A.B.	Reginald George	Dickenson	Navy	07/05/1944
Mr.	Hubert	Dudley	Civilian	18/06/1944
P/O	Frank Henry	Ellis	RAF(VR)	18/09/1942
Lt.	Christopher Hugh Clare	Gough	Navy	28/03/1942
A.C.1	George Warman	Gregson	RAF(VR)	28/11/1942
P.O.	Herbert Francis Eric	Gyngell	Navy	17/01/1942
Sgt.	Arthur Samuel	Halling	army	31/08/1940
Pte.	Reginald Randolph Thomas	Haynes	Army	29/05/1940
A.B.	Alec Jack	Howes	Navy	03/03/1943
Sgt.	Edward Samuel	Hunt	RAF	14/07/1942
F/O	Edward	Hyett	RAF(VR)	28/08/1943
Cpl.	Francis John	Jenkins	Army	04/07/1945
Pte.	Clarence Frederick	Key	Army	02/07/1944
Bomb.	Frederick Leonard	Key	Army	03/06/1943
Pte.	Alexander George	Martin	Army	29/11/1943
A.C.1	Lewis Daniel	Moore	RAF(VR)	02/07/1943
A.B.	Kenneth Seymour	Nash	Navy	22/05/1941
Pte.	Lionel Henry James	Osborne	Army	19/03/1942
Sgt.	Edward William	Page	RAF(VR)	18/12/1944
Trooper	Alfred John	Parker	Army	13/12/1940
Capt.	Harry Osborn Dillon	Ricketts	Army	22/12/1943
Pte.	Cecil	Ryland	Army	03/07/1943
Capt./Maj.	William John Hopper	Shephard	Army	17/01/1944
L/Sgt.	Victor George	Turberville	Army	14/03/1945
Sapper	Cyril Thomas	Walker	Army	14/09/1942

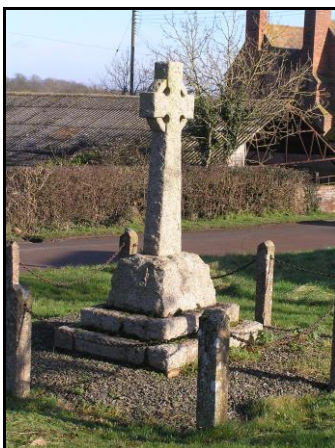
## Apperley & Deerhurst



<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
1	CPO	Edgar	Banfield	Navy	22/04/1940
38	LAC	William Henry	Clifford	RAF(VR)	03/08/1943
9	PO Stoker	Albert Henry	Hannis	Navy	23/05/1941
46	L/Cpl.	Arthur William	Hawker	Army	05/05/1944
12	Midshipman	Hugh Talbot Broome	Salmon	Navy	25/11/1941
54	Pte.	George Albert	Savins	Army	19/07/1944
18	Sgt.	Algernon G.	Strickland	RAF(VR)	09/05/1942
(63)	Pte	Adolphus Henry	Andrews	Army	14-15/02/1942



## Forthampton



<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
15	ACW2	Dora Elsie	Brierley	WAAF	26/02/1942
43	Pte.	Charles Donald	Hemming	Army	20/12/1943
56	Lt.	Reginald Francis	Longueville	Army	12/10/1944
48	L/Sgt.	Edgar	Watson	Army	18/06/1944

Forthampton has commemorated the second female combatant.



## Tredington



No.	Rank	First name	Surname	Service	Death Date
25	Trooper	Harold Leslie	Hargraves	Army	28/10/1942



## Twynning



No.	Rank	First name	Surname	Service	Death Date
32	Sgt.	Robert Edward	Allen	RAF	12/05/1943
29	Col.	Ronald Playfair St. Vincent	Bernard	Army	25/01/1943
39	Sgt.	Reginald Hubert	Bowers	RAF(VR)	11/08/1943
52	L/Cpl.	Edwin John	Davis	Army	01/07/1944
9	PO Stoker	Albert Henry	Hannis	Navy	23/05/1941
26	Gunner	John Edward	Hopton	Army	14/11/1942
30	Squad. Leader	Donald George	Long	RAF(VR)	31/01/1943
62	Lieutenant	Edward Henry	Morris	Army	09/04/1946
36	Capt.	Christopher Frederick	Wigan	Army	15/07/1943

Those from Twynning who sacrificed their lives are commemorated on this memorial and one in the Church.



## Conclusion

In 2005 *Tewkesbury Historical Society* was disappointed that the governmental approach to this commemoration has been too low key. This has led to fragmented and uncoordinated events, which have involved the ex-service personnel rather than the heirs and beneficiaries of the sacrifice of this valiant yet ordinary generation. We feel that this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would have been the best time to involve all generations because at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the years will have taken their toll, even if "age has not withered them".

In fact, the approach to VE75 has been much more positive with the Bank Holiday moved. However, as we now know, this endeavour has been thwarted by Covid-19 - hence this virtual commemoration.

We salute **Squadron Leader Donald Long** for winning the **D.F.C.** and **A.F.C.**. However, such an event should be a time of reflection and to make amends to historical sleights. We call on the authorities to review:

- ✓ Those in Tewkesbury whose deaths were not commemorated on the War Memorial; in Tewkesbury we remedied these errors on Armed Forces Day 2018
- ✓ Those who suffered on the **Arctic Convoys** who have not been awarded an official campaign medal. In 2016 the family of **P.O. Gyngell** received his belated Campaign Medal.
- ✓ Members of **Bomber Command**. We rejoice at the magnificent statue to the "Few" of the Battle of Britain unveiled as this book was being completed. In 2005 we stated that "We would like to see a commemoration of the work of Bomber Command. Very few local men seemed to have taken part in 1940 battles but most of those killed in the R.A.F. were from Bomber Command. They did not choose to fight such a controversial campaign - they did "their bit" when called like everyone else".



On 28 June 2012, Queen Elizabeth II unveiled the **Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial** the year of her Diamond Jubilee.

The is a memorial in Green Park, London, commemorating the crews of RAF Bomber Command who embarked on missions during the Second World War.<sup>[1]</sup> The memorial, located on Piccadilly near Hyde Park Corner, was built to mark the sacrifice of 55,573 aircrew from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Poland and other allied countries,<sup>[2]</sup> as well as civilians of all nations killed during raids.<sup>[3]</sup>

In addition, we should remember the terrible and unwarranted suffering of those who suffered the misfortune of being **Japanese Prisoners of War** - or slave labourers. I feel that their plight has never been sufficiently understood by governments and people - who feel that they remain the so-called "Forgotten Army". Perhaps holding the commemorations in July was an attempt to include them; we could have done much better. **We shall commemorate these men in detail for VJ75 in August 2020.**

In publishing this book, the *Society* hoped in 2005 - and we still do despite the current epidemic - to thank all those who served in any way in **World War II**. **Never was so much owed** .....by so many to a few hundred local service people and their dependents: men, women and children.