

East Meon During World War II

Remembering and knowing the dead.

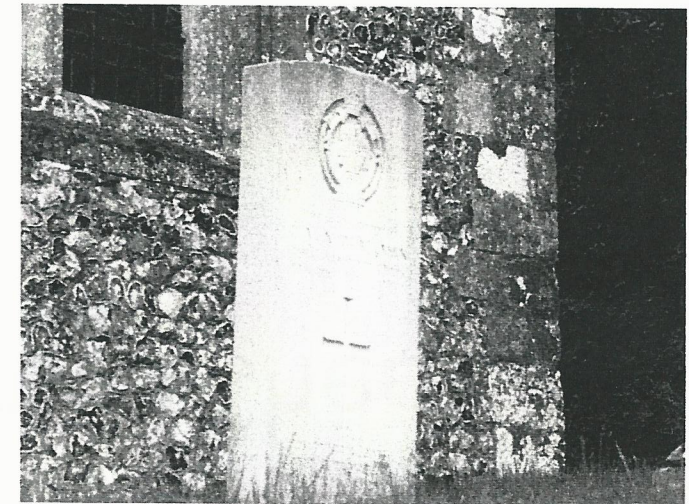
William James Allen

- Rank: Instructor Stoker 1st Class
- Ser. Nbr: P/KX 61172
- Date Of Death: 12/10/1940
- Age At Death: 40
- Unit: Royal Navy - H.M.S. Chasseur 07
- Grave/memorial: C. of E. Portion. Grave 705. - Portland Royal Navy Cemetary.
- On patrol of Dorset with another submarine chaser.
- Attacked by German E-Boats.
- Body recovered off Portland Bill.
- One of seven children. Enlisted at 16 by tricking the Navy into thinking he was 18.
- With 25 years experience he rejoined the Navy at the outbreak of War.
- 1st Service man from the Parish to loose their life in the War.



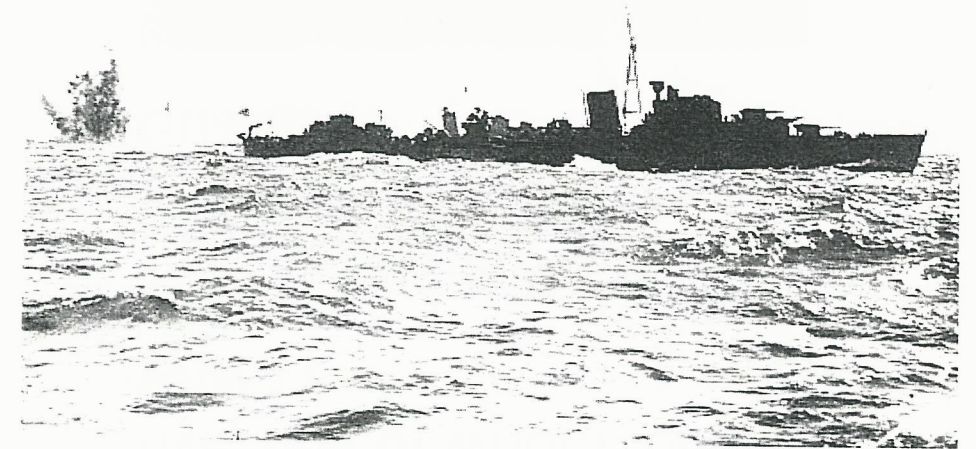
Charles Victor Norman Blackman.

- Rank: Corporal
- Service Nbr: 7903460
- Date Of Death: 13/04/1942
- Age: 35
- Unit: Duke Of Cornwall Light Infantry, Royal Armoured Corp 58th Training Regiment
- Grave/Memorial: East Meon.
- Died as a result of an accident at Imber, Near Warminster (On Duty).
- Brother of Ernest (one of five, one of whom fought in WW 1).
- Four served and the youngest was in the Home Guard.



Charles Albert Thomas Cheesman.

- Rank: Shipwright 4th Class
- Ser Nbr: D/MX 64403,
- Date Of Death: 26/03/1942
- Unit: HMS Jaguar, Royal Navy. 7th Flotilla.
- Grave/memorial:
Commemorated at Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon.
- Attacked by U-652 @ 02:27 hours
Northeast of Sollum (Easter Med)
hit by two of four torpedoes.
- 193 crew lost from 246.
- Had been escorting the tanker Slavol (sunk later the same night).



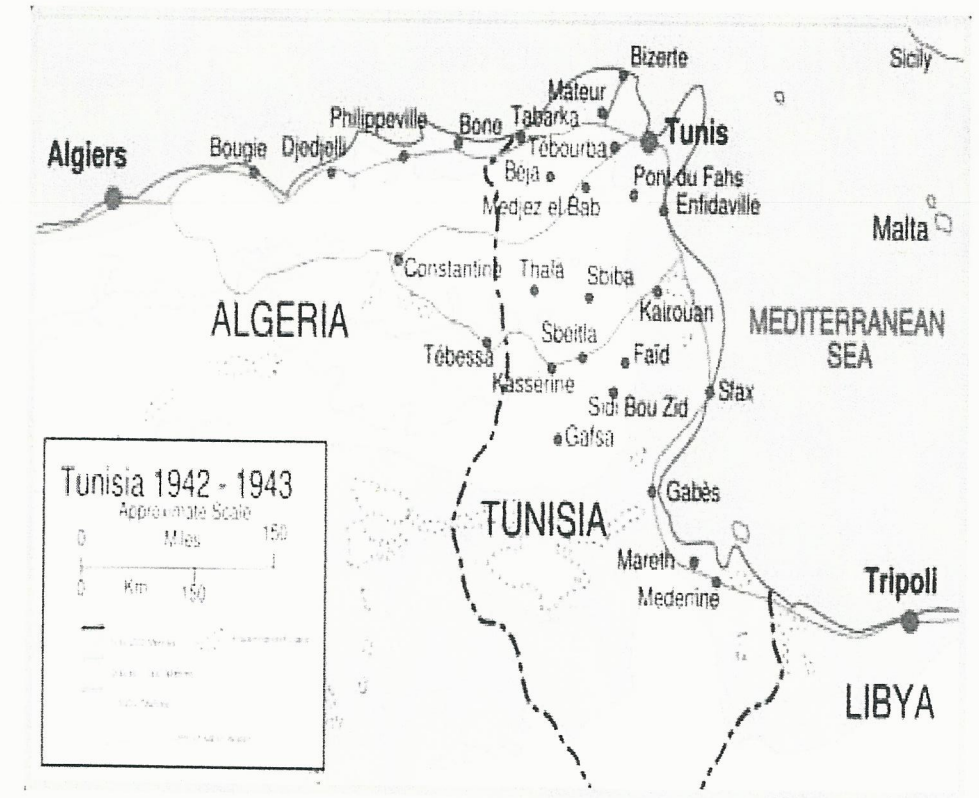
Walter James Horsted

- Rank: Petty Officer
- Ser. Nbr: P/JX 136917
- Date Of Death: 02/03/1942
- Age at death: 25
- Unit: HMS Stronghold,
- Grave/memorial:
Portsmouth Naval
Memorial.
- Engaged by Japanese
cruisers and destroyers
from carrier task force.
- Survivors transferred to
IJM cruiser Maya.



Alfred Frank Mullard.

- Rank: Private
- Ser. Nbr: 5505839
- Date Of Death: 26/01/1943 -2/3/1943
- Age At Death: 28
- Unit: 5th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. (territorial).
- Grave/memorial: Beja War Cemetery, Tunisia.
- Nov. '42 Commonwealth and US forces land in Algeria and Morocco (Operation Torch).
- Germany responds with forces from Sicily.
- Beja was just behind the limit of the Allies advance that winter.
- Killed when a shell hit his mortar platoon.
- Witnessed by school friend from East Meon.
- One of five children, 4 brothers and one sister



Ivor Charles Bishop

- Rank: Lance Corporal
- Ser. Nbr: 5435838
- Date Of Death: 04/10/1944
- Age at Death: 35
- Unit: 8th Battalion, Durham
Light Infantry
- Grave/memorial: Arnhem
Oosterbeek War Cemetery,
Gelderland, Netherlands, 2. B.
17.

Ernest Edward Blackman.

- Rank: Lance Corporal
- Ser Nbr: 5493059
- Date of Death: 04/10/1944
- Age At Death: 34
- Unit: 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps.
- Grave/Memorial: Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery.
- 2/10/44. Moved to point in the Nijmegen Salient (RESSEN?) from Volkel.
- General patrolling engaging the enemy on sight.
- 3/10/44 settling into new area, shelled very heavily around 17:00.
- 4/10/44 Carried out enemy attack East of Bommel, planned for 14:00, "all boys on start line".
- 4/10/44 22:00 casualties for the day. 2 officers wounded, 1 injured, 39 Other ranks.
- Germans: 60 captured and 20 killed.
- Had been married two weeks earlier.
- His friend also killed in same action.



Christopher Raymond Neville.

- Rank: Rifleman
- Ser Nbr: 6898507
- Date Of Death: 17/07/1941
- Age At Death: 20
- Unit: King's Royal Rifle Corps,
2nd Bat, The Rangers
- Grave/Memorial: East Meon
Churchyard.
- Details of death: training
accident as based in the UK
(?).

Percy Goddard.

- Rank: Private
- Ser. Nbr: 5496165
- Date Of Death: 03/07/1944 (from injuries received previous day).
- Unit: 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.
- Grave/memorial: Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France.
- Landed as part of 2nd wave on D-Day.
- Engaged in some of fiercest fighting of the campaign around NE Caen once they had broken out of the beach head.
- Operating in the “Triangle” - Ranville - Touffreville –Breville.



Joseph Frederick Phillips.

- Rank: Sergeant Air Gunner
- Ser Nbr: 1324960
- Date Of Death: 04/01/1944
- Age at death: 22
- Unit: RAF Volunteer Reserve.
- Grave/memorial: East Meon.
- Flew On Wellingtons from RAF Stradishall.
- Crashed on landing after returning from bombing raid on Germany.
- One of five children.
- Good footballer.
- Engaged to be married to WAAF.

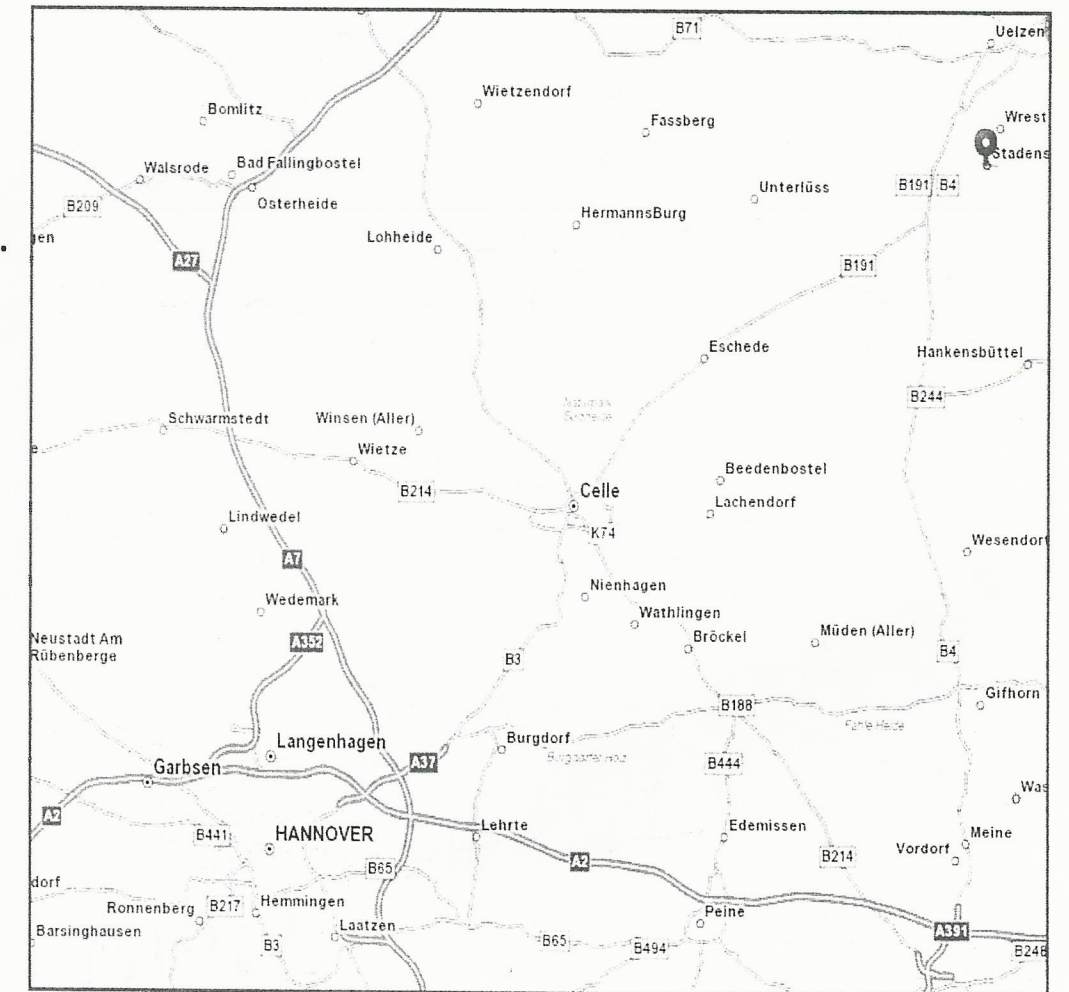


Leslie Wilson

- Rank: Private
- Ser. Nbr: 14534728
- Date Of Death: 18/09/1943
- Age at death: 35
- Unit: Pioneer Corp
- Memorial: Old Portion.
Row 14. Grave 308. East
Meon.

John Alexander Somerset

- Rank: Lieutenant
- Ser. Nbr: 300848
- Date of death: 15/04/1945
- Age at death: 20
- Unit: Coldstream Guards - 4th Bat. Independent Tank Brigade.
- Commissioned upon leaving Eaton.
- Landed in France July '44.
- Supported advance into low countries with attachment to many units.
- Carried 17th Airborne Div. Troops.
- Took Munster 2/4/1945, Celle (12/4/1945) and then Uelzen.
- Killed at Standensen when turret hit by shell.
- Grave/memorial: Hanover War Cemetery



Gilbert James Woodfield.

- Rank: Midshipman (A)
- Date Of Death: 07/08/1945
- Age At Death: 19
- Unit: Royal Navy Vol Reserve - H.M.S. Urley
- Grave/memorial: Lee On Solent Memorial.
- Family moved to East Meon when house bombed in London (Dulwich).
- Vol at age 18.
- Trained as a navigator.
- Plane crashed into Irish Sea and the body was never recovered.
- Fairey Barracuda was main training aircraft and many accidents occurred.



East Meon & Langrish Roll of Honour

Lt. John Alexander Somerset

(son of Captain Robert Henry Fitzroy de Vere Somerset & Bettine Violet Somerset (nee Malcolm) of East Meon, Hampshire.)

Born : 1st January 1925 - **Place of Birth :** London

Date of Death : 15th April 1945. Age 20.

(Killed in action during ferocious fighting in the aftermath of the Ardennes Offensive. Service No: 300848)

Service Record : John was a lieutenant in the 4th Battallion, Coldstream Guards, in an armoured brigade, and having survived the Normandy landings on D-Day, he was killed at Standensen after four days of heavy continuous fighting , after a shell hit the turret of John's tank while he was attempting to destroy an enemy Self Propelled gun.

Lt. "Johnny" Somerset, as he was affectionately known to his family , was commissioned into the Guards upon leaving Eton, is survived by his brother , David Robert

Somerset (born 23rd February 1928), the 11th Duke of Beaufort. The family, including his sister, the late Lady Anne Elizabeth Somerset lived at Drayton House, East Meon from 1935 to 1951.

" It is not Life that matters, tis the courage you bring to it. "

Cemetery : Hanover War Cemetery Grave Ref: 7.D.12.

East Meon & Langrish
Roll of Honour



Joseph Frederick "Freddie" Phillips

*(son of Frederick William (a veteran of the Somme), and Ida
Annie Phillips of East Meon)*

*Born : 3rd September 1921. Place of Birth : Hargrave,
West Suffolk.*

Date of Death : 4th January 1944. Age 22

*Service Record: Sergeant Joseph Frederick Phillips, an air-
gunner in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, died when
his Wellington bomber crashed on landing at Stratishall, after
returning from an air raid over Germany in January 1943.*

*Young Sergeant "Freddie" Phillips, as he was affectionately
known to his family, was one of five children, Headley 86 (A)
Betty 80 (A), Leslie 77,(living in the Almshouses, East Meon)
and Joan 73 (living in Botley), was widely recognised by many
in the village as an accomplished footballer, and was due to
have married a W.A.A.F who was on duty in the aerodrome's
control tower when the fatal crash occurred.*

Cemetery : East Meon(All Saints) Church Row 14- Grave 401

East Meon & Langrish

Roll of Honour

William James Allen

(the eldest son of William and Mary Ann Allen)

Born : 10th February 1900 Place of Birth : East Meon

Date of Death : 11/12 th October 1940- Age 40

Service Record: Stoker 1st Class, Service Number P/KX61172.

An instructor on HMS Chasseur 07, one of two submarine chasers on patrol off the Dorset coast on the night of 11 th/12th October 1940, William died after his ship was attacked and sunk by a force of German E-boats . His body was later recovered off Portland Bill .

William, the eldest son among seven children, enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16, having convinced the Naval authorities that he was 18, in the belief that his widowed mother would receive a weekly income. A fun-loving , generous family man, uncle of Mary Crockford, who fondly remembers being spoilt by his endless generosity. A veteran with 25 years service, and a life-long batchelor , William rejoined the Navy at the outbreak of war but tragically his luck ran out the following year.

He was the first serviceman from East Meon to lose his life in the Second World War.

East Meon & Langrish Roll of Honour

Ernest Edward Blackman

(son of Albert and Sarah Blackman, nee Dodds of East Meon.)

*Born : 11th February 1910. Place of Birth : Springholes,
East Meon.*

Date of Death : 4th October 1944- Age 34.

(Killed in action at Arnhem in 1944 . Service Number 5493059)

*Service Record : Lance Corporal, 8th Battalion, Durham Light
Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps.*

Cemetery : Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery Grave Ref: 12.B.4

*Granted three days leave to marry Alfreda Noragle, Ernest
tragically died within two weeks of returning to his unit in
Belgium. Ernest died in the same action that cost the life of his
friend, Charles Bishop- the two comrades had survived
unharmd for four years.*

" It is not life that matters, tis the courage you bring to it".

East Meon & Langrish Roll of Honour

Charles Victor Norman Blackman

*(son of Albert and Sarah Blackman, of East Meon, Hampshire,
and husband of Lucy Blackman, nee Dodds of East Meon.)*

*Born : 8th January 1907. Place of Birth: Springholes,
East Meon.*

Date of Death : 13th April 1942 - Age 35

*Service Record : Corporal, Duke of Cornwall's Light
Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps, Service number 7903460.
Accidentally killed in a training exercise on Salisbury Plain.*

Cemetery : East Meon (All Saints) Churchyard

*One of five brothers in all, the eldest fought in the First
World War, Charles, Ernest and Leonard the only survivor
who ended up as a Lieutenant, were soldiers in the
Second World War; their youngest brother was in the
Home Guard. Rarely has any family given so much to their
country in its hour of need.*

East Meon & Langrish Roll of Honour

Alfred Frederick Mullard

(son of George, Henry Mullard and Lottie Mullard
East Meon)

Born : 16th July 1915. Place of Birth : East Meon

Date of Death : 2nd March 1943. Age 28.

Service Record : Alfred , a private in the 5th Battallion, Hampshire Regiment was one of two thousand troops that took part in Operation Lightfoot, the prelude to the Second Battle for El-Alamein. The landings took place during Oct.23 rd-Nov 3 1942 and by November 6 th Rommel's forces were in full retreat. Alfred's mortar platoon was hit by an enemy shell and many were killed. This action was witnessed by Reg Files, also of East Meon , a former school mate. Service Number 5505839.

Alfred was one of five children born to George and Lottie, of whom four , George, Arthur, Wilf, Alfred were brothers, and Winifred Boyce-Clare (nee Mullard) was their sister, though Alfred was her favourite.


Cemetery : Beja War Cemetery Ref: 1.A.6

Sources:

- East Meon & Langrish Roll Of Honour
- National Record Archive Kew.
- U-Boat net.
- <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/> (Aerial Archive)
- <http://www.wrecksite.eu/>
- Regimental/unit museums.
- Branch museums (e.g. light infantry museum).

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
<http://www.cwgc.org>

		CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission		
Casualty Details		
Name:	BLACKMAN, ERNEST EDWARD	
Initials:	E E	
Nationality:	United Kingdom	
Rank:	Lance Corporal	
Regiment/Service:	Durham Light Infantry	
Unit Text:	8th Bn.	
Age:	34	
Date of Death:	04/10/1944	
Service No:	5493059	
Additional information:	Son of Albert and Sarah Blackman, of East Meon, Hampshire; husband of Alfreda Helena May Blackman, of East Meon. His brother Charles Victor Norman also died on service.	
Casualty Type:	Commonwealth War Dead	
Grave/Memorial Reference:	12. B. 4.	
Cemetery:	ARNHEM OOSTERBEEK WAR CEMETERY	
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