Broughton's Second World War Memorials

HONOURING THE LIVES BEHIND THE NAMES: STORIES OF SACRIFICE FROM BROUGHTON AND FERNYHALGH PAT HASTINGS

This document preserves the memory of those from the Broughton and Fernyhalgh communities who gave their lives during the Second World War. Drawing from historical records, local archives, and family histories, it tells the individual stories behind the names etched into local memorials—giving voice to those who served across the world in the air, on land, and at sea. Through these short biographies, we reflect not only on their courage and sacrifice but also on the enduring impact their lives had on the families and communities they left behind.

BROUGHTON'S SECOND WORLD WAR MEMORIALS

(WW1 details are on the parish council website)

1) Garstang Road



In 1947 a committee was set up for a memorial to those who had died in the 1939-1945 war. The memorial was paid for by a subscription that was managed by the committee. In December 1947, an advert for this appeal was placed in the Lancashire Evening Post with the secretary of the appeal being Roger Houghton living in "the cottage".

Names for the memorial were invited as were ideas for the memorial as it was not then assumed that it would be added to the existing WW1 memorial.

The committee was then offered the area on the east side of the road opposite the WW1 memorial by the Dickson family to offer a way of "contemplating" the memorial across from the WW1 War memorial.





The idea of a bench of contemplation was suggested by the "women's fundraising group" and the Dickson's offered to plant behind the bench area with a coppice of trees.

On the west side, it was agreed that the WW1 memorial would enhance by an area of paving, railings & behind it a sandstone altar with on either side of this panels for the names of those who had died in the WW2. After much debate it was agreed that an inscription would be added to the sandstone altar:

TRANQUIL YOU LIE YOUR KNIGHTLY VIRTUE PROVED YOUR MEMORY HALLOWED IN THE LAND YOU LOVE 1914-1918.

(This is taken from "O Valiant Hearts" a hymn remembering the fallen of the 1st World War, with words from a poem by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright (1872-1954))

In 1948 in time for the armistice service in November the memorial was completed and dedicated with twenty-five names one of which was a woman. Here are brief biographies of those names:

Corporal Denis Anthony Bentley was born on the 19th April 1923 in Preston and he died 16th March 1945 at the RN Auxiliary Hospital, Colombo, Ceylon of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, age 21. He is buried in the at Liveramentu, Colombo, Ceylon (plot two row B) and on the memorial tablets.

Denis served in the Royal Marines reg. number CH/X 107221, his last posting was on HMS Lanka. He was the only child of Thomas & Elizabeth Mary Bentley who were married in 1922. In 1921 Thomas was a school master at St Augustine's R/C boy's school in Preston but sadly died in 1925. He had been in WW1 in the RAF (278016). His widowed mother (nee Dawson) is mentioned in Denis's probate record. His mother lived at 35 South Drive, Broughton at the time of his death.

Sargeant Ronald John Buckley was born on the 7th September 1920 in Salford and he died in the North Sea on 13th August 1940. He is remembered on panel 12 Eaglefield Green, Runnymede.

He was based at Scampton, Lincolnshire, was in the 83rd squadron Bomber Control and was a Wireless Operator/Gunner. Service number 987980

He died when his plane was hit by flac during a raid on the Dortmund-Ems canal, the plane is presumed to have crashed in the North Sea on its return journey.

Ronald was the son of John & Laura Buckley (nee Butterfield) of 12 Broadway, Broughton. His father was a travelling salesman in food products. In the 1939 register he is listed as a Clerk at Leyland paints.

Aircraftman 2nd **Class Thomas Leonard Cain** Born 1920 and died 3rd August 1940. He died aged twenty and is buried in All Saints Graveyard, Yatesbury, Wiltshire.

He enlisted in the RAF(VR) in 1939 and his service number was 970745. The 1939 register states he was an unemployed shoe salesman who had enlisted in the RAF reserve and was awaiting to be called up. His parents were Thomas William Keig and Edith Annie (nee Cowley) Cain who had married in 1919 at Braddon on the Isle of Man where his mother came from. In 1939 his father was employed by the Post office Telephone service. They lived at 14 Windsor Drive in 1904.

Radio Officer Bryan Inglis Cannell was born on the 2^{nd of} April 1920 in Ratcliffe, Lancashire and died at sea aged twenty-two on the 14^{th of} August 1942. He is remembered on panel nine of the Towerhill Memorial.

In 1939 he is described as a being at "wireless school". He was a Radio Officer 1st class in the Merchant Navy on board the SS Arabiston (London) and received the King Commendation for bravery. Service Number 161272. His parents were Walter Reah and Jane Sussanah Cannell (his father was born in Yorkshire & his mother in Lowestoft). They lived at Horsell, Garstang Road, Broughton. His father was the manager of Barclays bank in Preston. By the time of Bryan's probate they had moved the Chelsea, London. Jane died in 1946, Walter remarried twice and died in New Zealand in 1956 where his other son Walter had moved to in 1952.

Sargeant Arthur Carr was born in the second quarter of 1915 at Beesley Farm, Haighton and died on the 23^{rd of} September 1942 in Egypt aged twenty-seven; he is remembered at the Alexndra Hara Cemetery. WMG3K9 his memorial says, "loved and remembered by all in Grimsagh".

Arthur was in the RAF service number 531901 based in Aboukir, Egypt. His parents were Arthur & Elizabeth Carr (nee Morris) of Beesleys Farm, Haighton, In the 1921 census Arthur senior was described as a farmer with five children.

Flight Sargeant Clifford Carr was born on the 28^{th of} October 1912 in Newcastle upon Tyne and was lost at sea in the north Atlantic on the 7^{th of} December 1942 aged thirty. He is remembered on panel seventy-three at the RAF memorial at Runnymede.

Clifford was a member of the 102 squadron RAF volunteer reserve. He was based at the airbase in Pocklington, Yorkshire, service number 1378971. His parents were Norman and Sarah Carr of Haighton. He married Annie Dougall in 1912, they had no children. The 1939 census has his occupation as a Corporation Clerk in the Health department.

Sargeant John Edward Chadwick was born in 1922 at Woodside Park, in Barnet, Greater London, he was the son of Samuel Edwin Chadwick (b.1894 in Preston) and Ethel Burdett. John was buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Germany is andalso commemorated in the archive of the Woodside Park Residents' Association.

John was a sergeant pilot in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, 7th Squadron, with the service number 1109519. He was killed in action on the 8^{th of} November 1941, aged just nineteen. He lost his life when his plane, a Stirling N3677, crashed at Alsum-Duisberg, a major target for Allied strategic bombing campaigns. His aircraft departed RAF Oakington (Bomber Command) in Cambridge at 17.31 hours on an operation to Berlin and was shot down by a German night-fighter before crashing and killing the entire crew of seven. In the 1911 Census John's grandfather, Edwin Chadwick and his family were living at 49 Black Bull Lane (here is the Broughton connection). By 1921 John's father, Samuel, aged twenty-seven, a pharmacist/chemist, was living in Tynemouth and working for a company there. In 1939 John Edwin, an only child, was a pupil at a school in Crosby, where the family was living at the time. By the time of John Edwin's death two years' later in 1941, the family had moved to their Middlesex home. (thanks to Brendan Hurley)

Sargeant Pilot Geoffrey Thomas Chapman was born in Rochdale on the 3rd of January 1917 and died aged twenty-five on a dive-bombing exercise over the western top of the Isle of Wight on the 28^{th of} July 1942. He is remembered on the RAF memorial at Runnymede and Fleetwood cemetery.

Geoffrey was a pilot officer based in Gosport with the 2nd Anti-aircraft co-op unit under coastal command. Service number 129144. He was flying a Gladiator 2 and collided with another Gladiator L8030. His parents were John (accountant) & Emily Chapman of 12a Laidlow Walk, Fleetwood. In 1939 he was living in Fleetwood with his widowed father and sister and working

with his father as an articled clerk/accountant. He married Marjory (nee Hayes) in the 3rd qtr. 1941 the year before he died, she lived in Fulwood, Preston and with his father arranged for his gravestone in Fleetwood Cemetery.

Gunner Thomas Crossfield Derham was born in Preston on the 18^{th of} April 1910 and dies at Cassino Italy on the 3^{rd of} December 1943 aged thirty-three. H is buried in the Cassino War Cemetery X1XE15 in Italy

Thomas was a gunner in the Royal Artillery 64th Field Regiment. He was identified from his artillery badge on his cap found in a grave, along with his RA flashes and a signet ring engraved T C D. He was the son of Dr Thomas Hanson Crossfield and Edith Hannah Derham (nee Richards). Edith was the daughter of a gun maker from Birmingham. His twin brother was William Hanson Denham was also a doctor. In 1921 he was a boarding school with his twin brother at Holmwood School in Liverpool. On the 1939 register his father is noted a being attached to the Duke of Lancaster yeomanry and was living at Holmwood, Beech Drive, Broughton. On the 1939 register his occupation is given as bank clerk. In July 1941 he married Margaret Irene Smith in Battersea, and they lived in Clapham Common, London.

Captain Anthony Chambre Dickson was born in Lytham on the 10^{th of} August 1916 and died aged twenty-five on the 5^{th of} December 1941 near Gurun, Malaysia. He is buried on Taiping Cemetery, Llcos, Sur Province, Phillipines plot three row A grave ten. He is further remembered in the graveyard of St John Baptist, Broughton.

Anthony was a in the 88th regiment of the Royal Artillery service number 71053. He was the son of Alfred Eric and Katleen Dickson (nee Yates). Alfred was a chartered surveyor. In 1939 he was living with his parents at Broughton Park and was a 2nd Lt. in the 88th RA regiment. In the 3rd qtr. of 1941, he married Olga May Worthington; Olga went on to remarry Major Robert Patch in 1950.

Aircraft-man Joseph Ignatius Holden was born in 1921 in Fulwood and died on or around the 22^{nd of} June 1943 at Kalidjati, Indonesia aged twenty-one. He is buried at Ambon War cemetery (also known as the Australian Cemetery) on the coast of Ceram in Molucca Island. Joseph was in the 84th squadron, service number 1063408. On the 3^{rd of} March 1942 he was taken prisoner when Java fell and died in a POW camp on Horuku Island. Joseph was the son of Richard and Mary Florence Holden who lived at Woodplumpton Lodge. In 1939 he was living at Newsham Hall Farm with his widowed grandmother Margaret Holden and his (cousin) Evan Holden. Evan was a dairy and poultry farmer, and he was working as a stock man.

Junior Commander Eleanor Leigh was born on the 12^{th of} December 1911 in Lytham and died aged thirty-one at Grey Gables, in Barton on the 1^{st of} June 1943. She is buried at St Cuthberts church, Lytham Row 16 grave 1.

She was in the ATS a Clerk in the NAFFI at the Infantry Training Centre of the East Lancashire regiment in Lytham St Annes, service number 192538.. Eleanor was the daughter of William Adam and Eleanor Annie Margaret Leigh (nee Myers) of Lytham. She is mentioned in the London Gazette on two occasions as being granted "comms as a 3rd Sub" in January 1943 and in July 1941 as "returned". In 1921 she was living with her parents William who was an architect and her twin sister Margaret (being home educated) and siblings in Lytham. She had "signed" on the 27^{th of} January 1939 and was doing "unpaid domestic duties" at the NAFFI in Lytham. Her twin sister and brother emigrated to Canada in the 1950, they did not marry, and their gravestone is in North Saanich, Columbia.

Ordinary Signalman Terence Anthony Lendrum was born on the 11^{th of} March 1941 in Porthcawl, Wales and died aged twenty-one in a naval action of County Mayo, Eire on or about the 19^{th of} November 1940. He is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial 37.1. He is also remembered on his parent gravestone in St Annes graveyard in Woodplumpton.

He was in the royal navy on board the MV Apapa service number c/JX 185141, when it was sunk. On the 11th of March 1941 he is recorded in the London Gazette as being mentioned posthumously in despatches "for courage and devotion to duty whilst on convoy duty". Terence was the son of William Bailey an Agnes Gillibrand Lendrum of Broughton, Preston. His parents were from county Cork; his elder brother was born in Belfast. In 1921 his parents were living in Newby Notage, Glamorganshire where his after was an auditor in the Ministry of Pensions. By 1939 they had moved to Adastria, Lightfoot Lane, Broughton and his father is now a Commercial Traveller and Terence is working as an insurance clerk.

Private James Mason was born on the 14^{th of} July 1919 in Salmesbury and was killed in action aged twenty-five between the 16th to 19th July 1944 at Escoville, France. He is remembered at the Ranville British Cemetery in France 111.E.21 his body was reinterred there in 1946 (124715).

He was in the first battalion of the Royal Norfolk regiment service number 1567875. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Mason of Church Farm, Garstang Road, Broughton, where his father was a diary farmer. His father in 1921 was employed by James Mason and they lived at Nobs Head Farm, Salmesbury. In 1939 James and his siblings were all employed by their father, he was a cowman, his sister as a dairymaid and his brother as a milkman. (This was the farm in WW1 that Pte James Tower VC lived at and is now under the bypass)

James is also on the Fernyhalgh War Memorial

Craftsman Samuel Myerscough was born on the 30^{th of} April 1919 in Broughton and died aged twenty-four at the Thailand POW camp of "indigestion (dysentery) on the 20^{th of} November 1943. He is remembered at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand (Siam).

He worked in the 18th Divisional Ordnance Workshops, Singapore. His regiment was the Royal and Mechanical Engineers service number 7623503. He was taken prisoner in Singapore on the 15^{th of} February 1942. Samuel was the son of John and Alice (?) Myerscough both of whom had died before he was taken prisoner. His next of kin was his uncle John Myercough who lived at West Leigh, Sandygate Lane, Broughton. In 1921 and up to their deaths his parents lived at 3 Virgins Row, Whittingham Lane, Broughton with his three siblings. His father and uncle were a blacksmith. In 1921 his father worked for the electric car company based on Strand Road in Preston. In 1939 Samuel worked as a refrigerator engineer. His father was a voluntary first aider at the Broughton Institute (now Broughton club)

Sargeant Charles Naylor was born in the 3rd qtr. Of 1920 in West Derby, Liverpool and was presumed on the 19^{th of} June 1940 aged twenty. He is remembered at the RAF memorial at Runnymede Panel 17.

Charles was in the 9th sq. Of the RAF (VR) based at Honnington in Sussex. He was an airgunner and the Wellington Vickers Bomber (N2897/WS-P) he was part of the crew of was lost at North Sea during a raid on Leverbusen and Barge. He was the son of Charles and Mildred Naylor (nee Innes) of Fulwood, Preston. In 1921 they were living in 39 Hut, 3rd Avenue, Queens Drive, Liverpool, these "huts" were temporary housing after the slums were cleared before the new estates were built. His father was working as a clerk in the Joseph Paul flour mills. By 1939 the family had moved to twenty-six, Brookside Road, Fulwood and Charles snr. working as a commercial traveller and Charles jnr had already signed up and in the RAF training.

Private Norman Parkinson was born on the 24^{th of} May 1917 in Ashton, Preston and died aged twenty-five in the Keijo Main Camp, Chosen, Japan POW camp on or about the 2^{nd of} October 1942. He is remembered in Yokohama War cemetery brit. Section FD9.

He was in the second battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment service number 3859455. He was captured on the 17^{th of} February XX and is listed on the POW camp list on the 22nd of January 1944 as being deceased dying of dysentery. Norman was the son of Harold & Eveline Parkinson (nee Walker) of Halewood, Garstang Road, Broughton. He was baptised at Aston methodist church on the 11th of July 1917. At the time of the 1921 census his parents lived at 10 Mersey Street Ashton and his father was a commercial traveller in small wares and toys this was his own business. By 1939 his parents have moved to Broughton and his father is employing him in the family business as a Travelling salesman.

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Robertson was born on the 5h February 1906 in Kirkwall, Orkney and died aged thirty-eight near Bayeaux, France on the 6th of August 1944 during the Normandy Landings and is buried in the Bayeux War Cemetery 111.b.20.

He was a Lt Col. In the seventh battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, the Duke of Albany's Infantry (Rosshire Buffs) Donald was the son of Duncan John and Margaret Kier Robertson. In 1921 he was a student at Denstone College in Staffordshire. He was married to Joan L R Toulmin. In 1939 he was the assistant manager of the Lancashire Evening Post and other regional newspapers and lived at Brooklands, Durton Lane, Broughton with his father and mother-in-law George and IsabellaToulmin. George Toulmin family was the grandson of founder of the Lancashire Daily Post and several other newspapers.

Flight Officer George Nevil(I) Sutton was born on the 14th April 1919 in Toxteth, Liverpool and died aged twenty-four on the 3rd May 1944 in the North Sea on the 3rd May 1944. He is remembered at the RAF memorial at Runnymede, panel 129

George was in the RAF (VR) 549 sq. service number 123815.He was based at Leuchars, Fife with the coastal command. He was lost without trace during a photo recon sortie to Warsaw, Poland. He was the Navigator on a Mosquito. The sortie was reported in the London Gazette on the 2^{nd of} October 1944. He was baptised at St Clements church in Toxteth in 1919. He was the son of George Newton and Elizabeth Sutton (nee Baguley). In 1921 his family were visiting his wife's parents in Shrewsbury. His father's occupation is given as a contract manager for the post office telephone service. In 1939 they are living in Bloomfield Road, Liverpool and his father is a sales superintendent for the post office telephone service and George is working as a Shipping Clerk. His parents are retired and have moved to 18 Parklands Drive, Fulwood in 1940 and are living there when his death is notified.

Lance Bombardier George Telford Stevenson was born on the 6^{th of} December 1919 in Wigan and died on the 16^{th of} October 1945 aged twenty-four in a POW camp in Thailand and is remembered at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Amphoe, Thailand 9 B 4.

He was taken prisoner in Singapore on the 17^{th of} February 1942 when it fell into Japanese hands. He was a wireless operator in the 88th Field regiment of the Royal Artillery, service number 910785. George was the son of Percy Telford and Amanda (Nee McAvoy) Stephenson of Fairhaven, Garstang Road Broughton. He was the husband of Margaret Mary (nee Maddock) Stephenson of Fulwood who he married in the 3rd qtr. of 1941. In 1921 his father was working as a cashier for Horrocks Crewdson and lived at 46 Stanley Street, Preston. By 1939 his father is described as a textile company director & secretary. George's future wife was working as a

shorthand typist and living at the Haven on Cadley Causeway. George was training to be a wireless operator in Lytham.

Private William Wallbank was born on the 3^{rd of} April 1920 in Woodplumpton and died between the eighth - 10th July 1944 near Cassino, Italy. He is remembered at the Cassino, Provincia di Frosinone, Lazio, Italy memorial panel seven. He is also mentioned on his parents' gravestone in St John Baptist church graveyard Broughton.

He was a member of the first (airborne) battalion of the Border Regiment service number 3603757 and was reported missing presumed Killed in Action. He was the son of William and Ellen (nee Kerfoot) Wallbank of Billingtons Farm, Whittingham Lane, Barton, Preston. In 1921 he was living with his parents and grandparents on Bell Fold farm, Newsham Hall Lane, Woodplumpton, his father was working for Mrs Kitchen. In 1939 he is lying with his parents at Fern bank, Newsham hall Lane, Woodplumpton and is working as a driver for a cattle food merchant, his father is describer as a dairy farmer.

Warrant Officer John Walmsley was born in 1911 in and died aged thirty-three on 13th June 1944 in the English Channel. He is remembered at Runnymede Panel 215.

John was in the RAF (VR) based at Predannack, Cornwall in the 179th squadron coastal command, service number 1127932. He was piloting Wellington XIV, and the plane was lost without trace over the English Channel.

He was the husband of Kathleen of 22 Yewlands Avenue, Fulwood, Preston. There are no further records available.

Leading Stoker Henry Wrennall was born on the 1st of August 1915 and died aged twenty-four on the 15^{th of} October 1940 was lost at sea in the Mediterranean Sea. He is remembered on the Chatham war memorial panel 38.1.

Henry was a leading Stoker in the Royal Navy initially on HMS submarine Rainbow, based at Chatham Naval Yard, service number C/KX 83894. The Rainbow was on patrol off Calabria I in the Ionian Sea and was lost in a gun action with the Italian submarine Enrico Toti. He was the son of Joseph and Isabell (Wilson) Wrennall, Joseph was a butcher on New Hall Lane and in 1939 his other son worked with him. Henry before the war was a stoker third class for the P&O line working on the Rajputana in the south China sea, in 1938 he was in Yokohama. Probate was granted in 1941 to his mother. (He may have married Mary A Whittle in 1937).

Bombardier John Nelson Wilkinson was born in Lea on the 15^{th of} July 1919 and died aged twenty-six on the in a POW camp in Prechub, Thailand on or about the 18^{th of} July 1945. He is remembered in the Kanchanaburi War cemetery in Thailand 6. D76.He remains were moved they're in August 1945, he died of beri beri (thiamine Deficiency).

John was in the Royal Artillery 88th Field Regimen based in Singapore and was captured when Singapore fell in February 1942, service number 870012. John was the son of George Nelson & (Mary) Alice (nee Woods) Wilkinson and married to Elizabeth Christine Wilkinson (nee Carter) in April 1940. In 1921 he lived with his parents at 14 Kester Lane, Longridge and his father ran a mineral water manufacturer on South Meadow Street, Preston.

2) Fernyhalgh War memorial, Fernyhalgh Lane, Broughton



This memorial is on a quiet lane near the boundary with Haighton Parish. The lane leads down to the shrine at Ladyewell, and the memorial is on the lane edge backing onto the graveyard of the old Roman Catholic Church.

Anecdotal evidence is that the memorial stone base with tilled areas including a cross was originally the site of a statue of the Virgin Mary that had been damaged and removed in 1910.

This memorial is described as a tiled pavement on two stones with a simple "Wayside Latin Cross" in granite inscribed:

"In the name of God of Victories pray for the repose of the souls of the five Fernyhalgh soldiers who gave their lives for King and country during the Great War.

2nd World War Memorial

The "granite plinth" beneath the boulder has a further inscription which was commissioned in 1948 and paid for by the Parochial Church Council; this remembered those loss of the second world war on the left side of the boulder.

The memorial lists the three names as:

Pilot Officer (Peter) Kevin Heller was born in the 2nd qtr. of 1924 in Preston and his plane was lost and he was presumed dead aged twenty over Germany on the April 10th, 1944. He is remembered at the Runnymede manorial panel 211.

Kevin was a pilot officer in the RAF (VR) the 122^{nd} sq. of the tactical air group based at Gravesend, Kent service number 133364. His plane a Mustang 11 was shot down by Naval dissension NW of Texel during a raid near Hamburg. Although he baled out his body was not recovered. He was the son of Ferdinand and Helen May Philomena Heller (nee Kilroe) of

Fulwood Lodge, Fernyhalgh. The 1939 register show his father was a sausage casing manufacturer.

Corporal Denis Anthony Bentley was born on the 19^{th of} April 1923 in Preston and died aged twenty-one lost at sea around the March 16th, 1945, off Sri Lanka (Ceylon) He is remembered in Liveramentu, Colombo, Shi Lanka plot 2B 11.

He was in the Royal Marines aboard HMS Lauka, service number CH/X/107221 when he died. Denis was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Mary Bentley-Singleton (nee Dawson) of Churchill Cottage, Durton Lane. Thomas died aged 26 in 1925, and Elizabeth remarried Richard Singleton in 1931, however by 1939 Elizabeth had been widowed again.

Private James Mason see Broughton War Memorial

Sources

Ancestry
Commonwealth War Graves commission
Lancashire Parish Clerks online
British Newspaper Archives
National Archives
RAF records of WW2 losses