

**Royal Engineers
Bomb Disposal
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Roll of Honour
Volume 4 T to Z 1940 to VJ Day
VJ Day to the Present.**



Wells - on - Sea, Norfolk.

Compiled by Peter Markham

Content

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Foreword

The logic of a bomb disposal officer is a methodical, analytical approach to problem-solving under extreme pressure, often compared to an “extreme game of chess” against the bomb maker. It involves careful information gathering, meticulous assessment and risk management to prioritize safety and to defeat the device! Post war to more recent times has seen much change as to how that “game of chess” is played. The adversary of the bomb disposal officer has continuously moved the goalposts and rewritten the rule book.

The work by Peter Markham and his fellow researchers have been a culmination of 20 years of hard graft to get to this point. In the early days access to information was limited, slow but steady, and utilising the information that was available at the time.

Thanks to the development of the world of information now available, Peter and his team has been able to expand on what they found, to reach further, dig much deeper and allow us as readers to reflect on those who have been lost. Past information may have given us lists of names whereas now we have much more! Drawing together all that information into one central bank of knowledge.

This “Roll of Honour” is a fitting tribute to those lost and gives us as readers the opportunity to remember them as individual men and women who sacrificed everything they had to give in the pursuit of their role as Bomb Disposal Operatives.

Thank you, to Peter and to your fellow team members for taking on this mammoth task and for sharing with us everything you have found.

To those who made the ultimate sacrifice - thank you and God Bless.

Major (Retired) Phil Webb RE TD Chair 101 EOD & S Regimental Association

Introduction

*“They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the
Sun and in the morning.
We will remember them”.*

Robert Laurence Binyon.

This document the fourth of four to pay tribute to those who have passed whilst serving in the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units from 1940 to the Present Day. Sadly in time we will in all probability find others to add.

The entries will include those who died on active duty, those who passed away through accidents, natural causes and sadly took their own lives.

This really is best described as a joint venture, between the Royal Engineers Association (REA BD Branch) and the RE Bomb Disposal EOD History Group (History Group), the links to both which can be found in the Sources References page.

It started in 2006 with a project by the REA BD Branch and over nine years through various sources and people’s assistance, the Roll was put together, photos of graves/memorials taken and what details that could be referenced, as to incidents put together. This was put onto the REA BDB website.

Since then through the History Group the information has been greatly increased, as more sources have become available and Casualty Cards/Service Cards have been located. Not a small task around 24,000 cards have been read to identify those serving from 1940 to 1949. Many other sources have been looked at to find details after 1949.

Its primary aim is to move the Roll of Honour from just a list of names, to a resource where families/researchers and others with an interest, can use.

These are live documents which will grow with more information through the years
Pete Markham.

*“When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us and Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.”*

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH.

TALBOT GC MBE, Ellis, Edward Arthur, (100411) Lieutenant, Bomb Disposal Royal Engineers.

Had served with the Bomb Disposal Section on Malta. General Dobbie, Governor of Malta , was concerned that Lt Talbot was at a great risk of killing himself and knew he was keen to fly, so he was stood down and attached as a liaison officer, in the summer of 1941 as a rest. He was a passenger on a Blenheim on a shipping sweeping, of Capo Alessio, Sicily, when it crashed, with another Blenheim, their bodies were all recovered.

Very fitting his gravestone has the RAF and the Royal Engineers badges on it.



Died on the 9 October 1941, age 21.

Son of Arthur Henry and Evaline Nary Talbot of Newport, Shropshire.

Buried at Catania War Cemetery, Italy. Collective Grave I H 19.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2819964/ellis-edward-arthur-talbot/>

Photo Credit Jimbo6526.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39310257/ellis-edward_arthur_chetwynd-talbot

TATE, Desmond, (2128618) Sapper, 16 Bomb Disposal Section, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 1 June 1914 in Everton. Enlisted on the 30 October 1940 in Liverpool. Next of Kin Father, Mr William Tate, 11 Trouville Road, Anfield, Liverpool. 4. NOK notified 4 May 1942.

Served with 16 Bomb Disposal Company, 30 October 1940.

Died through an accident at a lecture and demonstration of mines.



Died on the 30 April 1942, age 27.

Buried at West Derby Cemetery, Liverpool. Section B C of E Grave 134.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2412526/desmond-tate/>

Photo Credit PJR.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32676693/desmond-tate>

TAYLOR, Cecil Ronald, (1991097) Sapper, 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1919 in Warwickshire. Enlisted on the 26 June 1940. Next of Kin Father, Thomas Taylor, 8 Police House, Springfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. NOK notified on the 9 October 1940.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, 18 July 1940; 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 10 September 1940.

Deceased were instructed to excavate a bomb at a site known as Navarino Mansions, Dalston Lane, Hackney, after the agreed safety period had expired. For some unknown reason the bomb exploded spontaneously and all members of the working part were killed. This was 50 feet from London to Midlands Service, Railway, no survivors.

Lance Corporal Nowell, Wandsworth, Sappers E S Mason, T Stock, J L Stubbings, Driver Horne also died at this incident.



Died on the 23 September 1940, age 21.
Son of Thomas and Florence C Taylor of Sutton Coldfield.

Buried at Sutton Coldfield New Cemetery, Warwickshire. Grave 1.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2714336/ernest-frederick-george-taylor/>

Photo Credit Hockley Lass.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/205656022/cecil-ronald-taylor>

TAYLOR, Ernest Robert Frederick, (1930745) Corporal, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 30 August 1908 in Battersea. Enlisted on the 7 June 1940 in Kingston. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs B M Taylor, 20 Shawford Road, West Ewell, Surrey. NOK notified on the 11 November 1944.

Served with Construction Centre, Chatham, 21 June 1940; 37 Bomb Disposal Section, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 22 September 1941.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Durham Command Area. Inquest Verdict, Accidental death. Commander Durham Sub Districts Opinion, in my opinion neither they or anyone else can be held responsible for the accident which was a hazard of a necessarily dangerous operation. Hart Warren, Hartlepool, County Durham.

Sapper L J Mansell also died at this incident.



Died on the 8 November 1944, age 35.

Son of Frederick Thomas and Ruth Taylor of Wallington: Husband of Beatrice Martha Taylor of West Eweff.

Buried at Bandon Hill Cemetery, Wallington, Surrey. Section Q Grave 181.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2433808/ernest-robert-frederick-taylor/>

Photo Credit IainMN.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124034571/ernest-robert_frederick-taylor

TAYLOR, Gordon, (2126436) Lance Corporal, 17 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 13 June 1914 in Middlesborough. Enlisted on the 21 October 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Annie Moore, 47 Chestnut Road, Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorkshire. NOK notified on the 6 June 1942.

Served with 17 Bomb Disposal Company, 21 October 1940.

Death by misadventure, drowned at Wouldham, Kent. Body recovered on the 8 June 1942. Court of Inquiry apparently got into difficulty and was drowned. No blame can be attached to anyone other than the deceased.



Died on the 4 June 1942, age 28.

Buried at Thornby-on-Tees Cemetery, Yorkshire. Plot L Row E Grave 29.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2714336/ernest-frederick-george-taylor/>

Photo Credit Iain MacFarlane.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/123050383/gordon-taylor>

TAYLOR, Henry, (1886998) Sapper, 21 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 24 July 1913 in Bermondsey. Enlisted on the 20 May 1940. Next of Kin Father, C W Taylor, 8 Cadbury Road, Bermondsey. S E 16. NOK notified on the 14 March 1941.

Served with 5 Stevedore (Holding) Battalion, 1 September 1940; 724 General Construction Company, 7 November 1940; 21 Bomb Disposal Company, 22 January 1941.

Brought in dead to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital after a delayed action bomb detonated at King Edwards Street, London near to Saint Pauls.

Sapper O Garner also died at this incident and an Officer and a SNCO wounded.



Died on the 10 March 1941, age
Son of Charles Walter and Mary Ann Taylor of Bermondsey.

Buried and Commemorated at All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, London. Collective Grave 40465, Screen Wall Panel 17 Square 5.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2429527/henry-taylor/>

Photo Credit Steph Johnson.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24666011/henry-h-taylor>

TAYLOR Robert, (2126701) Lance Corporal, 16 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 October 2010 in Bury, Lancs. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs Taylor, 133 Henthorn Road, Clitheroe, Lancs. NOK notified on 9 May 1941.

No Civil Inquest, owing to the nature of the Incident, recorded death was due to an Unexploded Bomb detonating, whilst being excavated in Denbigh, Wales.

Sergeant F Batch, Sappers J W Hainey, I Owen and Driver R E Holt.



Died on the 7 May 1941, age 30.

Son o Robert and Margaret Taylor: Husband of Eva Taylor of Clitheroe.

Buried at Clitheroe Cemetery, Lancashire. Grave 1216.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2698404/robert-taylor/>

Photo Credit Bob.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/taylor-r/>

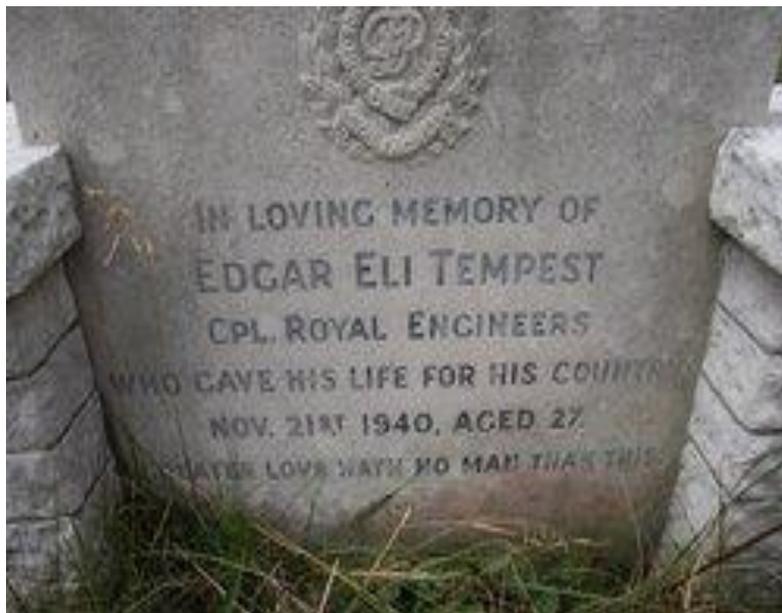
TEMPEST, Edgar Eli, (1867300) Lance Corporal 135 Excavating Company, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 12 September 1913 in New Jersey. Enlisted on the 1 May 1928 aged 14. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs Mollie Tempest, 24 Nursery Lane, Sunningdale, Berks.

Served with A Company Training Battalion, 13 April 1931; 49 Fortress Company, 15 January 1932; 4 Fortress Company, 24 September 1932; C Company Anti-Aircraft Search Light, AASL Battalion, 21 April 1933; B Company, AASL Battalion, 1 September 1933; A Company, AASL Battalion, 1 October 1934; Malta RE-enforcements, 3 September 1935; C Company, 1 AA Battalion, 13 September 1936; HQW, 5 June 1937; transferred to the Reserves, 11 September 1937; HQ Wing, 1 AA Battalion, 3 September 1939; 2 AA Company, 135 Excavating Company, 15 December 1939; 718 General Construction Company, attached to 135 Mechanical and Electrical Company.

Admitted to 12 Casualty Clearing Station, gunshot wound to the arm and leg, 28 May 1940. Admitted to Broadgreen Emergency Hospital 29 May 1940 evacuated to UK British Expeditionary Force Battle Casualty. Discharged to 2 Training Battalion 24 June 1940.

Died when a UXB detonated under his excavator at Graveney Crossing near Faversham, Kent.



Died on the 21 November 1940, age 28.

Son of Mr and Mrs Herbert K Tempest: Husband of Molly L B Tempest of Sunningdale.

Buried at Holy Trinity Churchyard, Sunningdale, Berkshire. Grave 1366.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2437283/edgar-tempest/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55171659/edgar-eli-tempest>

TEMPLE, Herbert Lawman, (1991621) Corporal, 24 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 15 November 1909 in Leeds. Enlisted on the 22 July 1940 in Leeds. Next of Kin Father, Mr H D Temple, 10 Gledhow Lane, Leeds 7. NOK notified on the 3 February 1945.

Served with 854 Quarrying Company, 29 October 1940; 50 R H U, 14 November 1944; 24 Bomb Disposal Company, 1 January 1941; 854 Bomb Disposal Company, 16 November 1940; 223 Bomb Disposal Section, 31 June 1944; 25 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 September 1944; 225 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 9 October 1944; 224 Field Company, 14 December 1944; embarked for BLA, 31 August 1944; 24 Bomb Disposal Company, 9 January 1945.

Died in action in the Netherlands.

Lance Corporal J Mawdsley, Driver D W Evans also died at this incident.



Died on the 28 January 1945, age 35.

Son of Herbert Dawson and Edith Harriet Temple of Leeds, Yorkshire.

Buried at Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands. Grave 3 H 10.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2766098/herbert-lawman-temple/>

Photo Credit Des Philipett.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18429875/herbert-lawman-temple>

TENNISON, Frederick William Francis, (1890829) Sapper, 168 Bomb Disposal Section, 16 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 8 June 1919 in Barwash, Derby. Enlisted on the 20 October 1939 in East Ham. E16. Next of Kin, Mr W F Tennison, 89 Sitwell Street, Spondon, near Derby. NOK notified on the 30 April 1943.

Served with 545 (West County) Division, 20 October 1939; 562 Field Company, 1 January 1940; 62 Field Company, 11 January 1940; 261 Field Company, 14 January 1940; 6 Bomb Disposal Company, 21 September 1940; 95/96/97 Bomb Disposal Sections, 21 September 1940; 168 Bomb Disposal Section, 16 Bomb Disposal Company 1 January 1941.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Pebbles Beach, Newgate, Pembrokeshire. Commanding Officers Opinion, one inadvertently stepped on a mine.

Sergeant E Cant and Corporal R Pacey also died at this incident.



Died on the 26 April 1943, age 24.
Son of William John and Margaret Ellen Tennison of Spondon.

Buried at Spondon Cemetery, Derbyshire. Section E Grave 189.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2702567/frederick-william-francis-tennison/>

Photo Credit Clanger.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140384124/frederick-william_francis-tennison

TERRY, William Frederick, (2131103) Sapper, 5 Bomb Disposal Section, 8 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 12 July 1910 in Kingston on Thames. Enlisted on the 13 November 1940 in Cambridge. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs Thelma E Terry, 24 Rookery View, Little Thurrock, Gray's, Essex. NOK notified on the 20 January 1944.

Served with B Company, Depot Battalion, 13 November 1940; 677 General Construction Company, 28 January 1941; 3 Line of Communication, Depot Battalion, 30 July 1941; 12 Bomb Disposal Company, 9 December 1941; proceeding overseas 22 November 1942; embarked for North Africa, 23 November 1942; 5 Bomb Disposal Section, 8 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 February 1943.

Died of injuries, traffic accident. Toronto, Italy. 22 General Hospital, Italy.



Died on the 10 June 1944, age 33.

Son of George and Rosina Terry: Husband of Thelma Terry of Surbiton, Surrey.

Buried at Bari War Cemetery, Italy. Grave VI E 19.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2077085/william-frederick-terry/>

Photo Credit BobBoston.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2077085/william-frederick-terry/>

THARME, George Henry William, (1874751) Sapper, 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 28 January 1919 in Bournemouth. Enlisted on the 5 October 1937 in Bournemouth. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs E Tharme, 69 Westhowe Road, Kinson, Bournemouth. NOK notified of his death on the 4 April 1946 buried at Taraso.

Reported Missing 15 February 1942 NOK notified on the 7 September 1941. Reported in Japanese hands camp not stated 20 June 1942, NOK notified 28 July 1943.

Died whilst a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. Diphtheria, Thailand.



Died on the 19 November 1942, age 21.

Son of William Francis and Emily Matilda Tharme, of Kinson, Bournemouth, Hampshire.

Buried at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave 4 E 69.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2195155/george-henry-william-tharme/>

Photo Credit Gulfport Bob.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10836646/george-henry_william-tharme

THOMAS, William Gwyn, (261528) Lieutenant, 14 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died when a SD2 (Butterfly Bomb) was being dealt with a demolition charge was placed on it and fired. They had taken cover 900 yards away, when the charge was initiated the SD2 Flew through the air, hit the driver's helmet, bounced off the Sergeant Landridge shoulder and landed on Lieutenant Thomas feet, he later died of gas gangrene.



Died on the 26 August 1943, age 23
 Son of Thomas and Mabel Annie Thomas of Blackwood, Monmouthshire.

Commemorated at Pontypridd Crematorium, Wales. Panel R H.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2717911/william-gwyn-thomas/>

Photo Credit Remembering our Fallen.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126148252/william-gwyn-thomas>

THOMPSON, David, (1911226) Sergeant, 7 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 February 1903 in Belfast. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs F Thompson, 28 Bridge Street, Rothesay, Bute Scotland. NOK notified on the 23 July 1940.

Served with 661 Construction Company.

Lieutenant L J Ball, Sapper T R Fishwick, D A Palmer Ross, E Thompson, Driver A R Stevens, R Sullivan, also died at this incident.



Died at 1030 on the 27 March 1941, age 38.
Husband of Florence Thompson of Eastney, Portsmouth.

Buried at Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon. Section C Cons Grave 17.

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/thompson-d/>

THOMPSON, Ernest, (1991559) Sapper, 7 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 3 October 1905 in Widnes Lancs. Next of Kin Wife (Separated) address unknown, Guardian, Mrs A Davies, 72 Saint Marys Road, Widnes, Lancs. NOK notified on the 28 March 1941.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, Newark, 13 August 1940; 853 (Bomb Disposal) Quarrying Company, 12 November 1940; 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 15 January 1941.

Lieutenant LJ Ball, Sergeant D Thompson, Sapper T R Fishwick, D A Palmer Ross, Driver A R Stevens, R Sullivan, also died at this incident.



Died on the 27 March 1941, age 34.

Son of James and Elizabeth Thompson of Widnes, Lancashire: Husband of Ellen Jane Thompson.

Buried at Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon. Section C Cons Grave 17890.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2811772/ernest-thompson/>

Photo Credit Cliff Barry.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59987377/ernest-thompson>

THOMPSON, Harold Walter, (2001843) Sapper, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Enlisted on the 15 February 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Mary Thompson, Dennis Bungalow, Bird Lane, Upminster, Essex. NOK notified on the 21 August 1940.

Served with 563 Field Park Company; 501 Field Company, 12 May 1940.

Died when a delayed action bomb detonated, while being excavated, near Alverston, Nantwich, Crewe. Fractured Skull, penetrating wounds left side of chest. Fractured left femur.

Sappers A E Fearon, H Thompson, M Lambert G Lucas, J Perrins died at the incident, Sergeant E Greengrass died 2 days later.



Died on the 17 August 1940, age 20.

Buried at Hornchurch Cemetery, Essex. Section A Grave 1337.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2811772/ernest-thompson/>

Photo Credit scottsheat.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138974669/harold-walter-thompson>

THORLEY, Harry, (1888318) Corporal, 156 Bomb Disposal Platoon, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 19 August 1917 at Congleton. Enlisted on the 9 January 1940 Hanly. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs May Thorley, 23 Fern Crescent, Congelton, Cheshire. NOK notified on the 31 July 1945.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, 15 January 1940; embarked for North Africa, 23 November 1942; 160 Bomb Disposal Platoon, Central Mediterranean Forces, 9 February 1945; 156 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 9 February 1945.

Died of wounds, injured lifting a Schu mine. Italy.



Died on the 24 July 1945, aged 27.
Husband of May Thorley of Congelton, Cheshire.

Buried at Milan War Cemetery. Grave I B 7.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2817049/harry-thorley/>

Photo Credit Graham Plumridge.

THORNE, William Henry, (2073628) Sapper, 67/69 Bomb Disposal Section, 9 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1913 in Cardiff. Enlisted on the 2 May 1939. Next of Kin Wife, Hilda Winifred Thorne, 48 Dogfield Street, Cardiff. NOK notified on the 29 August 1940.

Served with 246 Field Company, 2 May 1939; 561 Field Company, 11 May 1940; 67/68/69 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 July 1940.

Detonation of a delayed action fuze, in Birmingham.

Corporal A Haines, Sapper W Davies, A Knight (Rabinowitz) , W B Wisely, Driver M T Andrews, W H Fergusson also died at this incident.



Died on the 25 August 1940, age 27.

Son of William Henry and Amy Thorne: Husband of Winifred Thorne of Cathys, Cardiff.

Buried at Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales. Section E J Grave 2348.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2716963/william-henry-thorne/>

Photo Credit F T R.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55899835/william-henry-thorne>

THORNTON, Albert Kenneth, (1877435) Sapper, 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 16 June 1942. Enlisted on the 22 June 1939. Next of Kin Father, William Thornton, 52 Wood View Avenue, Tree Lane End, Castleford, Yorks. NOK notified on the 11 March 1942.

Served with 34 Fortress Company; 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company.

Reported Missing 1 February 1942, In Japanese hands Malia Camps NOK notified 1 June 1943, transferred from Malia Camp to Borneo 1 April 1943 NOK notified 29 March 1945.

Died whilst a Prisoner of the Japanese.



Died on the 20 January 1945, age 24.

Commemorated at the Singapore Memorial. Panel 42.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2073218/albert-kenneth-thornton/>

Photo Credit Kevin Howells.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2073218/albert-kenneth-thornton/>

THORP, Michael Braysher, (1906953) Lance Corporal, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 2 August 1919 at Elstree, Herts. Enlisted on the 18 January 1940. Next of Kin Father, Ernest Braysher Thorp, Ghyllwood, Loudwater, Rickmansworth, Herts. NOK notified on the 21 November 1940.

Served with 5 Field Company; 556 Field Company, 18 January 1940; 33 Bomb Disposal Section, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 28 September 1940,

Died at Delwood Gardens , UXB partially uncovered , fuzed with a clockwork fuze, it was checked that the fuze was not ticking and digging continued, then it exploded. Possible cause vibrations from the diggings may have started the clockwork mechanism or another anti disturbance fuze was also fitted.

Sapper D J Hurley also died at this incident.



Died on the 19 November 1941, age 21.
Son of Edgar Braysher and Katherine Francis Thorp of Loudwater, Rickmansworth.

Buried at Christ Church Churchyard, Chorley Wood. South East Corner.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2932645/michael-brayshaw-thorp/>

Photo Credit Spike Martin.
<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/thorp-m-b/>

TOON, John Francis, (1991017) Sapper, 40 Bomb Disposal Platoon, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 28 April 1940 in Birmingham. Enlisted on the 19 June 1940 in Birmingham. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs J E Toon, 1289 Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, Newark, 18 July 1940; 35 Bomb Disposal Section, 10 September 1940; embarkation, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 8 August 1942; 22 Bomb Disposal Company, 8 May 1942; 27 Bomb Disposal Company, 3 February 1943; embarked for North Africa, 16 July 1943; disembark, 30 July 1943; 40 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 15 October 1943.

Died when a suspected booby trapped Tellermine detonated. Cascina, Italy.

Corporal A L Watkins also died at this incident.



Died on the 20 November 1944, age 24.

Son of Joseph Henry and Amelia Gladys Toon of Birmingham: Husband of Joyce Eileen Toon of Stirchley, Birmingham.

Buried at Florence War Cemetery. Grave V II H 18.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2379540/john-francis-toon/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/toon-j-f/>

TOWLER, Albert George, (1885769) Sapper Edward Arthur, 10 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 21 June 1911 in Birmingham. Enlisted on the 5 July 1940. Next of Kin Widow, Mabel Towler, 4 Church Hill, Northfield, Birmingham. NOK notified on the 13 December 1940.

Served with 5 Training Battalion, Chester, 18 July 1940; 78 Bomb Disposal Section, 10 September 1940,

Court of Inquiry held on the 13 December 1940. At Tarporley. Place of death Eaton, Hill, Tarporley. Cause bomb he was working on exploded. Opinion of Office Commanding, that the accident was caused by the removal of the bomb before it had been defused. It also appears that there was insufficient length of rope used.

Sapper S V Jarrett, T H Pedel also died at this incident.



Died on the 12 December 1940, age 29.

Son of Albert John and Rose Towler of Birmingham: Husband of Mabel Towler of Northfield, Birmingham.

Buried at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire. Plot 15 D Grave 230.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2449616/albert-george-towler/>

Photo Credit Dafydd Williams.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130056942/albert-george-towler>

TURNER, Edward Arthur, (14696799) Sapper, 53 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 4 December 1906. Enlisted on the 4 January 1944.

Died from wounds received whilst neutralising a Trebret mine, laid horizontally with a type 42 ignitor and iron bar. Near Longues, France.

Served with 7 Training Battalion, 14 January 1944; A Company, Depot Battalion Draft, 20 May 1944; Draft R J A G R, 31 May 1944; 53 Bomb Disposal Section, 7 June 1944; embark UK, 19 Bomb Disposal Company, 14 July 1944; disembark North West Europe, 14 July 1944.

Lance Sergeant F J Hillyard also died at this incident. Corporal Ansell wounded evacuated to the UK.



Died on the 18 August 1944, age 38.

Son of Percy Albert and Laura Turner: Husband of Rose Louise Turner of Kentish Town.

Buried at Ryes War Cemetery, Bazeville, France. Grave 1 A 3.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2045632/edward-arthur-turner/>

Photo Credit Len.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56439225/edward-arthur-turner>

TWAITS, Phillip Arthur, (1917679) Sergeant, 690 (Bomb Disposal) General Construction, Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 2 June 1912. Enlisted on the 23 January 1940. Next of Kin Widow, Olive Twaits, 60 Mayall Road, Herbe Hill, 5 E 24. NOK notified on the 18 September 1940.

Served with RE Construction Centre, Clacton; 690 Company, 5 February 1940; British Expeditionary Force, 2 March 1940.

Died whilst dealing with a delayed action UXB, that detonated.

Lance Corporal L C Portsmouth also died at this incident.



Died on the 16 September 1940 1940, age 28.

Buried at Allerton Cemetery, Liverpool. Screen Wall Section 2 C of E Collective Grave 86 A.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2411514/philip-arthur-twaits/>

Photo Credit Mike McQuaid.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56400432/philip-arthur-twaits>

TYLER, Sydney Herbert, (3125931) Sergeant, 7 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 July 1905 at Barking London. Enlisted on the 5 November 1923 in Whitehall. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs P G Tyley, 4 Labert Road, Hayling Island, Hants. NOK notified 17 September 1943.

Served with Depot Company, 7 October 1940; 853 Quarrying Company, 7 October 1940; 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 15 January 1941.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Porthtowan, Cornwall.



Died on the 15 September 1943, age 39.

Son of Robert and Gertrude Fanny Tyler: Husband of Phyllis Georgina Tyler of South Hayling.

Buried at Saint Mary Churchyard, South Hayling, Hampshire. Section I Row 11 Grave 527.

Photo Credit Pete Mason.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2350685/sydney-herbert-tyler/>

TYLER, Thomas, (1925491) Sapper, 1 Bomb Disposal ? Royal Engineers.

Born on the 5 September 1919 in Rotherhithe. Enlisted on the 23 April 1940 in Docks Centre, Surrey. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Tyler, 57 West Lane Estate, Rotherhithe, SE 16. NOK notified on the 2 April 1943.

Served with 4 Docks Group, 1008 Workshops Company, 15 April 1940; 5 Stevedore Battalion, 1 September 1940; 1 Docks Group, 18 February 1941; 993 Docks Company, 21 October 1942; embarked for North Africa, 31 October 1942; 4 Battalion, I GB 11, January 1943.

Died whilst undergoing training in North Africa.



Died on the 27 March 1943, age ?

Buried at El Alia Cemetery, Algeria. Grave 12 J 33.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2151696/thomas-tyler/>

Photo Credit Middlesex Yeomanry.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59422858/thomas-tyler>

VAUGHAN BEM, William Ypres, (1903909) Corporal, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1916 in Bath, Enlisted on the 27 February 1940. Next of Kin Wife Mrs M E Vaughan, 2 Leopold Villas, Fairfield Park, Bath, Somerset. NOK Notified on the 12 February 1945.

Served with Construction Centre, Chatham, 28 February 1940; 697 General Construction Company, 27 February 1940; Field Force, 17 March 1940; 4 Bomb Disposal Company, 24 June 1942.

Admitted to Great Yarmouth General Hospital injured effects of a mine explosion.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Waxham, Norfolk. Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer 3 Bomb Disposal Group, Sgt Holbrook walked over an un-swept portion of the minefield, trod on a mine and was responsible for the accident.

Lance Sergeant L G Holbrook, L Sweetman also died at this incident.



Died on the 5 February 1945, age 29.

Son of Joseph and Agatha Vaughanbath: Husband of Margaret E Vaughan of Fairfield Park, Bath.

Buried at Haycombe Cemetery, Bath, Somerset. Plot 28 Section F Row A.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2691780/william-y-vaughan/>

Photo Credit JohnM.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54566406/william-ypres-vaughan>

VERLING, Richard, (2129066) Corporal, 23 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 7 December 1916 in Cleland. Enlisted on the 30 October 1940. Next of Kin Father, Mr Richards Verling, 14 Omon Road, Cleland, Lanarkshire. NOK notified on the 28 November 1944.

Served with 22 Bomb Disposal Company, 30 November 1943; 96 Bomb Disposal Section, 23 Bomb Disposal Company, 12 April 1944; embarked 4 June 1944.

Incident. The 2 i/c visited the casualties on 23 November 1944. They reported that Driver J Melvin had arrived at the site, which was a SS Barracks at S Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, in his lorry loaded with various missiles, collected from the market square, of S Hertogenbosch. He and Sapper Wallis were having tea in an adjacent room to the one containing explosives. Corporal Humphrey had lowered the lorry tow board and was unloading it. Driver Melvin had just ***** his tea when there was an explosion closely followed by a second. It wasn't until 2230 when the working party had failed to return that Lt Conlon went to the site and the accident was discovered. After investigation later there was no evidence to show what caused the explosion. The Chief Royal Engineer Second Army Group decided that the incident should be treated as a Battle Accident.

Corporals R Verling, J Humphrey, Sappers J Dugmore, H Reed, C Wood, G Styles A A Jones, also died at this incident. Lance Corporal E Nunn, Sapper Wallis Driver J Melvin, J Staniland were all wounded at this incident .



Died on the 22 November 1944, age 27.
Son of Richard and Mary Verling.

Commemorated at Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2659694/richard-verling/>

Photo Credit International War Graves Photography Project.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12906413/richard-verling>

VINCE, Douglas Arthur, (2003625) Sapper, 48 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1917 in Somerset. Enlisted on the 5 March 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Esther Vince, 3 Sunny Hill, Nunney, Frome Somerset. NOK notified on the 21 August 1940.

Served with 562 Field Company, 48 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, 19 June 1940.

Died when a UXB detonated while being excavated, by a signal box near Hook Railway Station.

Sappers R R E Moxon, A Hill, F D Warner, A White, Driver F C Gavid also died at this incident. Sergeant W J Button was thrown through the air and survived, he was able to check on the injuries to his Section, he was awarded the George Cross for his actions.

Peter Markham spoke to the daughter of the signal man, who was 11 years old at the time. Her mum had sent her and her sister up to the area to take tea and sandwiches to the team. They met her father who stopped them at a safe distance and he said the team were working and he would pass the food onto them. Talked to their dad, then turned to go home as they got a bit away there was an explosion. They returned to their dad and found that the team had been killed.



Died on the 18 August 1940, age 23.
Son of Frederick James Vince and of Esther Vince of Nunney, Somerset.

Buried at Aldershot Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave A 24.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2690653/douglas-arthur-vince/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11995040/douglas-arthur-vince>

VIOLET BEM, Frank Albert, (14625456) Corporal, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 16 May 1905 in Highgate. Enlisted on the 3 June 1943 in E E Holloway. Next of Kin Wife, Gwenfron W Violet, 24 Annesley Road, Highgate. N19.

Served with 5 Training Battalion, 15 July 1943; 4 Bomb Disposal Company, 2 October 1945.

Died whilst clearing mines laid around the UK as part of the anti-invasion measures. The opinion of the Chief Royal Engineer 3 Bomb Disposal Group, is Cpl Violet overbalanced when adjusting the tape and dropped the arm of the detector on the mine. The weight of the amplifier on his back may have caused this. No blame is attached to any person or persons. Horsey, Norfolk.



Died on the 26 February 1945, age 39.

Son of Frank and Dorothy Violet of Highgate: Husband of Gwenfron W Violet of Highgate.

Buried at Highgate Cemetery, London. Square 70, Grave 48753.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2428793/frank-albert-violet/>

Photo Credit Phil Seaton.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/violet-f-a/>

WADE, Frederick, (2113576) Sapper, 113 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 26 September 1919. Enlisted on the 2 July 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Mary Wade, 3 Wheatsheaf Cottages, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex. NOK notified on the 28 June 1944.

Served with 592 Army ? Company, 21 L of C Training Company, 15 August 1941; 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 20 April 1941; P Bomb Disposal Company, 12 February 1942; 29 Bomb Disposal Company, 16 November 1942; 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 17 December 1942; 28 Bomb Disposal Company, 25 April 1943; 19 Bomb Disposal Company, 19 May 1943, 28 Bomb Disposal Company, 4 July 1943; 113 Bomb Disposal Section 20 January 1944.

Died clearing beach mines in the Benghazi area, Libya.

Lance Corporal H Greaves, Sapper G Clarke, H A Cox, J P McDowall, J Rushton also died at this incident.

Further information.

Commemorated on the Billericay War Memorial High Street Billericay, Essex.



Died on the 23 June 1944, age 24.
Son of Albert and Mary Wade of Little Burstead, Essex.

Buried at Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya. Grave 3 A 4.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2064574/frederick-wade/>

Photo Credit MWK.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56509214/frederick-wade>

WADSWORTH, Samuel Vare, (2005809) Lance Corporal, 5 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1918 in Derbyshire. Enlisted on the 15 February 1940. Next of Kin Widow, Mary Wadsworth, 58 Albert Road, Chaddesdon, Derby. NOK notified on the 9 October 1940.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, Newark; 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 26 June 1940; 16/17 Bomb Disposal Sections, 15 September 1940;

Deceased were instructed to excavate a bomb at a site known as Navarino Mansions, Dalston Lane, Hackney, after the agreed safety period had expired. For some unknown reason the bomb exploded spontaneously and all members of the working party were killed. This was 50 feet from London to Midlands Service, Railway, no survivors.

Lance Corporal Nowell, Sappers E S Mason, T Stock, J L Stubbings, C R Taylor, Driver Horne also died at this incident.



Died on the 23 September 1940, age 22.

Son of Samuel and Emily S Wadsworth of Ilkestone: Husband of Mary Wadsworth of Chaddesden.

Buried at Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby. Section F Grave 60780.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2702226/samuel-vare-wadsworth/>

Photo Credit agnosco.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59789356/samuel-vare-wadsworth>

WAKE, Bertram Alfred, (2123618) Lance Corporal, 12 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 13 July 1913 in Southampton. Enlisted on the 14 October 1940 in Southampton. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs N Wake, 7 Church Street, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent.

Served with 1 Stevedore Battalion, Worthing; 17 Bomb Disposal Company, 11 January 1941, 12 Bomb Disposal Company 28 April 1943.

Died clearing mines laid around the UK as part of the anti-invasion measures. Cuckmere, Suffolk.

Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer, 2 Bomb Disposal Group;

- A. No questions of a technical nature arise.
- B. Lance Corporal Wake and Sapper Adams were killed whilst engaged in minefield clearance by the explosion of a mine.
- C. They were not to blame and the accident was occasioned by the unavertable low flying aircraft distracting their attention.
- D. Verdict accidental death.

Sapper T J Adams also died at this incident.



Died on the 11 December 1944, age 31.

Son of Arthur Bertie and Agnes Alice Wake; Husband of Nellie Sybil Louise Wake of Tovil.

Buried at Maidstone Cemetery, Kent. Plot X 1 Grave 28.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2654657/bertram-alfred-wake/>

Photo Credit js.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25026067/bertram-alfred-wake>

WAKEFORD, Rieben Arthur, (2123618) Lieutenant, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

After a heavy raid on Birmingham in April 1941, an UXB was found, it had hit a predictor on an anti-aircraft gun site, went through the floor of concrete, down another twelve feet, changing direction as it went. A tunnel was dug to reach it, on investigating it was found to be ticking. Corporal F Norman recalls, Lt R A Wakeford phoned HQ to request the steam sterilization equipment; however this would take too long to arrive. Lt Wakeford accompanied by Sgt Hilder proceeded down the shaft to see if they could tackle it. Lt Wakeford threw his cap to Cpl Norman for safe keeping. Sgt Hilder ordered Cpl Norman to leave the area; he was about 15 yards away when the bomb detonated behind him. Lt Wakeford and Sgt Hilder both died.

Sergeant A G Hilder also died at this incident.



Died on the 24 April 1941, age 31.

Buried at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire. Plot 2 E Grave 2889.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2449617/reuben-arthur-wakeford/>

Photo Credit Myra Mason.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134882206/reuben-arthur-wakeford>

WALKER, Eric, (2012869) Sapper, 32 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Enlisted on the 2 May 1940. Next of Kin Father, D Walker, 144 Belleut Street, Manchester. NOK notified 23 September 1940.

Served with 255 Field Company; 32 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, 15 July 1940.

Died when a UXB being excavated detonated. Great Western Road, 14 Broadwalk, Heston, Hounslow, London. NOK notified on the 23 September 1940.

There are no witnesses to what happened at this incident. However the following information is available. Whilst working on a UXB, Corporal Mundy phoned his Barracks to get some advice from his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant G Grover or Sergeant Buckley, both were out on another job at the time of the call. It would seem that Corporal Mundy then went to a garage and borrowed a rope and a crowbar and went back to the UXB. The events after this are unknown except for the fact that the bomb detonated.

Corporal G Mundy, Sappers Sapper V P Mulrooney, L R Saunders, W Slater, L Watts.



Died on the 20 September 1940, age 20.

Buried at Gorton Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire. Section A Grave 469.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2402991/eric-walker/>

Photo Credit Joe H.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32677343/eric-walker>

WALKER, Jonathon, (1921314) Sapper, 135 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 3 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1912 in Yorkshire. Enlisted on the 21 June 1940. Next of Kin Widow, Florrie Walker, 55 The Green, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

Served with 125 Quarrying Company, Cleethorpes, 1 July 1940;

Died at Brentwood, due to enemy action, no other information.



Died at 2200 on the 20 October 1940, age 28.

Son of Amos and Annie Walker of Mirfield: Husband of Florrie Walker of Mirfield.

Buried at Saint Mary Churchyard, Mirfield, Yorkshire. Section 5/4 Grave E 46.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2409329/jonathan-walker/>

Photo Credit Peter Craig-Wild.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/walker-j/>

WALKER, William Thomas James, (2118236) Corporal, 256 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 19 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 16 June 1910 in Earlsfield. Enlisted on the 16 August 1940 in Shorncliffe. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs E W Walker, 103 Alma Street, West Hartlepool, County Durham. NOK notified 30 September 1944.

Served with 2 Training Battalion; embarked for the Middle East, 3 January 1941; Bomb Disposal Company, 12 March 1941; 18 Bomb Disposal Company 8 June 1941; P Bomb Disposal Company now 29 Bomb Disposal Company, 21 March 1942; 256 Bomb Disposal Section, 29 Bomb Disposal Company, 6 October 1943; disembark in the UK 12 December 1943; embark in UK 19 Bomb Disposal Company 30 July 1944; disembark in North West Europe 30 July 1944.

Died clearing mines in France.

Lance Corporal F Lowe also died in this incident.



Died on the 14 September 1944, age 34.

Son of James Henry Robert and Alice Walker: Husband of Elsie Waters Walker of West Hartlepool, County Durham.

Buried at Bayeux War Cemetery. Grave III L 4.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2341676/william-thomas-james-walker/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/walker-w-t-j/>

WALSH, Michael, (1902656) Sapper, 49/51 Bomb Disposal Sections, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 20 August 1895. Enlisted on the 8 January 1940 aged 44. Next of Kin Wife Ann Walsh, 2 League Street, Collyhurst, Manchester 10. NOK notified 10 September 1940.

Served with 677 Company 9 January 1940; British Expeditionary Forces 30 January 1940; 3 Construction Company, Clacton, 8 January 1940; 49/51 Bomb Disposal Section 22 June 1940;

Bomb explosion in Southampton.



Died on the 8 September 1940, age?
Son of James and Mary Ann Walsh: Husband of Ann Walsh of High Broughton, Salford, Lancashire.

Buried at Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton. Section M Grave 95.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2350461/michael-walsh/>

Photo Credit Retired QA.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125569228/michael-walsh>

**WALTERS MID, John Ralph, (276486) Lieutenant, 263 Bomb Disposal Section,
Royal Engineers.**

No information at this time.



Died on the 16 November 1943, age 20.
Son of James William and Winifred Alice Walters of Gateshead, County Durham.

Commemorated at Athens Memorial, Greece. Face 4.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2630132/john-ralph-walters/>

Photo Credit Dimitrios Corcodilis.

WALTON GM, John Percy, (120146) Lieutenant, 22 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died in Southend General Hospital, injured whilst dealing with a British yellow peril bomb at Halfway House Marshes, Great Wakering, Essex. Court of Inquiry on the 13 April 1942, Commanding Officers Opinion, on duty and not to blame.

Lance Sergeant C F Bristow died three days later from this incident.



Died on the 1 April 1942, age 32.

Buried at Manchester Southern Cemetery. Section I R C Grave 1244.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2403600/john-percy-walton/>

Photo Credit Bob the Greenacre Cat.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156920113/john-percy-walton>

WARD, Arthur Wellesley George, (1910263) Sapper, 12 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 15 March 1939 in Southgate. Enlisted on the 28 December 1939 in High Wycombe. Next of Kin Wife, M Ward, 42 Ridley Avenue, Wellington Estate, Quay on Tyne, Northumberland.

Served with Construction Company, Clacton, 28 December 1939; 625 Artisan Works Company, 31 December 1939; 17 Bomb Disposal Company, 5 February 1943; 12 Bomb Disposal Company, 28 April 1943.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Greatstone on Sea, Kent. Death by misadventure.



Died on the 10 April 1944, age 28.

Son of Arthur and Bertha Ward: Husband of Mary Veronica Ward of High Howden.

Buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Wallsend, Northumberland. Section 9 Cons Grave 169.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2811019/arthur-wellesley-george-ward/>

Photo Credit Ken Pullar.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183322195/arthur-wellesley_george-ward

WAREING, George Edward, (2126702) Sapper, 24 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 21 October 1910 in Rochdale. Enlisted on the 21 October 1940. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs E Wareing, 3 Clyde Street, Rochdale, Lancs.

Served with 221 Line of Communications; 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 21 October 1940; 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 21 May 1942; 24 Bomb Disposal Company 28 May 1943; embarked with 24 Bomb Disposal Company 7 July 1944.

Died at a separate incident when a V2 detonated in Holland.

Corporal J P Coyne, Sappers L Cotton, J S McWinnie, Driver J E Harris also died at this incident.



Died on the 30 April 1945, age 34.

Son of George and Elizabeth Ann Wareing of Rochdale, Lancashire: Husband of Elsie Wareing of Rochdale.

Buried at Amelo War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands Grave 10.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2820366/george-edward-wareing/>

Photo Credit Jolanda.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18113456/george-edward-wareing>

WARNER, Frederick Donald, (2004308) Sapper, 48 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1917 in Nottinghamshire. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Ethel Warner, 1 a Fouiary Road, Newark, Notts. NOK notified on the 21 August 1940.

Died when a UXB detonated while being excavated, by a signal box near Hook Railway Station.

Sappers R R E Moxon, A Hill, D A Vince, A White, Driver F C Gavid also died at this incident. Sergeant W J Button was thrown through the air and survived, he was able to check on the injuries to his Section, he was awarded the George Cross for his actions.

Peter Markham spoke to the daughter of the signal man, who was 11 years old at the time. Her mum had sent her and her sister up to the area to take tea and sandwiches to the team. They met her father who stopped them at a safe distance and he said the team were working and he would pass the food onto them. Talked to their dad, then turned to go home as they got a bit away there was an explosion. They returned to their dad and found that the team had been killed.



Died on the 18 August 1940, Age 23.
Son of Roland and Doris Warner, of Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Buried at Aldershot Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave A 23.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2690655/frederick-donald-warner/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11995048/frederick-donald-warner>

WARNER, John William, (2019551) Sapper, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 November 1915 in Aldershot. Enlisted on the 13 June 1940 in Horncliffe. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs Rose Warner, ?? Street, Wilbraham, Cambs. NOK Notified on the 26 January 1943.

Served with 1 Training Battalion, Shorncliffe; 2 Depot Battalion, 7 November 1940; embarked for the Middle East 3 January 1941, disembarked 9 March 1941, 2 Field Company 9 September 1941; 18 Bomb Disposal Company 30 April 1942.

Died in action in Libya.



Died on the 17 January 1943, age 25.

Son of John William and Emily Maud Warner: Husband of Rosetta Warner of Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire.

Buried at El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave XXX111 H 25.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2212824/john-william-warner/>

Photo Credit Terry Smithie.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/warner-j-w/>

WATKINS, Alfred John, (1890501) Corporal, 40 Bomb Disposal Section, 19 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 September 1918 in Warwick. Enlisted on the 18 October 1939. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs M Watkins, Station Road, Balsall Common, Coventry. NOK notified on the 2 December 1944.

Served with 268 Field Company 31 December 1939; 3 Depot Battalion 4 January 1941; 18 Bomb Disposal Company 4 January 1941; embarked for the Middle East, 17 March 1941, disembarked in the Middle East, 11 May 1941, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 5 August 1941; 28 Bomb Disposal Company, 25 January 1943, 19 Bomb Disposal Company, 46 Bomb Disposal Section 19 May 1943.

Died when a suspected booby trapped Tellermine detonated. Cascina, Italy.

Sapper J F Toon also died at this incident.



Died on the 20 November 1944, age 26.
Son of Arthur and Mary Watkins of Balsall Common, Warwickshire.

Buried at Florence War Cemetery, Italy. Grave IV H 2.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2379608/alfred-john-watkins/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/watkins-a-j/>

WATKINS, Francis, (1818162) Sapper, 243 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 25 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 28 January 1902 in Pontypool. Enlisted on the 19 June 1941. Next of Kin Wife Mrs D Watkins, 14 Edward Street, Pontypool, Mon.

Served with Transferred from 9 Battalion, Gloster Regiment; T C S WB; 4 Training Battalion, 6 June 1943; 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 October 1943; 25 Bomb Disposal Company, 14 October 1943; embarked UK 9 August 1943; disembark in North West Europe 28 May 1945.

Died of Asphyxia following aspiration of vomited matter, died in the unit lines. According to Driver Holding the deceased went to the house of a friend for supper. They had one drink. On returning to billets they had more drink and went to bed. On waking the men noticed Sapper Watkins, position and examined him and concluded he was died, an Officer was sent for pronounced him dead and arranged for a post mortem. Land Forces, Norway.



Died on the 9 June 1945, age 41.

Son of Francis and Bertha Watkins of Pontypool, Monmouthshire: Husband of Dorcas Watkins of Pontypool.

Buried at Eiganes Churchyard, Stavanger, Norway. Grave X 28.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2186900/francis-watkins/>

Photo Credit GraveRobber.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20265041/francis-f-watkins>

WATSON, James, (1913135) Sergeant, 9 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 April 1944 in Durham. Next of Kin Widow, Isabell Watson, 94 Atkinson Road, Fulwell, Sunderland. NOK notified on the 17 July 1940.

Served with 654 Company, 20 January 1940, 658 Company; 71 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 June 1940; 9 Bomb Disposal Company.

Died When a UXB detonated in Birmingham.

Lieutenant G A W Smith, Driver T Howard also died at this incident.



Died on the 12 December 1940, age 44.

Buried at Mere Knoll's Cemetery, Sunderland, Durham. Ward 25 A Row 2 Grave 6648.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2696955/james-watson/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/watson-j/>

WATSON, John William, (2091137) Sapper, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1919 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Next of Kin Father, Mr John Watson, 2 Stanelea Road, East Denton, Newcastle on Tyne. NOK notified 30 June 1941.

Served with 50 Division, 30 June 1939; British Expeditionary Force, 28 January 1940; 505 Holding Company, 13 June 1940; 2 Depot Battalion, 18 December 1940; 12 Company; 4 Bomb Disposal Company, 30 January 1941.

Died in a collision with a lorry, whilst driving a motor cycle, through an error of judgement. Long Marston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.



Died on the 27 June 1941, age 22.
Son of John William and Lydia Watson, of East Denton.

Buried at West Road Cemetery, Newcastle- Upon-Tyne, Northumberland. Section H Grave 103.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2810489/john-william-watson/>

Photo Credit Dimitrios Corcodilos.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59536876/john-william-watson>

WATTS, Leonard, (2077015) Sapper, 32 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

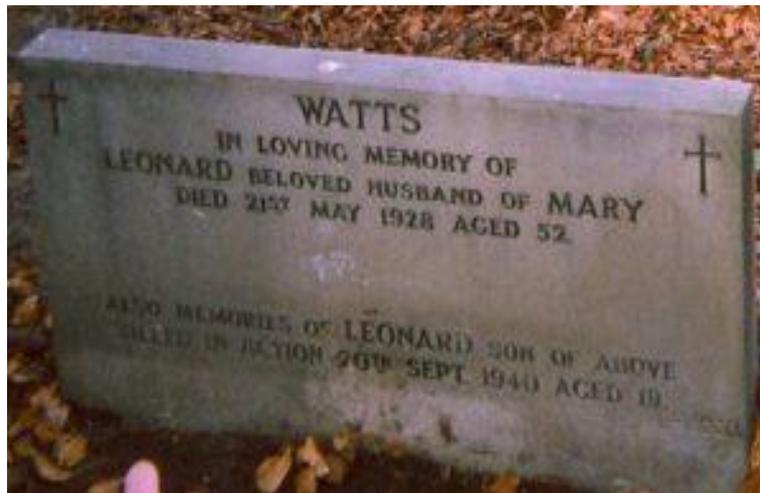
Enlisted on the 9 June 1939. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Mary Watts, 54 Thewall Avenue, off Elsmere Avenue, Willerham Road, Manchester. NOK notified on the 23 September 1940.

Served with 42 (EL) Division, 9 May 1939; 31/32 Bomb Disposal Section, 12 September 1940.

Died when a UXB being excavated detonated. Great Western Road, 14 Broadwalk, Heston, Hounslow, London. NOK notified on the 23 September 1940.

There are no witnesses to what happened at this incident. However the following information is available. Whilst working on a UXB, Corporal Mundy phoned his Barracks to get some advice from his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant G Grover or Sergeant Buckley, both were out on another job at the time of the call. It would seem that Corporal Mundy then went to a garage and borrowed a rope and a crowbar and went back to the UXB. The events after this are unknown except for the fact that the bomb detonated.

Corporal G Mundy, Sappers Sapper V P Mulrooney, L R Saunders, W Slater, E Walker.



Died on the 20 September 1940, age 18.

Buried at Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire. Section H Roman Catholic Grave 1033.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2403606/leonard-watts/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/watts-l/>

WEBSDALE, Ernest William, (2003428) Driver, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Enlisted on the 5 March 1940. Next of Kin Father, A Websdale, Low Road, Hingham, Norfolk. Moving a UXB fitted with two anti-disturbance fuzes, when it detonated. 121 Connor Road, Dagenham, London. NOK notified on the 9 October 1940.

Served with 287 Field Company; 33 Bomb Disposal Section, 15 July 1940.

Second Lieutenant, W F A Ash, L W E Foster, Sappers L H R Hitchcock, R J Lewis. Seven others injured including Sapper B Woolhouse all taken to hospital, B Woolhouse and three others returned to Bomb Disposal Duties.



Died on the 7 October 1940, age 21.
Son of Arthur and Henriett Websdale of Hingham.

Buried at Saint Andrew Church Cemetery, Hingham, Norfolk. Grave 158.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2763919/ernest-william-websdale/>

Photo Credit JTS.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121922608/ernest-william-websdale>

WEBSTER, George, (1941141) Lance Corporal, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Enlisted on the 26 June 1940. Next of Kin Widow, Florence Wbster, 10 Moorland Road, Brighlington, Bradford, Yorkshire. NOK notified on the 6 January 1940.

Served with 727 Construction Company, 8 July 1940; 3 Training Battalion, 21 July 1940; 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 28 August 1940; 16/17 Bomb Disposal Section, 15 September 1940; 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 28 September 1940;

UXB exploded while being excavated, Carriage Wharf, Dorchester Street, Shoreditch, London.

Sappers J H Ash, J Fletcher, F Robinson also died at this incident.



Died on the 3 January 1940, age 29.
Son of Alfred and Sarah Ann Webster, of Drighlington; husband of Florence Webster of Drighlington.

Buried at Saint Paul Churchyard, Drighlington, Yorkshire. Section R Grave 256.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2407736/george-webster/>

Photo Credit ?
[Photograph of the final resting place of Webster, George - The War Graves Photographic Project](#)

WEBSTER, Raymond, (2193813) Sapper, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 6 August 1918. Enlisted on the 17 July 1939. Next of Kin Father, 52 Windsor Road, Stockton on Tees. NOK notified on the 6 November 1940.

Served with 1 Training Battalion, 8 September 1939; C Company, 14 October 1939; 508 Field Company, 25 January 1940; British Expeditionary Force, 28 January 1940; Bucklow Emergency Hospital, 8 June 1940; 505 Field Company, 13 June 1940; 58 Bomb Disposal Section, 28 September 1940.

Died as a result of enemy action. New Southgate, London



Died on the 4 November 1940, age 22.

Buried at Oxbridge Lane Cemetery, Stockton - on - Tees, Durham.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2696726/raymond-webster/>

Photo Credit Dimitrios Corcodilos.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125170873/raymond-webster>

WEEDON, Jack, (846901) Lance Corporal, 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 9 March 1915. Enlisted on the 24 August 1937. NOK notified on the 5 February 1945.

Died whilst a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. Amoebic Dysentery Thailand.



Died on the 3 August 1943, age 28.

Commemorated at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Memorial 4 A 57.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2195483/jack-weeden/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/weedon-j/>

WELLS, Ronald Stuart, (140431) Lieutenant, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died in Action. Egypt.



Died on the 1 September 1941, Age 22.

Son of Leslie Stuart Dean and Eva Winifred Agnes Wells, of Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex.

Commemorated at Hadra War Cemetery Memorial, Alexandria, Egypt. Section 2 E 20.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2111381/ronald-stuart-wells/>

Photo Credit Rodgers Family.

[Photograph of the final resting place of Wells, Ronald Stuart - The War Graves Photographic Project](#)

WEYMAN, James Frederick, (2828582) Sapper, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 24 October 1906 in Clerkenwell. Enlisted on the 12 December 1940. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs L Weyman, 12 Cressy Road, Hampstead, London. N W 3. NOK notified on the 16 October 1944.

Served with 22 T C 5 February 1943: 758 A W Company, 5 February 1943; 1 Bomb Disposal Group, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 2 November 1943, embarked to North West Europe, 7 September 1944.

Schu mine clearance in France. There had been an earlier explosion on the 7 October, killing 4 of the Section. Harold with one other continued to work lifting mines. There was an explosion, Harold was injured and died of his wounds the next day. The other person he was working survived.

Sergeant L Scott, Lance Corporal H Bordycott, Sapper R A Cook, Driver P R Collier also died at this incident.



Died on the 7 October 1944, Age 37.

Son of Alfred Edward and Elizabeth Weyman: Husband of Lillian Winifred Weyman of Hampstead.

Buried at Bayeux War Cemetery. Grave IL F 4.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2341788/james-frederick-weyman/>

Photo Credit Frogman.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56278320/james-frederick-weyman>

WHITE, Arthur, (2005088) Sapper, 48 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1917 in Nottinghamshire. Enlisted on the 5 March 1940. Next of Kin Father, Thomas White, Laughton, Gainsborough, Lincs. NOK notified on the 21 August 1940.

Served with 562 Field Company; 48 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, 19 June 1940.

Sappers R R E Moxon, A Hill, D A Vince, F D Warner, A White, Driver F C Gavid also died at this incident. Sergeant W J Button was thrown through the air and survived, he was able to check on the injuries to his Section, he was awarded the George Cross for his actions.

Peter Markham spoke to the daughter of the signal man, who was 11 years old at the time. Her mum had sent her and her sister up to the area to take tea and sandwiches to the team. They met her father who stopped them at a safe distance and he said the team were working and he would pass the food onto them. Talked to their dad, then turned to go home as they got a bit away there was an explosion. They returned to their dad and found that the team had been killed.



Died on the 18 August 1940, age 23.
Son of Thomas and Sarah Jane White of Laughton, Lincolnshire.

Buried at Aldershot Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave A 27.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2690658/arthur-white/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11995068/arthur-white>

WHITE, Stanley Victor, (2198846) Sapper, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 20 July 1912. Next of Kin Father, 37 Pinner Court, Pinner Road, Pinner, Middlesex. NOK notified on the 18 December 1940.

Served with 2 Training Battalion 18 July 1940; 228 D Engineer Battalion; 64 Bomb Disposal Section, September 1930;

Chelmsford Road (Romford Road Manor Park). On the 13th December 1940, in view of the serious dislocation of important traffic, Captain Blaney proceeded to attempt to remove the fuze (one time fuze). The alternative method of sterilizing the bomb was not at the time available and at great personal risk, and with full knowledge of the grave danger, he personally entered the crater to carry out the process. Unfortunately, the bomb exploded and Captain Blaney lost his life.

Captain M Blaney was awarded the George Cross.

Captain M F Blaney, Lieutenant R James, Staff Sergeant C Roberts, Lance Corporals D Mills, Sappers J Maycock, T McLaren, Drivers F G Hawkins, J Lauchlan, and J Pickering, Inspector H Lane Metropolitan Police also died at this incident, one female member of the public slightly injured.



Died on the 13 December 1940, age 28.
Son of Albert Victor and Gertrude Alice White of Pinner.

Buried at Harrow New Cemetery, Pinner, London. Section G 4 Grave 18.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2734681/stanley-victor-white/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54107074/stanley-victor-white>

WHITTINGHAM, Dennis, (1878805) Corporal, 16 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 20 ? 1916 in Southampton. Enlisted on the 19 October 1939 in Southampton age 23. Next of Kin Father, Mr P Whittingham, Fir Vale, Heatherlands Road, Upper Bassett, Southampton. NOK notified on the 29 April 1942.

Served with 1 Motor Transport Depot, 19 October 1939 rank Driver, 42 Division 13 December 1939, 203 Field Company, 13 December 1939; 16 Bomb Disposal Company, 10 December 1940.

Accidental detonation of a mine, while attending a lecture and demonstration at Pembroke Dock, Wales.

Sergeant R E Gilmour, Corporals A J R Skeet, Lance Corporal W Duckworth, Sappers A Baggaley, G Jackson, J J Perry W Plant and J B Jones with other non- Bomb Disposal Personnel died at this incident, with others injured. Inquest verdict: accidental death, no blame.



Died on the 28 April 1942, age 25.

Buried at Pembroke Dock Military Cemetery, Wales. Section E Collective Grave 16b to 16r.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2965738/dennis-whittingham/>

Photo Credit James Evans.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98180606/dennis-d-whittingham>

WICKEN, Walter James, (2183798) Corporal, 23 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 10 October 1939. Enlisted on the 9 September 1939, aged 34. Next of Served with 8 Docks, London Company 9 September 1939, 17 M P C Company to Stevedore Centre, 18 September 1940; 228 RE Stevedore, 98 Bomb Disposal Section, 20 September 1940; 6 Bomb Disposal Company, 14 November 1940; 23 Bomb Disposal Company, 11 January 1941.

Died whilst a 250 g with a type 17 fuze was being removed, Zus 40 not functioned as it was investigated it exploded, Southsea, Devon. Based at Fort Widely, Portsmouth.

Sergeant G W Purdy, Sappers G Chapman, J Glynn, A G Hollingsworth also died at this incident.



Died on the 14 March 1941, age 36.

Son of Alexander and Alice Wicken of Deptford, London. Plot N Grave 187.

Buried at Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire. Row N Grave 187.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2349581/walter-james-wicken/>

Photo Credit John Gregory.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/wicken-w-j/>

WILKES, Richard Walter Deane, (154282) Lieutenant, 21 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Fatally injured by a train. Acton Town Station.



Died on the 7 September 1941, age 25.

Son of Herbert Walter and Ada Wilkes; Husband of Dorrien Alice Wilkes, of Middlesex.

Buried Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. Grave 5 I 2.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2929441/richard-walter-deane-wilkes/>

Photo Credit Retired QA.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17667157/richard-walter_deane-wilkes

WILLAN, John Angus, (255585) Lieutenant, 12 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1914 in Durham.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Greatstone-on-Sea, Kent.



Died on the 10 April 1944, age 30.

Son of James and Eleanor Elizabeth Willan, of Bishop Auckland; husband of Rhoda Willan, of Bishop Auckland.

Buried at Bishop Auckland Cemetery, Durham. Sub Section 2 Grave 64.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2837574/john-angus-willan/>

Photo Credit Dimitrios Corcodilos.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178195061/john-angus-willan>

WILLIAMS, Eric Arthur, (2053912) Sapper, 52 Bomb Disposal Section, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in Liverpool. Next of Kin Father, Edward A Williams, 10 Mona Street, Garston, Liverpool. 19. NOK notified on the 10 September 1940.

Served with 52 Bomb Disposal Section, 21 June 1940;

Died of Monoxide Poisoning whilst excavating a UXB. A bomb was dropped outside a Catholic School, Morpeth, Northumberland. Sergeant Glover went into the crater to defuse and make it safe. The bomb had penetrated a disused coal mineshaft. He was overcome and died by carbon monoxide poisoning. Sapper A E Williams a member of the section donned his service respirator and attempted to rescuer Sergeant Glover, he also died from carbon monoxide poisoning, as the respirator was not suitable for this type of gas. It was one of many tragedies of the War.

Sergeant W F Glover also died at this incident.

Further information.

Extract from London Gazette, 24 March 1942, Supplement 35496, Page 1321. The King has most graciously pleased to approve of the publication of the name of Sapper E A Williams as having been commended for brave conduct. National Archives file WO423/595339 closed till 1 January 2036.



Died on the 7 September 1940, age 20.

Buried at Allerton Cemetery, Liverpool. Section 6 Grave 423.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2411522/eric-arthur-williams/>

Photo Credit Bob.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/williams-e-d/>

WILLIAMS, Eric Douglas, (14246259) Driver, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 9 December 1923 in Liverpool. Enlisted on the 6 August 1942 in Liverpool. Next Of Kin Mother, Mrs M Williams, 9 Birdwood Road, West Derby, Liverpool.

Died in 85 General Hospital, Middle East. From burns caused by petrol and burning clothes. On duty not to blame.



Died on the 27 October 1944, age 20.
Son of Arto and May Williams of West Deby, Liverpool.

Buried at Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya. Grave 7 G 26.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2169398/eric-douglas-williams/>

Photo Credit Fred Pavey.
<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/williams-e-d/>

WILLIAMS, William, (2009151) Sapper, 24 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1916 in Anglesey. Enlisted on the 3 April 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs M E Williams, Ty Capel Holet, Llangrist, Bodorgan, Anglesey, North Wales. NOK notified 4 October 1940.

Served with 567 Army Company; 2 Bomb Disposal Company 14 September 1940.

Died when a UXB Having its explosive fill steamed out detonated. Hazeldene Road, Welling, Kent.

Lieutenant F C Jinks, Sappers G M K Lewis, J Orr also died at this incident.



Died on the 3 October 1940, age 24.
Son of Mr and Mrs Williams of Langefni.

Buried at Llanfechell Independent Chapel yard, Ebenezer, Wales. South West of Church.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2716090/william-williams/>

Photo Credit jeb.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105481313/william-williams>

WILLIS, Jacob Samuel, (1894337) Corporal, 9 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 6 June 1919. Enlisted on the 20 December 1939. Next of Kin Father, James Willis, Rosslea, Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland. NOK notified 9 May 1941.

Served with G Company Depot Battalion, 20 December 1939, 667 General Construction Company, 18 January 1940; 70/72 Bomb Disposal Section, 21 June 1940; 74 Bomb Disposal Section, 9 Bomb Disposal Company, 18 October 1940;

Died when a UXB detonated in Birmingham.



Died on the 11 April 1941, age 19.
Son of James and Isabella Willis of Roslea.

Buried at Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Churchyard, Clough, Ireland.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2690376/sam-j-willis/>

Photo Credit John Gardiner.

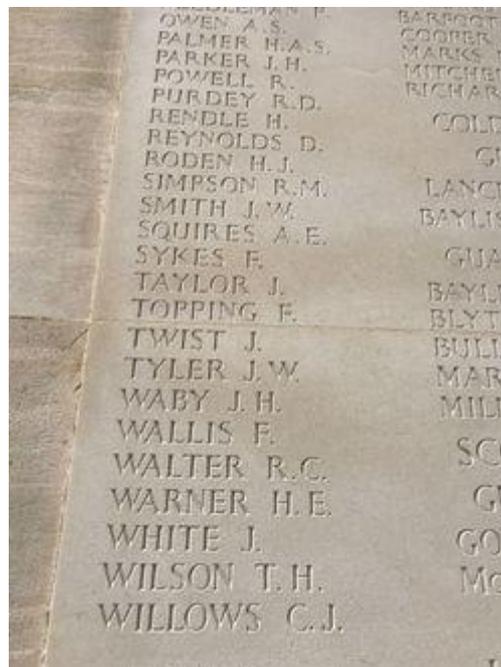
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184410490/jacob-samuel-willis>

WILLOWS, Cornelius James, (1916426) Sapper, 223 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 21 March 1910 in London. Enlisted on the 30 January 1940 in Eltham, aged 29. NOK notified on the 8 August 1944.

Served with Construction Company, Clacton; 690 Construction Company; British Expeditionary Force 1 March 1940; Chief Royal Engineer, 1 Bomb Disposal Group, 690 (Bomb Disposal) General Construction Company, 6 July 1942; 24 Bomb Disposal Company, 7 July 1942.

Died of wounds at 86 Brigade General Hospital. On the 12 July 1944 a Sergeant and six other ranks, went forward to clear an area of enemy explosives. They were attacked by two enemy aircraft and severely, machine gunned and cannon fire. Evacuated to a Forward Casualty Station, where he died six days later. Two others injured at this incident. Les Bussims, France.



Died on the 18 July 1944, age 34.

Commemorated at Bayeux War Memorial. Final resting place unknown. Panel 12 Column 1.

Photo Credit Royzee.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56278464/cornelius-james-willows>

WILLYEO, Ivor, (2074896 Sapper, 10 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 27 September 1916 in Neath. Enlisted on the 10 May 1939 in Neath. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs P G Willyeo, Bryn Awel, Waunffynnonav Road, Trimaran, near Kidwelly, Carm. NOK notified on the 14 March 1944.

Served with 2 Training Battalion, 245 Field Company, 10 May 1939; 25 Bomb Disposal Company, 16 January 1941; 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 30 June 1942; 10 Bomb Disposal Company, 27 November 1942.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Whilst detecting mines stepped on one inadvertently, causing it to detonate, instantaneous death, dismembered due to detonation of beach mine. Verdict Accident not to blame. B Type C Mine. Barrow in Furness.



Died on the 10 March 1944, age 27.

Son of James Edwin and Lavina Willyeo of Skewen, Neath: Husband of Phyllis Gwenllian Willyeo of Trimaran, Carmarthenshire.

Buried at Saint John Churchyard, Skewen, Glamorganshire, Wales. South West of Church.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2718193/ivor-willyeo/>

Photo Credit Remembering Our Fallen.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180502778/ivor-willyeo>

WILSON, Stanley David, (1927947) Driver, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1915 in Liverpool, living in Burnley.

Served with RE GR Category 105 23 June 1939; 2 Training Battalion 16 September 1940, 235 Field Park Company, 17 October 1940; Middle East, 21 May 1941; Disembarked Egypt 235 Field Company, 10 July 1941; Left assembly Area 27 July 1941; Disembark Egypt, 276 July 1941; 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 20 May 1942.

Died through an accidental explosion in Libya.



Died on the 17 January 1943, age 28.
Husband of Lillian Wilson of Liverpool.

Buried at El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave XXXIII H 9.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2213089/stanley-david-wilson/>

Photo Credit Terry Smithie.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/wilson-s-d/>

WILSON, Thomas Henry, (3241534) Sapper, 8 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 20 December 1905 in Newcastle. Enlisted on the 29 February 1940 in Newcastle. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs E A Wilson, 95 Harriett Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Served with 712 Construction Company, 6 March 1940; British Expeditionary Force, 29 March 1940; 5 Training Battalion, 12 April 1940; 20 Bomb Disposal Section, 28 September 1940; 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 11 September 1941; 663 A W Company, 13 February 1942; 2 Depot Battalion, 18 April 1942; CRE 3 Aero Construction Group, 8 September 1942; embark North Africa, 24 November 1942; 8 Bomb Disposal Company, 8 March 1944.

Wounded on the 27 July 1944, died of wounds, two days later, sustained when a booby trapped Tellermine which was tied to a tree exploded. Camerano Road, Poggio, Italy.

Lance Corporal A R Potter also died at this incident.



Died on the 29 July 1944, age 40.

Son of Ralph and Rose Ann Wilson of Byker, Northumberland; Husband of Elizabeth Ann Wilson of Byker.

Buried at Ancona War Cemetery, Italy. Grave LV A 1.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2068739/thomas-henry-wilson/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/wilson-t-h/>

WISELY, William Bryant, (1904830) Sapper, 67/69 Bomb Disposal Section, 9 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 19 January 1916. Enlisted on the 10 January 1940, aged 23. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Mary Wisely, 52 Goldie Crescent, Dumfries. NOK notified on the 29 August 1940.

Served with Construction Centre, Chatham, 10 January 1940; 67/69 Bomb Disposal Section, 23 August 1940; Officer Cadet Training Unit, 22 July 1940; 67/69 Bomb Disposal Section.

Detonation of a delayed action fuze, in Birmingham.

Corporal A Haines, Sapper W W Davies, A Knight (Rabinowitz), W H Thorne, Driver M T Andrews, W H Fergusson also died at this incident.



Died on the 25 August 1940, age 24.

Buried at Saint Andrews Roman Catholic Cemetery, Dumfries. Section C Grave 115.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2715260/william-bryant-wisely/>

Photo Credit Bob the Greenacre Cat.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71099584/william-bryant-wisely>

WITH, Ernest Water Thomas, (2198809) Sapper, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 12 January 1920 in Leytonstone. Enlisted on the 17 June 1940. Next of Kin Mother, Pauline With, 132 Richmond Road, Leytonstone. NOK Notified on the 28 January 1941.

Served with 2 Training Battalion Newark, 18 July 1940. 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 9 September 1940; 16/17 Bomb Disposal Section 15 September 1940; 60 Bomb Disposal Section, 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 28 September 1940;

Died in hospital from injuries received whilst burning of a bomb fragment. Hackney Marsh Bomb Cemetery. Taken to Hackney Infirmary, fracture of the left humerus, gas gangrene, Pneumococcal Sepsis.

Lance Corporal G A Honour also died at this incident.



Wounded on the 4 January 1941. Died on the 19 January 1941, age 21.
Son of Ernest Henry and Pauline Ester Ellenor Amelia With of Leytonstone.

Buried at Manor Park Cemetery, London. Section 58 Joint Grave 96.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2722549/ernest-walter-thomas-with/>

Photo Credit Dave Blyth.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/with-e-w-t/>

WOOD, Clifford Henry, (2126499) Sapper, 23 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 22 August 1919 in Doncaster. Enlisted on the 23 October 1940. Next of Kin Father, Mr Horace Wood, 78 Warnsworth Street, Denaby, near Doncaster, Yorks.

Served with 2 Training Battalion; 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 23 October 1940; 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 15 January 1941; 23 Bomb Disposal Company, 8 April 1941; 221 Bomb Disposal Section, 9 April 1941; 229 Bomb Disposal Section, 24 June 1941, embarked from the UK 8 June 1944;

Incident. The 2 i/c visited the casualties on 23 November 1944. They reported that Driver J Melvin had arrived at the site, which was a SS Barracks at S Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, in his lorry loaded with various missiles, collected from the market square, of S Hertogenbosch. He and Sapper Wallis were having tea in an adjacent room to the one containing explosives. Corporal Humphrey had lowered the lorry tow board and was unloading it. Driver Melvin had just ***** his tea when there was an explosion closely followed by a second. It wasn't until 2230 when the working party had failed to return that Lt Conlon went to the site and the accident was discovered. After investigation later there was no evidence to show what caused the explosion. The Chief Royal Engineer Second Army Group decided that the incident should be treated as a Battle Accident.

Corporals R Verling, J Humphrey, Sappers J Dugmore, H Reed, G Styles A A Jones, also died at this incident. Lance Corporal E Nunn, Sapper Wallis Driver J Melvin, J Staniland were all wounded at this incident.



Died on the 22 November 1944, age 25.
Son of Horace and Lily Wood of Denaby Main, Yorkshire.

Commemorated at Groesbeek War Memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands. Panel 2.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2659777/clifford-henry-wood/>

Photo International Wargraves.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12906490/clifford-henry-wood>

WOOD, Ernest Leslie, (900499) Sapper, 97 Bomb Disposal Section, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers. Conscientious Objector.

Born in 1918 in Essex. Enlisted on the 25 April 1939. Next of Kin Father B J Wood, The Oaks, Nagshead Lane, Brentford, Essex. NOK notified on the 2 November 1940.

Served with 15 Training Battalion, 23 May 1940; 16 Details Depot Battalion, 12 June 1940; 97 Bomb Disposal Section 1 July 1940;

Died when a UXB detonated. Hurtmore Road, Godalming.

Lieutenant H Manser GM also died at this incident.



Died on the 30 October 1940, age 22.
Son of Ernest Leslie and Louisa Mary Wood of Stapleford, Tawney.

Buried at Romford Cemetery, Essex. Section K K Grave 1998.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2427117/ernest-leslie-wood/>

Photo Credit Penny Parsons.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125878817/ernest-leslie-wood>

WOOD, James Henry, (1991246) Lance Corporal, 14 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 11 April 1911 in Trealaw, Glam. Next of Kin Widow, Mrs F L Wood, 156 Sir Hiltons Road, Northfield Birmingham. NOK notified on the 12 June 1941.

Served with 2 Training Battalion 18 July 1940; 23 Bomb Disposal Section 10 September 1940; 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 20 September 1940; 14 Bomb Disposal Company.

HE Bomb detonated, Tadcaster North Yorkshire. Injured taken to York Hospital where he died.

Sergeant T W Holmes, Sapper J Carrington, A P Cuff, F C Emery and a Special Constable also died at this incident.



Died on the 10 June 1941, age 29.

Son of Benjamin and Alice Wood: Husband of Frances Ellen Wood of West Heath, Birmingham.

Buried at Fulford Cemetery, Fulford, Yorkshire. Section 2 Row D Grave 2.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2408018/james-henry-wood/>

Photo Credit Patrick Sice.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56208641/james-henry-wood>

WOOD William Claude Brenchley, (1870077) Lance Sergeant, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 12 January 1914 in Southsea. Enlisted on the 1 February 1933 in Winchester. Next of Kin Father, Elisha Brenchley Wood, 59 Highgate Road, Copnor, Portsmouth. NOK notified of his death 6 September 1945.

Served with Sapper with B Company Training Battalion, 1 February 1933; 17 Field Company, 21 December 1933; Promoted Lance Corporal 19 March 1937; Promoted Corporal 3 November 1938; 34 (Fortress) Company; 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company, 31 May 1941.

Reported Missing 15 February 1942, NOK notified 11 March 1942; ; POW Card 9 August 1943; 4 POW Camp, Thailand, NOK notified 9 August 1943; Died whilst a Prisoner of the Japanese. Amoebic Dysentery, Changi, Thailand, POW Camp.



Died on the 15 December 1943, age 30.

Buried at Chungkai War Cemetery. Grave 3 M 15.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2353753/william-claude-brenchley-wood/>

Photo Credit Gulfport Bob.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18898328/william-claude_brenchley-wood

WOODCOCK, Sydney Spenser, (2217720) Sergeant, 1 Bomb Disposal Section, 8 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1906 in Croydon. Enlisted on the 15 April 1926. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs D M Woodcock, 77 Parker Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Served with 262 ? Company, Field Force, 7 April 1940; 3 Bomb Disposal Section, 2 October 1940; 1 Bomb Disposal Section, 8 Bomb Disposal Company.

Bomb exploded at Battipaglia Station, near Salerno, Italy.

Lieutenant C F Barclay and Royal Airforce Sergeant H Jones also died at this incident.



Died on the 5 April 1944, age 38.

Son of Harry and Mary Ann Woodcock; Husband of Dorothy Miriam Woodcock of Hastings, Sussex.

Buried at Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave I E 41.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2604256/sydney-spencer-woodcock/>

Photo Credit Jenny Gaugler.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56576972/sydney-spencer-woodcock>

WOODWARD, Alfred, (2127030) Sapper, 12 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 8 December 1910 in Cannock. Enlisted on the 23 October 1940. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs M Woodward, Hawthorn Cottages, Minskip, Yorks.

Served with 17 Bomb Disposal Company, 23 October 1940; 12 Bomb Disposal Company, 28 April 1943.

Died Clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Mine was below detectable depth, for no good reason. No blame attached. Pevensey, East Sussex.

Sapper Pidgeon also died at this incident.



Died on the 4 December 1944, age 34.

Son of Harry and Annie Woodward; husband of Marjorie Woodward of Minskip, Yorkshire.

Buried at Horsham Hills Cemetery, Sussex. Block U Grave 252.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2723437/alfred-woodward/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69916142/alfred-woodward>

WOOLDRIDGE, Frank Benjamin, (1905060) Sapper, 8 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Next of Kin Father, Mr Wooldridge, 81Gowan Road, Ward End, Birmingham. NOK notified on the 12October 1940.

Died when a UXB exploded all who died and injured were taken to York Hospital incident occurred at Tadeaston.

Sergeant T W Holmes, Lance Corporal J H Wood, Sapper J Carrington, A P Cuff, F C Emery and a Special Constable also died at this incident.



Died on the 10 October 1940, age 21.
Son of Frank and Florence Wooldridge of Alum Rock, Birmingham.

Buried at Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire. Grave 50569.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2450239/frank-benjamin-wooldridge/>

Photo Credit TomParry98.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98063448/frank-benjamin-wooldridge>

**WRATHMELL, Tom Brian, (217536) Lieutenant, 22 Bomb Disposal Company,
Royal Engineers.**

Reported to have died whilst on leave dealing with a SD2 (Butterfly Bomb).
Shotisham, Suffolk.



Died on the 11 March 1944, age 32.

Buried at Stockport Borough Cemetery, Cheshire. Section B B Grave 91.
[https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-
details/2075400/stockport-borough-cemetery/](https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/2075400/stockport-borough-cemetery/)

Photo Credit Kevin Laroux Wood.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158699924/tom-brian-wrathmell>

WRIGHT, Frederick, (4124550) Sapper, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Next of Kin Widow, Jesse Wright, 97 Wharton Road, Winsford, Cheshire. NOK notified on the 19 November 1940.

Served with 5 Training Battalion;

Injured and admitted to Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 12 October 1940, shock and effects of smoke inhalation helping to remove an incendiary bomb, discharged 13 October 1940. Died while on duty by action of an enemy bomb, Humber Works, Coventry. He had been injured by a bomb explosion on the 25 August 1940 and admitted to Erdington House Birmingham with shock and concussion, discharged on the 4 September 1940.

Lance Corporal W Dawson and Sapper F Joyce also died at this incident.



Died on the 17 November 1940, age 26.

Son of Frederick and Sarah Jane Wright of Winsford; Husband of Jessie Wright.

Buried at Saint Johns Churchyard, Over, Cheshire. Grave 1195.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2735914/frederick-wright/>

Photo Credit Peter Cox.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50146487/frederick-wright>

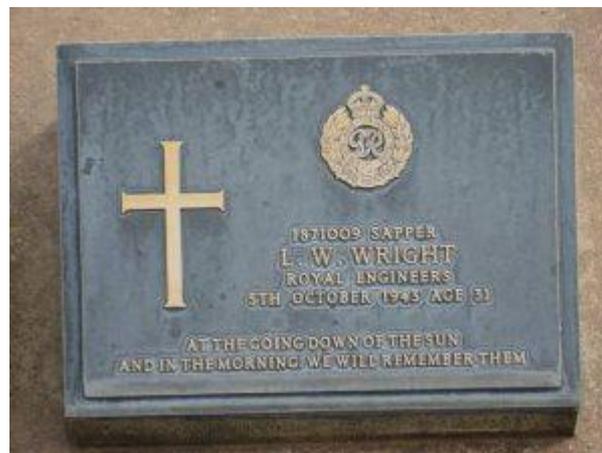
WRIGHT, Laurance Walter, (1871009) Sapper, 1 Malaya Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 29 May 1912 in York. Enlisted on the 19 August 1934 in York. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs F Wright, 39 Burton Stone Lane, Yorks. All correspondence to be addressed to his Father Mr F W Wright, at the same address.

Reported Missing 15 February 1942. POW Card, 16 July 1943, NOK notified 22 July 1943. NOK notified 11 March 1942. Died whilst a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. Amoebic Dysentery. Thailand.

Further information.

His brother Peter also died in Service.



Died on the 5 October 1943, age 31.
Son of Edward Walter and Fanny Wright of York.

Buried at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Grave 4 C 16.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2195741/laurence-walter-wright/>

Photo Credit.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/wright-l-w/>

VJ Day to January 2026.

All though the Second World War had ended, there was still clearance operations underway. Especially around the coast of the United Kingdom, in removing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures and the removal of UXBs.

As stated in the Introductions on all Volumes, the Roll does not just cover fatalities during active service, they include all those that we are aware of that died whilst in service, be that through natural causes, accidents and those who took their own lives.

Post War casualties through work related incidents can be divided into time periods.

- a. VJ Day up till the last mine clearance casualty in 1953.
- b. The Falkland's
- c. Former Republic of Yugoslavia
- d. Iraq
- e. Afghanistan

Being realistic, these volumes will in reality not stop here and will be added to through:

- a. Names being found that we were unaware of at the time of putting the documents together
- b. Future Conflicts
- c. Others dying whilst in Service.

These documents will remain live, updated yearly and put on line.

Pete Markham

**ADAMS, Basil Ralph, (22575621) Sapper, 579 Bomb Disposal Squadron (TA),
Royal Engineers.**

Died in a road traffic Accident, not on duty at the time of the accident. Hythe to Folkestone Road, Kent, between Bargrove Farms and Dibgate Camp.

No Grave Photograph found.

Died on the 25 July 1955, age? Buried 30 July 1955.
Son of Horace Ralph and Violet Dorothy Adams nee Wiles.

Hawkinge Cemetery and Crematorium, Kent. Cemetery Plot V 572.
<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2202750/hawkinge-cemetery-and-crematorium>

ALLSOPP, Luke Denis Glyn, (25066729) Sapper, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Troulan, the Commanding Officer of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), issued the following statement:

Luke Allsopp was a very capable individual who was well liked within the Squadron, and a valued team member. He had served within bomb disposal in Cyprus and Kenya.

He leaves behind a loving family and girlfriend, Katy. The family have been informed and we are giving them as much support as we can through this difficult time.

Information from [Staff Sergeant Simon Cullingworth and Sapper Luke Allsopp killed in Iraq - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)

Sergeant Sean McLoughlin told mourners that Luke was affectionately known as "Muscles." "He lived life to the max and he enjoyed it, we can be certain he is with us now with a pint in his hand, drinking his farewells." "He lived as a soldier and he died as a soldier. A soldier fighting for peace and for right."

Other link, in respect to the families the full story has not been, written here.

[BBC NEWS | UK | Iraq soldiers unlawfully killed](#)



Died on the 23 March 2003, age 25.

Buried at All Saints Church, Wimbish, Essex.
<https://www.wimbishchurch.org.uk/services/>

Photo Credit Gary Woodman-Simmons.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/all-sop-l-d-g/>



ASH, Anthony Nigel, (24022740) Warrant Officer Class II, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Royal Engineers.

Died of natural causes, cancer.



Died on the 28 October 1990, age 41.

Buried at Red Lake, Garden of Rest, Telford.

<http://www.ketleyparishcouncil.co.uk/red-lake-garden-of-rest/>

Photo Credit Joanne Carline.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/254333658/anthony-nigel-ash>

BARNSDALE, David Stephen, (2156704) Corporal, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Corporal Barnsdale deployed on his second tour of Afghanistan in September 2010 with the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force.

Trained as the commander of a Royal Engineers Search Team, he was responsible for the detection of improvised explosive devices in areas deemed to be high risk.

On 19 October 2010 his search team were deployed on Operation OMID CHAR - operating in an area east of Gereshk, working towards the construction of a new checkpoint and patrol base to enhance the security of the local population.

During the task Corporal Barnsdale was caught in the blast from an IED which resulted in his death.

Corporal David Barnsdale

Corporal Barnsdale, from Tring in Hertfordshire, was 24 years old and joined the Royal Engineers in September 2002. Following his basic combat engineer training in Camberley, he completed his Class 2 air conditioning and refrigeration trade training at Chatham before being posted to Hohne in Germany.

His four years in 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron, part of 32 Engineer Regiment, saw him promote to Lance Corporal and complete operational tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. Posted to 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) in October 2009, he comfortably passed his role-specific training and quickly settled into his new discipline. At the top of his peer group and already a Corporal, he was in line for promotion at the earliest opportunity.

An enthusiastic football player and sportsman, he enjoyed playing the game as much as supporting his team, Queens Park Rangers. A highly professional and sociable individual, he was well-liked by those who knew him. He leaves behind his mother Wendy, his father Stephen, his sister Vanessa and his girlfriend Helen.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Davis, Commanding Officer, Counter-IED Task Force, said:

Corporal David Barnsdale, 'Dave' to his friends, was a young, bright and incredibly likeable team leader. He died leading his men in what must be one of the most dangerous tasks in the Armed Forces - that of deliberately searching for IEDs.

He embodied the finest traditions of a soldier, constantly displaying bucket-loads of grit and determination; he was utterly professional but always with a dash of humility. He was generous to a fault but not when playing cards, where he had a tendency to accuse others of cheating when he was, in fact, the offender!

Corporal Dave Barnsdale was known as a considerate and friendly man, always willing to pass on his expertise to others, to engage with everyone in conversation and to encourage those around him - nobody had a bad word to say about him.

He was no stranger to operational duty either, having previously served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and, until today, in the thick of it, helping Afghans and the Combined Forces to rid this land of the improvised explosive device.

Corporal Dave Barnsdale was an outgoing person and always fun to be around. He was an avid Queens Park Rangers fan, always talking about them, but never able to understand why he was the only one who did so!

But, at heart, his family was dearly important to him and at weekends he was often to be found travelling to Tring in Hertfordshire to be with his parents, Stephen and Wendy, sister Vanessa, and his girlfriend Helen. We feel the pain of his loss and pass our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Bell, Commanding Officer, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Corporal David Barnsdale's loss has been a great shock to the regiment. A young Junior Non-Commissioned Officer with boundless potential and the steely understated determination of a man you know you can rely on in difficult times.

His operational service has been exemplary, with busy tours of Iraq and Afghanistan showing the breadth of his talents and a level of experience uncommon in a Lance Corporal. It gave me great pleasure to welcome him into the regiment as I knew he would quickly become a valuable asset and I have not been disappointed.

My overwhelming memory of Corporal Barnsdale will be his irrepressible enthusiasm and no-nonsense approach. Always wearing a wry smile wherever he was and whatever he was doing, always happy to set you straight and voice an opinion, a truly refreshing trait. He had a bright future ahead of him either in explosive ordnance disposal or out in the wider Corps. He was a key player in the regimental dynamic and his squadron will be a lesser place without him there.

On behalf of the regiment I convey my deepest heartfelt sympathies to Corporal Barnsdale's mother, Wendy, his father Stephen, and his sister Vanessa. David Barnsdale was simply a first-rate soldier and leader of men.

Major Rod Brown, Officer Commanding 61 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Soldiers like Corporal David Barnsdale are the sturdy foundation on which the Army is built. His selfless devotion to those under his command and his unique ability to see the good in every situation was equalled only by his professionalism and drive.

Whenever I asked his Troop Commander, Captain Sinnott, for a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer for an 'opportunity', he would, without hesitation, volunteer Lance Corporal Barnsdale who, with great enthusiasm, would use the 'opportunity' to shine amongst his peers.

It was therefore an easy decision to award a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer of his calibre the rank of Corporal in order to give him the opportunity to command a search team on operations in Afghanistan. I knew that Corporal Barnsdale would not let me down; it was clear from the start that his team drew great strength from his presence and his Troop Commander understandably had great faith in him.

A fun-loving and outgoing individual, Corporal Barnsdale contributed a great deal to the personality of the squadron. His inclusive attitude, buoyant personality and lust for a good social have marked his time in the squadron. He enjoyed his sports, especially football, and contributed to the squadron's sporting successes on a number of occasions in the face of a very competitive field.

With imminent promotion and a bright future ahead of him, Corporal Barnsdale's death is a tragic loss to his squadron, regiment, Corps and Service. I cannot imagine the grief that his family are currently suffering but they should know that our thoughts are with them at this most difficult of times. He will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues alike.

Captain Luke Sinnott, Troop Commander and Royal Engineers Search Advisor, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

I count Dave Barnsdale as one of the finest individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He was a rock for his team and a good friend to all of us. He fearlessly led his team in a very difficult environment and I can think of no man I would have sooner trusted with so much responsibility.

Despite his easy manner he was able to be the strong hand the searchers needed when walking towards dangerous areas, making the way safe for other people and giving them confidence to do their job day after day.

Dave had a boundless passion for Queens Park Rangers football club and carried his club flag everywhere he went. It was always easy to spot his bedspace in a room by the same flag hanging with pride from the nearest rail. The avid cards player, he was never without his cards in case an opportune moment arose to start a game of Yuka, because Dave loved company and people loved his company.

It appals me to lose a friend like Dave and I cannot help but feel the world is a lot worse off for losing him. He was the one man I always knew would have a big smile on his face and a good word to say and I cannot begin to try and repair the void he leaves behind.

He was my friend and a friend to many others, but our loss cannot compare to that of his family and his girlfriend Helen. I hope they know we are thinking of them

during this difficult period. His adopted search team family will always honour his memory. Rest in Peace Dave.

Corporal Si Archer, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

In the time I have known Dave he was always determined, brave and professional in all aspects of his life, which was sadly cut short. He will be truly missed and it has been an honour to serve with him as a friend and a colleague. Our thoughts will be with his family and friends at this difficult time and I will never forget him.

Corporal Andy Byres, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

As a team commander Dave was held in high regard, always professional, considerate and friendly. All you had to do was ask around to find the true Dave, every man had a good word to say as his efforts to engage with everyone were second-to-none. The best Yuka partner anyone could ask for, the squadron and Army will be a lesser place without him.

Corporal 'Bri' Derrick, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

The first time I met Dave was on our B1 Combat Engineer Course. It didn't take long, in fact a matter of days before we became good friends. Dave and I were in the same section. He was such an outgoing and fun guy to be around. In our spare time after work we would hit the local pub and have a good laugh together.

I always looked up to Dave for his professionalism and dedication to everything he did. After the course we lost touch, but were soon working together again in the same squadron doing the same job. Again Dave put his all into everything he did during our training before deploying to Afghanistan.

You will be sorely missed as a great friend and colleague. My thoughts are with your family and friends at this time.

Corporal 'Foggy' McGuffog, friend and fellow Royal Engineers Search Team Commander, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

I didn't get the chance to work with Dave but I did get the chance to socialise with him.

Dave was a great bloke and a man who cared about those around him, always asking how they were and making them smile. He loved to go out for a curry and a beer or three either for the craic or to cheer you up. Dave will be sorely missed as a friend and a team commander. It's people like him who are the glue that hold the unit and the Army together.

Lance Corporal Craig Davies, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Dave was a brilliant friend who led by example in everything he did. My two biggest memories of Dave are playing cards together, and he always seemed to know when I was cheating. He was also a massive QPR fan who took great pleasure in giving me stick when my team, Middlesbrough, were beaten. A legend who will never be forgotten.

Lance Corporal Jones, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

From the moment I arrived at the squadron Corporal Dave Barnsdale was very welcoming. He would approach you and you knew that you could have a good chat about things. Always happy and willing to have a good laugh, all that knew him respected him.

He knew his job well and this was reflected in the team he commanded. Dave will always be remembered for his morale amongst the lads. A sad loss for us all. RIP Dave, gone but definitely not forgotten.

Lance Corporal Adam Muirhead, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

I met Dave in 2005 when I was posted into 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron at Hohne in Germany, and from my first night in the squadron bar I knew that Dave and I would be friends for life. I had the pleasure of deploying on Op TELIC 7 and also Op HERRICK 9 with Dave. I will always remember Dave's face when we were stood at the top of the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas.

The look of pure fear in his eyes was almost comical as we were shot up in the air on the rollercoaster. Dave's passion for football and his beloved QPR would match that of any hardcore football fan.

"Dave was always willing to help those in need and was much liked and respected by all that had the pleasure of meeting him. He will be sorely missed by the squadron and the Corps. One day we will meet again Dave. Gone but not forgotten."

Lance Corporal 'Phil' Studdart, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Corporal 'Dave' Barnsdale, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group. Friend and Colleague.

Corporal 'Dave' Barnsdale was a great colleague and outstanding friend. Serving in the same troop as Dave it was easy to see his enthusiasm to help others towards success. He always acted selflessly and was a true inspiration to myself and those around him. God bless you Dave, you will truly be missed by all.

Sapper 'Kasper' Mulrooney, a friend and Royal Engineers Search Team member, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

What little time I spent with Dave I will remember for a long time to come. I worked in his team for almost two months during pre-deployment training and in that time, I knew I was in good hands under Dave's guidance. As a TA soldier I had to work that little bit harder to make my mark in his team, but Dave was always understanding with me and for that I thank him.

No matter how bone a question I asked, or how funny he found it, Dave would give me a straight answer, after some ribbing.

My last and fondest memory of this great Royal Engineer Search Team commander will be the lift home he gave me from our Dari course in Waterbeach. On the two-hour drive home, I gained much knowledge from an experienced soldier and got to know him that bit better. He was a fine example of what a man of the Corps should be. He will be missed by all.

Sapper Ben Thompson, a friend and colleague, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Dave was a fantastic friend and one who always kept morale high no matter what situation he was in. My biggest memory of Dave is when we went to KFC and we smashed over £28 worth of food and he was still hungry. Dave was also a beloved QPR fan who you could always enjoy great banter with. We will all miss you Dave and always remember you.

Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox, said:

Corporal Barnsdale died during an important operation conducted by the Afghan National Army to improve security in their own country.

I was deeply saddened to hear of his death but I am also very proud of his contribution to this vital work. He was a brave and highly skilled operator with a bright future ahead of him and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him. My thoughts remain with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

Information from.

[Corporal David Barnsdale killed in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)

09 JUL 2010	BDN	S J	ROBINSON	RA
11 JUL 2010	MNE	MT	HARRISON	RM
13 JUL 2010	MAJ	J J	BOYMAN	RAF
13 JUL 2010	LT	H	TURKINGTON	RGR
13 JUL 2010	CPL		ARJUN PURJA PUN	RGR
16 JUL 2010	MNE	D T	CROOKES	RM
16 JUL 2010	SAC	A	GRIFFITHS	RAF
17 JUL 2010	SGT	E Q	LINLEY GM	RLC
17 JUL 2010	SGT	D T	MONKHOUSE	RGG
21 JUL 2010	CPL	M J	STENKON MC	ROG
21 JUL 2010	LCPL	S D	MONKHOUSE MC	SG
26 JUL 2010	SPR	M A	SMITH	RE
01 AUG 2010	MNE	A R	BROWN	RM
01 AUG 2010	LSGT	D A	McCALLUM	SG
11 AUG 2010	LT	J C	SANDERSON	MERCIAH
12 AUG 2010	RFN		REMANO KULUNG	RGR
13 AUG 2010	SER	D S	FOSTER	RE
13 AUG 2010	SPR		ISHWOR GURUNG	GGE
21 AUG 2010	LCPL	J D	BANCROFT	LANCS
05 SEP 2010	CAPT	A M	GRIFFITHS	LANCS
05 SEP 2010	LCPL	J McF	POOL	SCOTS
10 SEP 2010	KGM	D L	DEADY	LANCS
18 SEP 2010	SGT	A J	JONES	RE
18 SEP 2010	TPR	A M	HOWARTH	ORL
26 SEP 2010	CPL	M D	THOMAS	REME
02 OCT 2010	RFN		SURAJ GURUNG	RGR
08 OCT 2010	SGT	P A	RAYNER	LANCS
19 OCT 2010	CPL	D S	BARNSDALE	RE
30 OCT 2010	SPR	W B	BLANCHARD	RE (V)
07 NOV 2010	SAC	S M	HUGHES	RAF
14 NOV 2010	RGR	A L	McCORMICK	R IRISH
17 NOV 2010	GDSPM	C J	DAVIES	SG
05 DEC 2010	PTE	J W R	HOWARD	PARA
21 DEC 2010	CPL	S T	DUNN	R DONALS
28 DEC 2010	WO2	C H	WOOD	RLC
01 JAN 2011	PTE	J S	VATURUA	SCOTS
25 JAN 2011	PTE	M S D	BELL GM	PARA
04 FEB 2011	RGR	D G	DALZELL	R IRISH
06 FEB 2011	WO2	C	BECKETT	PARA

Died on the 19 October 2010, age 24.

Buried at Woodwells Cemetery, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Phot Credit Forscher, of Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/60388546/david-stephen-barnsdale>



BIXBY, Frederick George, (14634974) Sapper, 21 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 10 October 1902 in Dagenham. Enlisted on the 17 July 1943. Next of Kin Wife, 75 Grantham Road, Manor Park, London.

Served with 4 Training Battalion, 29 July 1943; 21 Bomb Disposal Company, 1 Bomb Disposal Group, 6 October 1943; 2 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 2 Bomb Disposal Group, 15 May 1945.

Accidentally killed in a road traffic accident, whilst on duty. Inquest findings, death by misadventure.



Died on the 23 September 1945, age 42.

Son of Frederick and Phoebe Bixby. Husband of Gladys Bixby of Manor Park.

Buried at City of London Cemetery, Manor Park, Essex. Square 299 Grave 112635.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2733953/frederick-george-bixby/>

Photo Credit Andy Baker.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24345898/frederick-george-bixby>

BLANCHARD, William, (30042469) Sapper, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), Royal Engineers.

Sapper Blanchard was killed as a result of a gunshot wound suffered whilst he was dealing with a suspect explosive device in the Nahr-e Saraj (North) area of Helmand province.

Sapper Blanchard deployed to Afghanistan on 17 September 2010 as part of the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force. Trained to assist in the preparation and operation of explosive ordnance disposal equipment and the recognition and management of conventional munitions, he was part of an improvised explosive device destroy team operating in Helmand province.

On 30 October 2010 his team was in the process of destroying a device when they were engaged by small arms fire. During the engagement Sapper Blanchard was struck by a bullet and died from the injuries he sustained.

Sapper William Blanchard

Sapper Blanchard, aged 39, from Gosport in Hampshire, joined 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), part of 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), in 2007. He completed his basic training and then his elementary explosive ordnance disposal course before volunteering for mobilisation in 2010.

Once mobilised he joined 61 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) for mission specific training in Woodbridge before deployment. A friendly, well-considered and down-to-earth individual, he was the cornerstone of the reservist element within the Task Force.

He aspired to attempt officer selection on completion of his operational service and was already showing many of the hallmarks of a great leader.

A radiation protection officer by profession, he gained a double honours degree in Chemistry with Organic Chemistry and a Masters in Biomedical Pharmacology at the University of Southampton.

He leaves behind a large family including his wife, Suzanne Blanchard, and his children, Tom and Lucy Rees-Blanchard, his father, The Reverend Canon Lawrence Blanchard, and six brothers, Tom, Dan and Ned Blanchard and John, Chris and Shane Sargeant.

Sapper Blanchard's wife, Mrs Suzanne Blanchard, said:

Will was a wonderful husband, son, brother, father, brother-in-law, son-in-law and friend. Sorely missed, always in our hearts, never forgotten by his devastated family, friends and colleagues and his beloved wife.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Davis, Commanding Officer, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Task Force, said:

Sapper Blanchard was a father figure to the younger elements of the squadron. He was always concerned with their development and welfare, always displaying an interest in what they were doing, and always keeping them informed - he was the consummate professional and it was not for nothing that he was known as 'the Colonel'!

He was a perfectionist but one who had endless patience with his fellow soldiers, he was both impeccable and irreplaceable; people like Sapper Blanchard only come along once in a blue moon.

Sapper Blanchard brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from his civilian employment into the Territorial Army and onwards into the C-IED Task Force. I clearly remember his unique brand of intellectual humour and his ability to 'read' the bigger picture which enabled him to place his vital contribution into context. He had a laid-back approach and oozed confidence which was delivered with inner steel.

He was a widely-loved character who kept others going in times of adversity with his capacity to relate to people, to spread his knowledge and to care for them, and, of course, he often made them step back in amazement with his enthusiasm for detail, be it reading instruction manuals or field testing the latest piece of EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] equipment to ensure that it 'did what it said on the tin'!

Our loss runs exceptionally deep; Sapper Blanchard has left a palpable void within the C-IED Task Force. He was a brave and selfless soldier who took time out from his civilian employment to commit himself to our country and to the future of Afghanistan.

He was always talking about his family and made his deep affection for them known to all. The heartfelt wishes, thoughts and prayers of the entire C-IED Task Force go out to his wife, Suzanne, his children, father and brothers at this painfully difficult time.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Budden, Commanding Officer, 101 (City Of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

The loss of Sapper William Blanchard has shaken the regiment deeply - my heartfelt condolences go out to Sapper Blanchard's wife, children, parents and friends. An exceptional soldier, he was a highly committed and professional member of 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

His dedication to the Territorial Army, to his training and his desire to deploy on operations was an example to all those in his squadron and regiment. He was a role model to all that knew him. Sapper Blanchard will be sorely missed, but always remembered, by all ranks in 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

Major Rod Brown, Officer Commanding 61 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Sapper William Blanchard epitomises the strength that the mobilised Territorial Army bring to the operational theatre.

An individual with a unique skill set, limitless enthusiasm and experience uncommon of his rank. I found the presence of the towering Sapper immediately consoling; he was able to engage with all levels of command, and drew the best from his team, only resting once he knew that he had done all he physically could.

Despite being relatively new to Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Will's quest for perfection pulled his team together, making them one of the most effective destroy teams in the task force, and my first choice for some of the more challenging tasks.

At times his foresight and clarity of thought were so impeccable he would have made a creditable member of my command team; he truly was an officer in the making. Despite his clear potential for a commission he was unequivocally focused on the task in hand; he maintained a tangible desire to make a difference and was a leading light in difficult times.

Will's contribution to making Afghanistan a safer place will not be forgotten by those of us that have known him. A genuine, widely-respected and deeply-valued member of the team, his loss is heart-wrenching for those of us in his squadron and I cannot comprehend the grief his family must now be suffering.

My most sincere condolences go to his wife Suzanne, his children Tom and Lucy, his father Lawrence, and his brothers Tom, Dan, Ned, John, Chris and Shane.

Major Caroline Eyre, Officer Commanding 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

Sapper William Blanchard had been a member of 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers) for three years and was a highly professional and committed member of the squadron.

He travelled a considerable distance from his home in Portsmouth to the Territorial Army Centre in Rochester in order to attend training, setting an example of dedication to his fellow Sappers. Keen to deploy on operations, he undertook the training required to be part of a conventional munition's disposal team at the earliest opportunity.

Sapper Blanchard was a dependable and mature individual who could be relied upon to undertake his role in a conscientious manner and was due to attend the Potential Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre for promotion to Lance Corporal on his return from Operation HERRICK.

His quiet yet friendly manner ensured that Sapper Blanchard was well liked by all ranks and he had many close friends in the squadron who will miss him dearly. He was one of our own and he will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who were close to him; his family, his friends and his team members.

Captain Andy Abbott, Team Commander and Bomb Disposal Officer, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

I first met Will when I was the Sergeant Major Instructor in the regiment in charge of recruiting. Will struck me then as an extremely intelligent, clever man. He was keen to learn from the outset as a recruit and again after being posted into his troop. He should have gone for Officer Cadet selection but wanted to get experience as a Sapper first.

Our paths crossed again when I was instructing on his EOD course; again he would listen intently to the lectures and then come and track me down at the end and ask more questions.

Over the past months, whilst training for this deployment, our small team has gelled and Will was an integral part of this team. Always asking questions, he admitted to me that he couldn't help but think about everything he'd done, trying to improve. This, he told me, was to the annoyance of his wife Sue. He would come up with some crazy ideas, but annoyingly most of the time they worked!

A quiet man who could never be rushed, he loved his cup of tea in the morning and would not start work without it. He had become a good friend to me and Corporal Tony Field, helping Tony to write his diary and letters. We would sit down most days and chew the fat, talking about politics, work and me telling him about my holidays, trying to persuade him to take Sue to the Maldives when we got back.

He recently missed his second wedding anniversary because he was out here. The day of his anniversary the phones were off-line during the day so he stayed up until late that night hoping for them to come online so that he could speak to Sue on their special day. His face was beaming when he came back to the room because he had managed to get hold of her.

A thoroughly lovely, thoughtful man who will be sorely missed by all. Cruelly and tragically taken from us, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and, most of all, his wife Suzanne.

Captain Tom Roach, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

Sapper Blanchard came to 221 Field Squadron with a mission from the start. He wanted to support his country on operations and was determined to reach his goal as soon as he could. Sapper Blanchard worked like a demon to achieve his aim, but simply revelled in the build up to operations.

He was an outstanding soldier of the highest calibre. He was respected by everyone that knew him because he was professional in every aspect of his soldiering. He will be truly missed by all that came to know him, no matter how short that time was. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this very, very sad time. Quis Separabit.

Captain Ken Jones, Second-in-Command, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

I had the honour and the pleasure to know William. The squadron and I were devastated to hear about his tragic death on Saturday. I had the greatest respect for William and will miss him greatly. His generous nature and remarkable sense of humour was an example to others.

“William was a big man with a big heart - the squadron’s gentle giant. We will always remember him. His family are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you at this time.”

Warrant Officer Class 2 (Squadron Sergeant Major) Reyhan Fadil said:

Everything about William was big, he was a big man, had a big brain, always put in a big effort. He also had a big smile, and of course had a big heart. He was very well liked, was a very popular soldier, very well respected, and everyone’s friend. Now he’s moved on, he will leave a big void. Rest in peace big man.

Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor Matthew Loughrey, 1 Troop Commander, said:

Will had been with 1 Troop, 221 Field Squadron, for several years and was trained as a member of the bomb disposal team prior to his deployment to Afghanistan.

I would describe Will as a gentle giant who led a private life; popular and well respected with both fellow Sappers and the troop management. Will was a highly intelligent, mature and wise man who would always give you an educated opinion.

Always systematic in his approach and, if facing a problem or given a challenge, he would always come up with a solution. Living in Portsmouth, Will would often do a four-hour round trip to parade on a Tuesday evening, showing true dedication and commitment to the squadron and Territorial Army.

Ready to help or give worldly advice to anyone, Will was a true professional who looked forward to his deployment and relished the opportunity to gain experience. A tragic loss, he will be greatly missed by his team and all in the squadron, regiment and Corps.

Sergeant Ian Williamson, Bomb Disposal Officer, 579 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

I first met Will on a TA training weekend when I taught him battlefield first aid. We met on subsequent weekends, on exercise, and I taught him on his elementary

explosive ordnance disposal course before mobilisation. He was a very intelligent man, always attentive and ready with a question. He would seek you out after a lesson just to reconfirm everything you had covered.

Will always had time for his mates, always ready to socialise over a cup of tea and help with advice on computers. He got the nickname 'the Colonel' because being meticulous in everything he did could be exasperating. He would check up on everything that was arranged, then read it back to you like battle orders. We laughed and took the mickey but he'll be missed, a thoroughly nice bloke.

Corporal Adetokanbo Adefuye, friend and fellow explosive ordnance disposal operator, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

Will, words cannot express what you mean to us. You loved your family, cared for your friends and colleagues and took pride, perfection, joy and responsibility in everything you did.

You will be sorely missed by all of us; your friends, squadron, regiment and most importantly your much-loved family. Goodnight pal and may your gentle soul rest in peace.

Lance Corporal Aaron Mitchell, friend and fellow explosive ordnance disposal operator, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

I have known Will for several years, working together in our TA unit, 221 Field Squadron Royal Engineers (EOD); he was always hardworking and professional in everything he did.

We both mobilised for Operation HERRICK 13 as part of the Counter-IED Task Force and it was when we began pre-deployment training together, spending every day practically living in each other's pockets, that I realised how hard he worked at every job to give the best of his ability.

He was friendly, supportive and always put others first. Will's sense of humour was a bit bizarre at first but that was what made him the character he was. He will be dearly missed and has done his country proud. My thoughts go out to his family after such a loss. I will miss you buddy.

Lance Corporal Michael Rix, friend and fellow explosive ordnance disposal operator, 221 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

'The Colonel' to his friends but, to those in charge, Sapper William Blanchard, the only Sapper to be paid more than the Colonel. He was called the Colonel because of his ability to brief and debrief any rank. This was due to his civvy job; he just forgot he was not in charge. But this made him the most fastidious person I have ever met. If there was something geeky you needed to know he was the man to go to. He needed to know the ins and outs of everything before he set about doing anything.

Will was a straight up person, more of the officer type; he did not tolerate fools but he never offended people in the same regard - he was one of life's genuine people. I have learned this over the year or so that I have known Will, and in the last six months I have spent more time and gone out for more meals with him than with my wife.

I can say he was out here for his own reasons which were the love and enthusiasm of the job he was doing. He was a life friend to me, a bond that cannot be broken and will be dearly missed by myself and everyone he had touched in his life.

Sapper Christian Mulrooney, friend and Royal Engineers Search Team member, 217 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers), said:

In six months I have befriended one of the best Sappers I've known in almost six years of service. Will, as he would have us know him, was a man of great character and strength, who showed endless patience to all around him. From him I have learned so much and am heartbroken he has been taken from us all so suddenly.

I feel for all who knew him as they have lost someone who cannot and will never be replaced. If I were to detail all his strengths I would run out of time, I simply cannot impress upon you how great a man he was. Ages will pass before I can close this wound his death has inflicted upon me. Will, you will not be forgotten.

Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox, said:

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sapper William Blanchard. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for his commitment to the security of our country as a TA Reservist and, in particular, for his contribution to the work of 101 Engineer Regiment during their deployment.

I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones at this difficult time.

Information from.

[Sapper William Blanchard killed in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)

09 JUL 2010	DDR	S J	ROBINSON	RA
11 JUL 2010	MNS	M T	HARRISON	RM
13 JUL 2010	MAJ	J J	BOWMAN	RFLES
13 JUL 2010	LT	H	FURKINGTON	RGR
13 JUL 2010	CPL		ARJUN PURJA PUN	RGR
16 JUL 2010	MNS	J D T	CROOKES	RM
16 JUL 2010	SAC	A	GRIFFITHS	RAA
17 JUL 2010	SSGT	E G	LINLEY GM	RLC
17 JUL 2010	SGT	D T	MONKHOUSE	ROG
21 JUL 2010	CPL	M J	STENTON MC	ROG
21 JUL 2010	LCPL	S D	MONKHOUSE MC	ROG
24 JUL 2010	SPR	M A	SMITH	RE
01 AUG 2010	MNS	A R	BROWN	RM
01 AUG 2010	LSGT	D A	MCCALLUM	SG
01 AUG 2010	LT	J C	SANDERSON	MERCIAN
10 AUG 2010	RFN		REMAND KULUNG	RGR
13 AUG 2010	SPR	D S	FOSTER	RE
13 AUG 2010	SPR		SRINOR GURUNG	QGE
21 AUG 2010	LCPL	J D	BANCROFT	LANCS
05 SEP 2010	CAPT	A M	GRIFFITHS	LANCS
05 SEP 2010	LCPL	J MeF	POOL	SCOTS
10 SEP 2010	KGN	D L	DEAGY	LANCS
18 SEP 2010	SGT	A J	JONES	RE
18 SEP 2010	TPR	A M	HOWARTH	QRL
25 SEP 2010	CPL	M D	THOMAS	REME
02 OCT 2010	RFN		SURAJ GURUNG	RGR
04 OCT 2010	SGT	P A	RAYNER	LANCS
18 OCT 2010	CPL	D S	BARNSDALE	RE
20 OCT 2010	SPR	W B	BLANCHARD	RE (T)
07 NOV 2010	SAC	S M	HUGHES	RAF
11 NOV 2010	RGR	A L	MCCORMICK	R IRISH
17 NOV 2010	GDSM	C J	DAVIES	IG
05 DEC 2010	PTE	J W R	HOWARD	PARA
21 DEC 2010	CPL	S T	DUNN	R SIGNALS
28 DEC 2010	WO2	C H	WOOD	RLC
01 JAN 2011	PTE	J S	VATIRWA	SCOTS
25 JAN 2011	PTE	M S G	BELL GM	PARA
04 FEB 2011	RGR	D G	DALZELL	R IRISH
05 FEB 2011	WO2	C	BECKETT	PARA

Died on the 30 October 2010, age 39.

Burial location unknown.

Photo Credit Forsher of memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/61090939/william-bernard-blanchard>



BOATWRIGHT, Francis Joseph, (382877) Captain, Malta Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

They had been on exercise in Libya clearing mines. On completion, the majority of the unit returned to Malta by sea. Captain Boatwright who was in charge of the Bomb Disposal Section and others on the rear party were returning by plane, a Hastings 498. As the plane took off it crashed, there were no survivors. El Adem Airstrip, Libya.

Further Information.

16 members of 16 Malta Fortress Company Construction Company lost their lives in this incident and Captain Boatwright, the biggest peacetime tragedy for Malta's servicemen.

Captain Boatwright had served in the UK and was awarded the Bomb and Mine Clearance Medal.



Died on the 10 October 1961, age 35.

Son of Francis Austin and Jessie Bridget Boatwright nee Malone.

Buried at Pembroke Military Cemetery, Malta. Plot 1 Row 1 Grave 19.

[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit Ken Pullar.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148231743/francis-joseph-boatwright>

BRADDOCK, Kenneth, (22797375) Corporal, Headquarters, Bomb Disposal Unit (UK), Royal Engineers.

Born on the 10 June 1931 in Leeswood, Mold. Enlisted on the 20 March 1952 in Wrexham. Next of Kin, Mother, Mrs E M Braddock, 14 Vale View, Leeswood, near Mold, Flintshire.

Died Clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Trimmingham, Norfolk.



Died on the 6 May 1953, age21.

Buried at Christ Churchyard, Pontblyddyn, Flintshire, Wales.

[Christ Church, Pontblyddyn - The Church in Wales](#)

Photo Credit Kevin Laroux Wood.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/193017323/kenneth-braddock>

BRADLEY, Peter Jonathan, (24853112) Corporal, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Died while dealing with an M79 Heat Hand Grenade, during Operation Harvest in Bugojno, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The incident occurred when the grenade exploded while being moved by troops.

Four people were also injured, three from the Royal Highland Fusiliers.



Died on the 11 September 1999, age 28.

Buried at Radwinter Cemetery, Saffron Walden, Essex. Section 39 Grave 58.

[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit trish fisher.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122989772/peter-jonathan-bradley>

**BROWN, Joseph Bernard, (24328747) Corporal. 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD),
Royal Engineers.**

Died in a Road Traffic Accident.

No Photograph available.

Died 22 January 1988, age 30.

Funeral at Chester lee Street no other information available.

CAVANAGH, Graeme William, (24541695) Corporal, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Died on natural causes, cancer.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 9 May 1998, age 24.

Robin Hood Lane, Crematorium, Chatham Kent.

No other information available.

CHAPPEL, William Arthur, (22282884) Corporal, 243 Bomb Disposal Squadron (TA), Royal Engineers.

Died of natural causes, cancer of the stomach.

No photograph available.

Died on the 13 June 1951, age?

No further information available.

CHURCHILL, Arthur George, (331128) Captain. Experimental Bomb Disposal Unit, Bovington, Royal Engineers.

They were carrying out tests upon detonators on Turnetspudds Heath. At the end of the day it was decided to destroy all detonators that had been subject to tests. These were placed in a hole 18 inches deep and a charge placed on top to destroy them. QMSI Cook left Lt Churchill and went to clear the area. He walked towards the van he had got about 15 feet away when there was an explosion. On turning round he saw Lieutenant Churchill face down about 8 feet from the hole. Lieutenant Churchill was badly injured. He died from these injuries. Major J.D. Hay officer in charge of the demolition section said that Lieutenant Churchill had been a bomb disposal officer for 3 years and was considered sufficiently experienced to carry out any experiments they had to do.

Further information. Details from Dorset Daily Echo, Saturday 2 November 1946, supplied by Mrs R Pike,

Lieutenant A G Churchill was always known as George. He served 18 months as a dispatch rider for Glastonbury Fire Service whilst still in the 6th form at Elmhurst Grammar School. On leaving school he went to Bristol University, reading Research Chemistry, living in Wills Hall. During his time there he spent many hours at the University tower on fire watch duty. He was awarded his commission at the 140 OCTU RE, 172 class in September 1944 and was subsequently involved in clearing mines from the beaches at Brighton and Shoreham in Sussex. He was put in charge of the Experimental Bomb Disposal Unit at Bovington. Lt Churchill died on the 29th October 1946. QMSI Charles Henry Cook, who was with him and Sergeant Frosdick on that day related the events leading to his death at a Military enquiry, at Bovington Military Hospital, on the 31st October 1946.



Died on the 29 October 1946, age 23.

Buried at Glastonbury Cemetery, Somerset. Section I Grave 589.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2692073/a-g-churchill/>

Photo Credit

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/churchill-a-g/>



Photo Given to REA BD Branch by Captain Churchills daughter, Mrs Rachel Pike.

COBB, George William, (14631797) Sapper, 20 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 15 July 1917 in Biggleswade. Enlisted on the 17 June 1943. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs G Cobb, 5 King Street, Potton, Beds.

Served with 193 Bomb Disposal Platoon; 20 Bomb Disposal Company.

Died on Natural causes, Ketosis ? Melanoma, Pulmonary, Tuberculosis. Barming Heath Hospital, Kent.



Died on the 29 November 1945, age 40.
Husband of Gladys Cobb of Potton.

Buried at Potton Cemetery, Bedfordshire. Section G Grave 300.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2706149/george-william-cobb/>

Photo Credit Remembering Our Fallen.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68913681/george-william-cobb>

CONNOR, John, (2128807) Lance Sergeant, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 21 March 1911 in Glasgow. Enlisted on the 28 October 1940. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs L H Connor, 17 Rockcliffe Street, Glasgow SE.

Served with 11 Bomb Disposal Company.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. It is possible that the elements in the rocks affected the mine detectors making them unreliable. Peffer Sands, Whitekirk. Not to blame.

Corporal W King and Sapper J Dallas also died at this incident.



Died on the 14 September 1945, age 34.

Son of Owen and Anne Connor: Husband of Elizabeth Connor of Glasgow.

Buried at Saint Peters Roman Catholic Church, Glasgow. Section 17 Grave 1472.

Photo Credit Spook Hogg.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/connor-j/>

CULLINGWORTH, Simon, (24779897) Staff Sergeant, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Staff Sergeant Simon Cullingworth

Aged 36, Staff Sergeant Cullingworth came from Essex and was married with two sons.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Troulan, the Commanding Officer of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), issued the following statement:

Staff Sergeant Cullingworth was an extremely experienced soldier who was in line for promotion and whose dedication to duty and professionalism won him the respect of everyone he served with.

This was his third tour of duty with the Regiment; he had already served as a Bomb Disposal Officer in the Balkans and Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife Allison and two young sons, aged eight and three.

The family has been informed and we are giving them as much support as we can through this difficult time.

Sapper L D G Allsopp also died at this incident.

Information from. [Staff Sergeant Simon Cullingworth and Sapper Luke Allsopp killed in Iraq - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)

Other link, in respect to the families the full story has not been, written here. [BBC NEWS | UK | Iraq soldiers unlawfully killed](#)



Died on the 23 March 2003, age 36.
Husband of Alison Cullingworth.

Buried at All Saints Churchyard, Wimbish, Essex.
[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit geoffrey gillon.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86967236/simon-cullingworth>



DALLAS, James, (317976) Sapper, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 July 1917 in Fraserburgh. Enlisted on the 8 January 1940 in Dundee, aged 22. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs M Dallas, 8 Fernie Road, Fraserburgh, Scotland. NOK notified on the 17 September 1945.

Served with 665 Construction Company, Clacton, 8 January 1940; 675 General Construction Company, 23 March 1941; 677 General Construction Company, 19 May 1941; 2 Depot Battalion, 2 December 1941; 1 Bomb Disposal Company 17 December 1941; 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 1 October 1942; 11 Bomb Disposal Company, 20 November 1944.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. It is possible that the elements in the rocks affected the mine detectors making them unreliable. Peffer Sands, Whitekirk. Not to blame.

Lance Sergeant J Connor and Corporal W King also died at this incident.



Died on the 14 September 1945, age 27.
Son of Stanley and Margaret A Dallas of Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Buried at Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh. 1184 Extn Class 5 Grave 1729.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2458673/james-dallas/>

Photo Credit Royzee.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/212359027/james-dallas>

DENTON, Sydney Arthur, (2127488) Sapper, 21 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 26 December 1909 in Deptford. Enlisted on the 13 November 1940. Next of Kin Father, Mr T Denton, 19 Edwards Street, Deptford, London. SE8.

Accidentally killed whilst on military duties. Newspaper report of Inquest Verdict, death by misadventure, blown up by a beach mine, whilst clearing rubbish dump minefield. On duty not to blame.

Sapper W J D Ellis also died at this incident.



Died on the 9 November 1945, age 35.

Buried at Brockley Cemetery, Deptford, London. Section A Grave 1712.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2428377/sydney-arthur-denton/>

Photo Credit Chris Doran.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24619223/sydney-arthur-denton>

EASTHAM, Lee, (25016070) Sapper, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Took his own life.



Died on the 6 April 1997, age 21.

All Saints Churchyard, Wimbish, Essex. Western Division 3 Grave 1.
[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit geoffrey gillon.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86988520/lee-eastham>

ELLIS, William James Dixon, (2156325) Sapper, 21 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 December 1912 in Weston, Herts. Enlisted on the 26 February 1942.

Accidentally killed whilst on military duties. Newspaper report of Inquest Verdict, death by misadventure, blown up by a beach mine, whilst clearing rubbish dump minefield. On duty not to blame.

Sapper S A Denton also died at this incident.



Died on the 9 November 1945, age 23.

Son of Henry James and Grace Ellis; Husband of Phillis May Ellis of Stevenage.

Buried at Saint Nicholas Churchyard, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Section A Cons Grave 99.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2933107/william-james-dixon-ellis/>

Photo Credit Peterpuz.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100774802/william-james_dixon-ellis

**FORDYCE, John Christie, (2149997) Corporal, 11 Bomb Disposal Company,
Royal Engineers.**

Born on the 22 October 1921 in Glenmuck, Aberdeen. Enlisted on the 17 July 1941.

Next of Kin Wife, Mrs J Fordyce, 23 Morrell Street, Maltby, Rotherham.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire. Not due to their negligence.

Lieutenant G H Gaylor, Sapper Hurley also died at this incident.



Died on the 7 August 1946, age 24.

Son of William and Wilhemina Fordyce: Husband of Mary Joyce Fordyce of Maltby.

Buried at Maltby Burial Ground, Yorkshire. Section D Row 2 Grave 27.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2409039/john-christie-fordyce/>

Photo Credit John Charlton.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18008613/john-christie-fordyce>

FRANKUM Jonathon James, (24836549) Sapper, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Died from a heart attack, whilst on a run at Weymouth Training Camp.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 9 March 1993, age ?

No further details available.

GAYLOR GM, George Henry, (166510) Lieutenant, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire. Not due to their negligence.

Corporal J C Fordyce, Sapper Hurley also died at this incident.

Further Information.

George was born in Stevenage and educated at the Letchmore Road School. After leaving school he was employed at ESA in Stevenage for four years in the firm's paint-dipping workshop. When he reached 18 years of age, he decided to join the Army and entered his father's old corps, the Royal Engineers. George served in Malta for four years and left the Army just before the outbreak of war. As a reserve he was re-called to the service when the war began and again served with the Royal Engineers. He was employed on bomb disposal work and was eventually commissioned as a Lieutenant. It appears that he also helped to train saboteurs and covert operatives at the Commando training school at Tatlers Farm near Stevenage. George then married a girl named Ruth and they had two children, Anthony & Janet. He was awarded the George Medal for Bomb Disposal underwater in the wreckage of the Railway Bridge across the Albert Canal at Hasselt, Belgium between the 6th-8th November 1944.



Died on the 7 August 1946, age 30.

Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Gaylor: Husband of Ruth Maybelle Gaylor of Llanishen, Cardiff.

Buried and commemorated at Albany Park Cemetery. Section N 6 Joint Grave RN 62507.

Photo Credit
Above Ewing Petersn.
Below siolsister

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24614342/george-henry-gaylor>

GUNNER G. DRAIN ROYAL ARTILLERY	4. 6. 1948
DRIVER G.M. DRANE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS	21. 6. 1948
PRIVATE W.R. DUTTON ROYAL ARMY ORDRANCE CORPS	2. 6. 1941
A.B. V.L.A. ELLIOTT, RN. HMS. "TEVIOT MARK"	22. 4. 1947
SERGEANT A.E. EMERSON ROYAL ARTILLERY	25. 11. 1945
PRIVATE J. FURY THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGT.	19. 1. 1947
LIEUTENANT C.H. GAYLOR, CM. ROYAL ENGINEERS	7. 6. 1946
PRIVATE E. GIBBS THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT	12. 9. 1940
PRIVATE J. GIBSON ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS	21. 2. 1948
A.B. A.C. GREEN, RN. HMS. "ALCA"	28. 6. 1946
GUNNER J.A. HARE ROYAL ARTILLERY	7. 12. 1946
PRIVATE J.H. HARE PIONEER CORPS	10. 1. 1948



Gilbert, Walter Kenneth, (14697715) Sapper, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 7 March 1923 in Swansea. Enlisted on the 6 January 1944. Next of Kin Father, Mr W Gilbert, 71 Grenfell Park Road, Saint Thomas, Swansea, Glam.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Explosion of a B Type C Beach mine. Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer 3 Bomb Disposal Group; No evidence to show how the mine was activated or at what stage of the operation the accident occurred. It is assumed that the mine was in process of being uncovered, the deceased was guilty of disobedience of instructions. Horsey, Norfolk.

Corporal Rackett, Sapper Sullivan also died at this incident.



Died on the 31 July 1946, age 23.
Son of T W and Maud Gilbert of Sint Thomas, Swansea.

Buried at Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, Section W Grave 514.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2718216/walter-kenneth-gilbert/>

Photo Credit Bev Lewis

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/gilbert-w-k/>

GISBORNE, Harold Douglas, (22818083) Warrant Officer Class II, 142 Bomb Disposal Regiment (Army Emergency Reserve), Royal Engineers.

Born on the 6 May 1920. Enlisted on the 27 May 1940.

Served with 1 Depot Battalion, Chatham; Z Holding Company, 27 May 1940; 25 Bomb Disposal Company, 10 September 1940, 2 Bomb Disposal Company, 10 September 1941; 22 Bomb Disposal Company, 3 November 1944; 142 Bomb Disposal (AER).

Died of natural causes, asphyxia. 17 Fernhurst Road, Southsea.

No photograph available.

Died on the 11 September 1955, age 33

No further details available.

GRIFFITHS, Edward James, (2068408) Corporal, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 9 January 1915 in Birkenhead. Enlisted on the 27 March 1939 in Birkenhead. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Mary Griffiths, 25 Flint Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire. NOK notified on the 18 September 1945.

Served with 2 Cheshire Field Squad; 700 General Construction Company, 27 January 1941; embarked for North Africa 11 November 1942; 1 Bomb Disposal Group, 9 February 1943; 40 Bomb Disposal Section 16 December 1943; 4 Bomb Disposal Company.

Died through an explosion of a British mine. Sergeant L Horsham who was engaged in clearance work nearby, heard the explosion at 1445. He believed that Lieutenant Shrimpton had been very close to the mine and Corporal Griffiths to have been within a 50 feet radius, when it exploded. Caister, Norfolk, next to the lifeboat station.

Lieutenant Shrimpton also died at this incident.



Died on the 17 September 1945, age 30.
Son of Thomas and Mary Griffiths of Birkenhead.

Buried at Landican Cemetery, Birkenhead. Roman Catholic Section 5 Grave 178.

Photo Credit Open Source.

HAYES, Joseph, (4032789) Sapper, 20 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 November 1920 in Bentley Green. Enlisted on the 23 March 1939 in Birmingham. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs M R S T Hayes, 2 Exton Street, Oldham Road, Miles Platting, Manchester. NOK notified on the 5 September 1945.

Served with Training Battalion, Chief Royal Engineer 10 Command Training Battalion, 14 October 1942; Army Troops 1 February 1943; 695 A W Company; 2 Bomb Disposal Group, 20 July 1943; 20 Bomb Disposal Company, 27 October 1943.

Admitted to E M S 105, Wharmcliffe Emergency Hospital, Sheffield 25 May 1940, discharged to Depot 23 August 1940. Gunshot wound left foot. Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Colonel in charge ADM Opinion. This accident was due to pure accident. Method employed was efficient, the personal fully skilled and no way negligent. Shakespeare Beach, Dover, Kent.

Sapper G Young BEM also died at this incident.



Died on the 3 September 1945, age
Son of Mr and Mr Arthur Hayes: Husband of Minnie Hayes of Miles Platting, Manchester.

Buried at Phillips Park Cemetery, Manchester, Lancaster. Section O Church Grave 234.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2403074/joseph-hayes/>

Photo Credit Peter Lucas.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/139551965/joseph-hayes>

HENEY, Gary James, (24484778) Sapper, 58 Squadron (EOD), 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Died in a Road Traffic Accident.

Sapper B J Richardson also died. Off duty at the time.



Died on the 31 October 1985, age 23.

Buried at Everton Crematorium, Liverpool.
[Cemeteries and crematoria - Liverpool City Council](https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cemeteries-and-crematoria/)

Photo Credit Robert Anderson.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/249926644/gary-james-heney>

HOWSHAM, Arthur Walter, (14904618) Sapper, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 9 November 1923 in Edmonton. Enlisted on the 4 January 1945. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs E F Howsham, 8 Eleanor Road, Bowes Park, Wood Green, London. N 11.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer, 3 Bomb Disposal Group; Sapper Howsham received fatal injuries as a result of the partial detonation of a B Type C Mine. He was on duty at the time. There is insufficient evidence to show exactly what caused the actuation of the mine, though the indications are that, Spr Howsham failed to detect it and stepped upon it. Winterton on Sea, Norfolk.



Died on the 3 June 1946, age 22.

Son of Percy and Florence Howsham: Husband of Eileen Florence Howsham of Bowes Park, Middlesex.

Buried at Caister Cemetery, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Section M Grave 865.

Photo Credit Ken Beard.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/howsham-a-w/>

HURLEY, Albert, (14031152) Sapper, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 5 February 1927 in London. Enlisted on the 17 May 1945. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs A Hurley, 1517 High Street (N), East Ham, London.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire. Not due to their negligence.

Lieutenant G H Gaylor GM and Corporal J C Fordyce also died at this incident.



Died on the 7 August 1946, age 19.
Son of Albert and Alice Hurley of East Ham.

Buried at Saint Patricks Roman Catholic Cemetery, Leytonstone, Essex. Plot 11 B Grave 1215.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2722235/albert-hurley/>

Photo Credit julia&keld.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68677005/albert-hurley>

JAKEMAN, Thomas Clifford, (14744617) Corporal, 20 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 12 June 1923 in Deptford. Enlisted on the 20 April 1944. Next of Kin Mother F Jakeman, 159 Montrose Avenue, Welling, Kent.

Died whilst on a short leave in a road traffic accident.

Lance Corporal Markey also died.



Died on the 27 July 1946, age 23.
Son of Thomas Edward and Florence Isobel Jakeman of Welling.

Buried at Bexley Heath Cemetery, Kent. Section E Grave 386.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2824130/thomas-clifford-jakeman/>

Photo Credit Ray Dines.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24366175/thomas-clifford-jakeman>

KING, William, (2193388) Corporal, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 June 1918 in Glasgow. Enlisted on the 15 July 1939. Next of Kin Cousin, Mrs G Palmer, 44 Green Lane, Derby.

Served with 38 Field Company, 15 July 1939: embarked for the Middle East, 1 October 1940 ; disembarked Egypt 17 November 1940; 514 Corps Field Survey Company, 13 October 1941; 17 Map ? Section, 4 August 1943; GOS Middle East Command to UK, 24 December 1944; disembark UK 7 January 1945; 4 Receiving Depot Battalion, 7 January 1945; Survey ? Central, 5 February 1945; 11 Bomb Disposal Company, 18 April 1945.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. It is possible that the elements in the rocks affected the mine detectors making them unreliable. Peffer Sands, Whitekirk, East Lothian. Not to blame.

Lance Sergeant J Connor and Sapper J Dallas also died at this incident.



Died on the 14 September 1945, age 27.
Son of Joseph and Elizabeth King of Glasgow.

Buried at Saint Peters Roman Catholic Church, Glasgow. Section 17 Grave 181.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2453620/william-king/>

Photo Credit Inspector Norse.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225397064/w-king>

KIRKPATRICK, Jamie, (25065548) Corporal, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), Royal Engineers.

Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick, 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (All rights reserved.)

Corporal Kirkpatrick was attached to the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, part of the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force, and was killed in a small arms fire engagement with insurgent forces in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province.

Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick

Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick was 32 years of age. He was born in Edinburgh but lived in Llanelli in South Wales. He enlisted in the Corps of Royal Engineers in September 1997 and, following training as a Combat Engineer and trade training as a Plant Operator Mechanic, he was posted to 28 Engineer Regiment in Hameln, Germany.

Over the next six years in Germany he qualified as a Class 1 Plant Operator Mechanic, promoted to Lance Corporal and deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC as a Plant Section Second-in-Command. After a spell at the Land Warfare Centre in Warminster he was promoted to Corporal in 2006.

A tour as a Corporal instructor at the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham quickly followed and in 2009, he was posted to 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) where he successfully gained his Intermediate Explosive Ordnance Disposal qualification.

In April 2010 he volunteered for a tour of Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 12 just as his squadron was transferred to 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). He was attached back to 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) for the deployment to Afghanistan.

Corporal Kirkpatrick was a member of the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, part of the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force. His role was as the Number 2 in a Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Team, supporting the Bomb Disposal Operator.

In Afghanistan he and his team started their tour in Lashkar Gah, helping to increase the security of the area by disposing of improvised explosive device constituent parts brought in by the Afghan National Police.

In May 2010 he deployed to Kajaki in the Sangin district of Helmand province to work with the 40 Commando Royal Marines Battle Group and played a large part in increasing the freedom of movement of the local Afghans by removing improvised explosive devices from key routes as well as giving life-saving training to members of the Battle Group. Most recently the team moved to support the 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles Battle Group, Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (South).

On the evening of 27 June 2010, Corporal Kirkpatrick and his team were being held in reserve whilst a clearance operation was being carried out in order to increase security in an area around one of the checkpoints.

Corporal Kirkpatrick and his team were extracting from a compound to move back to Check Point Kingshill when the team came under attack from insurgent small arms fire. A single round hit Corporal Kirkpatrick and despite immediate first aid he was sadly killed in action. He leaves behind his wife Heidi and their daughter Holly.

Corporal Kirkpatrick's family paid the following tribute:

Jamie was a larger-than-life individual who was loved, loyal and loud. A wonderful son. He was a proud soldier, friend, brother, husband and daddy.

The family are devastated by their loss and are struggling to come to terms with the fact they will never see him again.

Lieutenant Colonel David Southall, Commanding Officer, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force, said:

Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick, or 'KP' to his mates, was a robust, humorous and professional Royal Engineer.

A Plant Operator Mechanic by trade, Corporal Kirkpatrick sought excitement, variety and challenge in his military career at every turn and no-one was surprised when he stepped up to train in an explosive ordnance disposal role.

Deployed in the deadly fight against the improvised explosive device threat, his diligence, coolness under pressure and total confidence in his abilities always shone through and his actions undoubtedly saved lives in Afghanistan.

KP was also a natural team player; always keen for a laugh, his irrepressible optimism made him incredibly popular within our tight-knit counter-improvised explosive device community.

His greatest passion in life, however, was his family. My heart goes out to his wife Heidi and very young daughter Holly whose loss is unimaginable.

KP died doing something he loved, working to save the lives of others and liberate Afghanistan from the improvised explosive device threat - his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant Colonel Aidan Smyth, Commanding Officer, 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Corporal Kirkpatrick's talent was quickly recognised; he passed his Junior Non-Commissioned Officers' cadre in 2001 and was immediately promoted to Lance Corporal before being further promoted to Corporal in 2006.

Initially posted to 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) as a Plant Operator, he recognised the importance of the fight against improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and volunteered for training as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Number 2.

Corporal Kirkpatrick was an extremely professional soldier, an example to others, and it is devastating that he should lose his life whilst doing the job he loved. Our thoughts are with his wife Heidi and his young daughter Holly on their tragic loss.

Corporal Kirkpatrick will be sorely missed but always remembered by all ranks in 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal).

Major David Croall, Officer Commanding Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, said:

The Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group has lost a fine soldier and friend in Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick. Born in Edinburgh but with Llanelli his home, he was tragically killed in action on 27 June 2010 at the age of 32 and will be deeply missed.

Corporal Kirkpatrick, or 'KP', first arrived in our regiment early last year with an extensive background in construction and military engineer plant, and the explosive ordnance device world was therefore new to him.

"After beginning his training to become an Explosive Ordnance Device Team Number 2, he fast became very passionate about the role and volunteered for service in Afghanistan.

Already a very capable Section Commander, KP was also an enormous support to his Bomb Disposal Operator as the team trained and deployed forward to deal with improvised explosive devices. He was a professional and courageous soldier who was in his element on operations with his team.

"KP will be remembered as a very genuine and approachable man. He quickly made a huge impression upon the rest of his squadron and carried that through to his deployment with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group.

I will always remember his beaming smile and tremendous sense of fun, and he was sincerely adored within his team, troop and the unit. He was a big man with a big heart and a cool, mature head who was enthusiastic about life.

Morale was high whenever KP was around and he simply inspired. The Group is stunned that Corporal Kirkpatrick has been taken from us. It has been a privilege to know him and we will not forget him.

We also know of the love of his family from both what he said and the pile of letters he received from home; our thoughts and sincere condolences go to his wife Heidi, young daughter Holly, parents, and the rest of his family and friends.

Major Simon Walden, Officer Commanding, 22 Headquarters and Support Squadron, said:

Corporal Kirkpatrick was a hugely popular and well-respected Junior Non-Commissioned Officer within the squadron. He is praised as being a pleasure to work with and superb to work for.

In his job, he was very competent and professional, able to remain calm under pressure and maintain a strong team ethos within his section. With a caring personality he was able to bring on his junior soldiers in a constructive manner. A keen sportsman, he is also remembered for his strength, drive and teamwork on the pitch.

Corporal Kirkpatrick was a volunteer for deployment in the bomb disposal role. He worked hard on a number of long courses to gain the necessary qualifications to be able to deploy on Operation HERRICK and he had relished the technical challenge of the role.

It is with great sadness that we receive the news of his death. He will be remembered fondly by colleagues and friends within his squadron and our thoughts go out to his family at this time.

Acting Warrant Officer Class 2 (Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor) Dean MacMaster, Troop Staff Sergeant, 1 Troop, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Corporal Kirkpatrick was a member of 1 Troop, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). He was a loving husband to his wife Heidi and also a loving father to his daughter Holly to whom I can only send my heartfelt condolences. I also send the sincere sympathies on behalf of every member of 1 Troop, for whom his loss is a bitter blow.

KP was one of the stalwarts of the troop, always to be found in and around the restroom even when seconded back to 22 Headquarters and Support Squadron for his digger skills.

His loyalty to the troop was never called into question, except when the choice between family and social occasions had to be made. His family in Wales always won. He was a man whose family and friends meant everything to him.

“The troop will miss a character that can never be replaced. He led from the front on everything he did and inspired all of those around him including his superiors - a Sapper through and through.

KP was a soldier who lived for his job during the week and his family at the weekends. He will be missed by all those that have had the privilege of knowing him.

Sergeant Scott Docherty, Troop Sergeant, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

KP has been the backbone of our Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team for some time now - it is my team but he ran it. During any task, be it training or operational, I could ask for a piece of kit or something to be done and it was already there or already done.

His sense of humour was his strongest point, he could make you see the funny side of every situation, and with his sense of humour came his level-headedness. I regularly turned to him for a sanity check and I fully trusted his judgment.

He was a solar-powered soldier, he named our team 'Team Handsome' and it stuck; we couldn't go anywhere unless we looked good and there was always time to top up our tans.

He leaves behind his daughter of 15 months, Holly, and wife Heidi in Llanelli as well as his mum, dad, brother Ross and sister Claire. He was devoted to them and was looking forward to teaching Holly to use the phone on his two-week Rest & Recuperation so he could hear her say 'daddy'.

I am going to be lost without you buddy, but you still have to look after me. You will not be forgotten.

Corporal Colin Reason, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

It was a great privilege and honour to have known and served with KP, one of the few people that no-one had a bad word to say about. This was down to his likeable character and ability to see the funny side of every situation, like when we were sitting in the cold and rain in Brecon, he would always come up and sit by me with a big grin on his face and say 'Just think we're getting paid for sitting here, it's brilliant'.

KP was an excellent soldier and loving husband and father; he was a true friend that will always be missed by everyone. Rest in Peace mate.

Corporal James Bedford, 36 Engineer Regiment, said:

KP, loving husband to Heidi, doting father to Holly, true friend and consummate professional. Never afraid to get his hands dirty he would lead by example and inspired those around him to better themselves.

"When not making the world a safer place to live you could always be sure to find him bronzing himself in what can only be described as questionable attire.

KP will be sadly missed by all who knew him and I feel privileged to have worked alongside him. I'll miss you buddy.

Corporal Christopher Cooper, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

KP was an outstanding friend that will always be sorely missed; he could always be heard having a laugh and a joke, picking everyone up when times got low.

“It was an honour to have known and worked with such a good man; my thoughts go out to his wife Heidi and daughter Holly. His catchphrase ELE (Everybody Loves Everybody) will stay with me forever. Rest in Peace friend.”

Lance Corporal Dominic Allwork, 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, said:

KP, it was a privilege to have known you, my only regret was that it was for such a short time. I learnt so much from you mate and I’ll definitely take on board your bronzing tips.

Always calm, always composed - the type of man you could depend on. KP, I don’t know how ‘Team Handsome’ will do without you mate, you will never be forgotten.

Sapper Thomas Sykes, 21 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Corporal Kirkpatrick, or KP to the lads, arrived in 21 Squadron around March 2009. Straight away he gelled with 1 Troop like he’d been there for years.

He was a quality bloke who everyone respected as a soldier and as a friend; always there for whoever needed him and more than happy to give advice to the young lads whether to do with work or personal matters.

His catchphrase ELE (Everybody Loves Everybody) would always boost spirits within the troop when morale was low.

I think back to the last time I saw him, in Kajaki when our teams were handing over. We all went for a swim in the dam, me and the lads were jumping off the cliff into the water, and for the life of us we couldn’t get KP to jump off. I will always remember that day and how happy and full of life KP was.

My thoughts are with his family, his wife and his daughter who he talked about and loved so much. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. Rest in Peace mate.

Sapper Desmond Leach, 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

KP was an inspiration to me - guiding ‘Team Handsome’ through good times and bad, through pre-deployment training and then into contact with the enemy. “Even with rounds whizzing past our ears every time we were in a sticky situation you could depend on KP for morale. He’d pull a silly face and remind you to keep

your head down. Always calm and smiling, even when carrying heavy kit, following me across compound roofs and over walls.

I've only known KP a short while, however he will leave a huge hole in everyone's lives. I can only imagine how much KP's family will miss him. KP was incredibly proud of his family back in Wales and talked about them incessantly.

We had Rest & Recuperation coming up and he was full of plans of what he was going to do at home and of the change he would see in his 15-month-old daughter Holly. KP had nicknamed his metal detector 'Holly' - as a reminder of how careful he had to be whilst confirming devices. Holly, we will make sure that you know what a true hero your dad was.

Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox, said:

It is clear from the heartfelt tributes paid to Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick that he was a highly professional soldier who lived for his job. Recognised for his calm, optimism and ability to maintain a sense of humour even under immense pressure, he was evidently an inspiration to his comrades.

It was with deep sadness that I learned of his death, and my thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

Information from.

[Corporal Jamie Kirkpatrick killed in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)



Died on the 27 June 2010, age 32.

Buried at Llanelli District Cemetery, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

[Home - Llanelli District Cemetery](#)

Photo Credit Milou.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54300486/jamie-kirkpatrick>



LAMPREY, Andrew Peter, (25150810) Sapper, 579 Squadron (EOD) (V), 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), Royal Engineers.

Died of a heart attack. Mobilised as part of Operation Midway, to support 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) whilst they were deployed to Iraq, Operation TELIC.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 9 November 2004, age 36.

No further information.

LEE, Ernest, (11004032) Sapper, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Next of Kin Wife, Margaret A Lee, Weston, Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire.

Served with 727 A W Company; 11 Bomb Disposal Company.

In August 1945 he was admitted to hospital with serious medical problems and despite transfer between hospitals, remained there until his death from Ulcerated Colitis.

Private Ernest Lee left the Auxiliary Units (a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers) and joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper on 11 Sep 1941. He was given Agricultural Leave 23 Aug 1943 to 19 Sep 1943.



Died on the 11 January 1947, age 43.

Son of Albert and Mary Lee; husband of Margaret Annie Lee, of Burnholme, York.

Buried at St Marys Churchyard, Westow, Yorkshire.

<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/2041410/westow-st-mary-churchyard/>

Photo Credit Dimitrios Corcodilos.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198896411/ernest-lee>

MAISEY, Reginald John, (22521010), 583 Bomb Disposal Squadron (TA), Royal Engineers.

Born on the 28 July 1911. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs E M Maisey, 8 Stopford Road, Gillingham, Kent.

Only information available is he died in Chatham Kent.

No Photograph available.

Died 12 June 1952, age?

No further information available.

MANSFIELD, Edward Charles, (23062830) Lance Corporal, 550 Bomb Disposal Squadron, Headquarters Bomb Disposal Unit (UK), Royal Engineers.

Next of Kin Father, Mr C E Mansfield, 2 Solent View, West Common, Southampton.

Died no further information given.

No Photograph available.

Died 27 January 1957, age?

No further information available.

MARKEY, Dennis John, (14886331) Lance Corporal 20 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 17 June 1926 in Teddington. Enlisted on the 7 December 1944. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs A Markey, 4 Chillingworth Gardens, Twickenham.

Died whilst on a short leave in a road traffic accident, at Handcross, not on duty at the time.

Corporal T C Jakeman also died.



Died on the 27 July 1946, age 20.

Son of John Edward and Annie Gertrude Markey of Twickenham, Middlesex.

Buried at Western Road Cemetery, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2723125/dennis-john-markey/>

Photo Credit Ross.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/154269612/dennis-john-markey>

MARLTON-THOMAS, Loren Owen, (25084766) Corporal, 49 Field Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Corporal Marlton-Thomas was mortally wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) on Sunday 15 November 2009 whilst conducting a route search to clear devices in the vicinity of Patrol Base Sandford, in the Gereshk area of Helmand province. He died of his wounds on Monday 16 November 2009.

Corporal Loren Owen Christopher Marlton-Thomas

Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas, aged 28, and known as 'Loz' to his comrades, deployed on Operation HERRICK 11 as a Royal Engineer Search Team Commander within the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Group; part of the Counter-IED Task Force responsible for minimising the threat posed to ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) and the people of Afghanistan.

The cornerstone of 4 Troop, 49 Field Squadron (EOD), 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), in Wimbish, Essex, he deployed to Afghanistan in September 2009 as an Acting Corporal. In the relatively short time that he had been in theatre he had proved himself more than worthy of the rank and responsibilities of a Section Commander.

Cpl Marlton-Thomas made the decision to serve his country by joining the Army in 1998. He had his mind set on a life full of challenge, excitement and adventure.

He initially considered a life in the Parachute Regiment; however, he quickly found that his talents were better suited to life in the Royal Engineers. In typical Sapper-style he was a man of many talents, a first-rate soldier, an extremely competent combat engineer and accomplished blacksmith. Not one for barracks routine he really came to the fore and flourished in the operational environment.

Prior to embarking on his career in EOD, 'Loz' served in a number of units including 35 Engineer Regiment in Paderborn, 21 Engineer Regiment in Osnabruck and 25 Engineer Regiment in Northern Ireland.

His military experience led him to complete operational tours of Northern Ireland on Op BANNER and Iraq on Op TELIC 11. On both tours he served in the Advanced Search Troop giving him a wealth of search experience which translated into him being an exceptional Team Commander.

Corporal Marlton-Thomas epitomised the men of courage and nerve that he led; Advanced Search teams, the 'improvised explosive device hunters', are a unique breed who stalk their concealed quarry along the tracks and wadis of Helmand.

He was extremely proud of this life-saving and critical role that his team performs and demonstrated his true merit as a leader of men in this role.

Cpl Marlton-Thomas's wife, Mrs Nicola Marlton-Thomas, paid the following tribute:

Loren was Army-barmy right back to being a Cadet. He did the job he loved and paid the ultimate price for his friends, comrades and country. We are proud to say we knew and loved him. A true hero in our eyes - you may be gone but you will never ever be forgotten.

Lieutenant Colonel David Southall, Royal Engineers, Commanding Officer 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), said:

Cpl Loren Marlton-Thomas was a man of great courage and commitment, a gifted Junior NCO [Non-Commissioned Officer] who was truly passionate about his profession.

“He revelled in his Search Team Commander role, with skills honed on operations in both Northern Ireland and Iraq. ‘Loz’ was one of life’s optimists who always led from the front; whatever the challenge, you would always find him right in the thick of it.

His role, in leading teams to find IEDs, was undeniably amongst the toughest in Helmand province. Despite this, Loz was one of the most irrepressible and positive Junior Commanders I have met. With a smile on his face, his natural charm, confidence and soldiering skill meant men followed him instinctively.

Loz made the ultimate sacrifice whilst striving to rid Afghanistan of IEDs and make the country a safer place for both our troops and the Afghan people. Our thoughts are with his wife, Nicola, and family; we share their grief. Loz will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Bex, Royal Logistic Corps, Commanding Officer Counter-IED Task Force, said:

Corporal Marlton-Thomas was a courageous soldier and a strong leader; his boys loved him. He epitomised the character and bravery required of a Royal Engineer Search Team Commander and his loss will be felt keenly across our close-knit community.

“Chatting together in Camp Bastion recently as we both surveyed a starlit Helmand sky, I was impressed by his enthusiasm and immediately taken by his intelligent and thoughtful nature. Immensely proud of his role he waxed lyrical on the jobs he and the boys had done so far.

“His pride and dedication are an inspiration to us all, and we will not let his death be in vain. He knew more than anyone that his job was dangerous, but understood that his role was vital to the security of decent Afghans and his fellow soldiers.”

Major Tim Gould QGM, Royal Logistic Corps, Officer Commanding Joint Force EOD Group, said:

Corporal Marlton-Thomas made an immediate and lasting impression with me and clearly stood proud of his peers. An intelligent, articulate and focused individual,

he was emerging to be a most capable leader of men; the highest accolade you can afford a professional soldier.

He was passionate for those in his charge and for the vital contribution that they are making here in Afghanistan. Highly revered by all within the group, men of his distinction are few and far between and he will be gravely missed.

Captain Gareth Bateman, Royal Engineers, Second-in-Command Joint Force EOD Group, said:

In the short time that I have known Corporal Marlton-Thomas, it was clear that he was highly respected amongst all in the squadron. His determination to lead his team from the front on operations was demonstrated by the way in which he fought to overcome an injury and be fit to deploy.

“He was the embodiment of the consummate Royal Engineer soldier; I am proud to say that I served with him.”

Lieutenant Fran Rizzuti, Royal Engineers, Troop Commander, Joint Force EOD Group, said:

Corporal Marlton-Thomas had a beaming smile and it was a feature that conveyed his immense enthusiasm for a job that he truly loved. Although we had only worked together for a short period, it was obvious to me that as a Search Team Commander he was second-to-none. He spoke of his wife, Nicola, often and it was clear that he was a proud and devoted husband.

“Corporal Marlton-Thomas was a fountain of knowledge, a man of many talents, who had a genuine aptitude for soldiering. I am honoured and proud to have known him as both a colleague and indeed a friend. My only regret is that our paths did not cross sooner.”

Secretary of State for Defence, Bob Ainsworth, said:

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas, an experienced and courageous soldier who had demonstrated his capability and commitment in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was a skilled engineer and a first-rate soldier, and highly respected by the men he led.

“His work in Afghanistan saved lives and his death is a huge loss to the Royal Engineers and to the Army. It is, of course, his family who will feel the greatest loss at this time, and it is with them that my deepest sympathies lie

Information from.

[Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas killed in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)



Died on the 15 November 2009, age 28.
Son of Thomas and Harriet Murray: Husband of Ethel Gertrude Murray of Betley, Cheshire.

Buried at Lytham Crematorium, Lancashire. Section S Row
[Lytham Park Cemetery](#)

Photo Credit Milou.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44499403/loren-oc-marlton-thomas>



MASSEY, William, (1906905) Sapper, 127 Bomb Disposal Platoon, 17, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 1 May 1919 in Bolton. Enlisted on the 18 January 1940. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs J Massey, 104 Lymington Avenue, Wood Green. N22.

Served with 558 Field Company; 204 Field Company, 27 April 1940; 553 Field Company 18 January 1940; 725 Bomb Disposal Company, 31 October 1940; 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 16 January 1941; embarked for North Africa, 22 November 1942; HW Section 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 18 March 1943; 15 Bomb Disposal Company, 5 June 1944; 569 Army Troop Company, 5 January 1945; 8 Egypt Movement Unit, 25 April 1945; 127 Bomb Disposal Section, 27 April 1945.

Died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound, whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed. On duty not to blame.



Died on the 9 September 1945, age
Son of James and Mary Jane Massey: Husband of Joan Gladys Massey of Wood Green, Middlesex.

Buried at Bologna War Cemetery, Italy. Grave I B 9.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1717116/william-massey/>

Photo Credit j.monroe.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21523671/william-massey>

MILLER, Alfred Frederick George, Driver, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 January 1904 in Lymington. Enlisted on the 15 January 1942. Next of Kin Brother, P/X 12784 C W Miller, Royal Marines.

Served with 1 Motor Transport Depot, 15 January 1942; 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 22 April 1942; 11 Bomb Disposal Company, 20 July 1945.

Died of Pneumonia.



Died on the 22 October 1945, age 41.
Son of Walter and Ethel Mary Miller.

Buried at Haycombe Cemetery, Bath, Somerset. Plot 41 Section F Row O Grave 329.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2691691/alfred-frederick-george-miller/>

Photo Credit JohnM
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54557787/alfred-frederick_george-miller

MOFFATT, Thomas Bernard, (1900296) Lance Corporal, 8 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 23 June 1911 in Manchester. Enlisted on the 6 February 1940 in Manchester. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs H Moffat, 28 Saint Augustin's Street, Newton Heath, Manchester. NOK notified on the 29 January 1946.

Admitted to hospital 10 November 1945. Placed on the Dangerous ill list, 14 January 1946. Died of natural causes, malignant hypertension. Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.



Died on the 27 January 1946, age?

Commemorated at Brookwood Memorial, Surrey. Panel 5 Column 2.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2147324/thomas-bernard-moffatt/>

Photo Credit Retired QA.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56077043/thomas-bernard-moffatt>

**NEIL, William, (23902388) Sapper, Headquarters Bomb Disposal, Lodge Hill,
Royal Engineers.**

Served with Electrical and Mechanical Troop.

Possibly died in Chatham from a fall of duty at the time. .

No Photograph available.

Died on the 7 March 1967, age 23.

No further information available.

NEWCOMBE, Mathew, (2091091) Driver, 19 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 18 March 1921 in Saint Helens. Enlisted on the 2 May 1939 in Saint Helens. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs Newcombe, 21 Bertick Street, Sutton, Saint Helens. NOK notified on the 27 September 1945.

Served with 559 Field Company, 30 December 1939; 44 Headquarters Division, 2 April 1943;

Died whilst on Bomb Disposal Operations. Hamburg, Germany.

Lance Corporal Stretton died at this incident and 7 others injured.



Died on the 30 August 1945, age 24.

Buried at Hamburg, Cemetery, Germany. Grave 4 A N 9.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2200687/mathew-newcombe/>

Photo Credit the Dark Poet.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20940729/mathew-newcombe>

NICHOLAS, Barry John, (25016578) Sapper, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

He was killed on active service during a mine clearance operation on the outskirts of the central Bosnian town of Gornji-Vakuf. He was 20 years old.

Barry was single, from Dagenham, Essex. He was serving with the 21 Field Sqn, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (Bomb Disposal) unit from 33 Regiment, Royal Engineers. He was the eighth UK soldier to die as a result of the conflict and the 108th UN soldier to die in UN operations in former Yugoslavia.

Although the Croat-Muslim war ended in February, it has left a huge legacy of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines in central Bosnia - 2 to 3 million.

Barry was supervising mine-clearance operations at Bistrica, north of Gornji Vakuf, when a large mine went off at 9.55am 16th August. Two Bosnian Croat soldiers are also understood to have been wounded, one fatally. Royal Engineers have been advising local forces on how to clear mines, as they did in Cambodia and may do in Rwanda, and they had been involved on numerous minefield clearances in Bosnia and numerous other ordnance clearance tasks up to the point when Barry was killed. Barry was involved as an advisor on the task where he was killed. One of the Bosnians entered the minefield and set off a device straight away and Barry was fatally wounded by a piece of shrapnel. This suggests that the mine was very large.



Died on the 16 August 1994, age 20.

Buried at Eastbrookend Cemetery, Dagenham, Essex. Section I Grave 160.

Photo Credit Geoffrey Gillon.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44247736/barry-john-nicholas>

O'DOHERTY, Robert Joseph, (21004872) Sergeant, Headquarters Bomb Disposal Unit (UK), Royal Engineers.

Born on the 10 January 1920 in Londonderry. Enlisted on the 10 December 1947.
Next of Kin Father, Mr C O'Doherty, Mountain ? Crana, County Donegal, Eire.

Served with 7 Bomb Disposal Company, 1949.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures. Trimingham, Norfolk.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 6 May 1943, age 29.

No other information available.

PATTERSON, Robert John, (813286) Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Bomb Disposal Unit, Royal Engineers.

Died of Natural causes, coronary occlusion, atheroma of the heart.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 22 November 1954, age 40.

Buried at Hendon Park Crematorium, London. Section H 3 Grave 68545.
[Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium - London - Parks & Gardens \(parksandgardens.org\)](http://parksandgardens.org)

PRESCOTT CGM, James, (23834301) Staff Sergeant, 49 Squadron EOD, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Staff Sergeant J Prescott, with Warrant Officer II J Phillips were tasked on the 23 May 1982, with two bombs aboard HMS Antelope a type 21 Frigate, which had been bombed in Saint Carlos Water, whilst providing anti-aircraft cover for the amphibious force.

One bomb was not accessible till extensive debris was removed. The other was seen to have a damaged fuze and being in the most dangerous position. Both men attempted three tries to remotely remove the fuze unsuccessfully. On their fourth attempt using different equipment, the bomb exploded. Although a blast route of open doors and hatches had been prepared, a fully fastened door at the forward end of the passageway where they stood was blown off. Staff Sergeant J Prescott died instantly. He was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal. A rare award given to Petty Officers and men of the Royal Navy and Sergeants in the Royal Marines.

Warrant Officer Class II J Phillips received life changing injuries and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



Died on the 23 May 1983, age 37

He remains on HMS Antelope.



RACKETT, Arthur Frederick, (14786454) Corporal, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 30 October 1923 in Cowes. Enlisted on the 15 June 1944. Next of Kin Wife, Winifred M Rackett, 8 Hill View Terrace, Newport Road, IOW. Also address of Saint Margarets, Upper Yarborough Street, East Cowes, IOW.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Explosion of a B Type C Beach mine. Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer 3 Bomb Disposal Group; No evidence to show how the mine was activated or at what stage of the operation the accident occurred. It is assumed that the mine was in process of being uncovered, the deceased were guilty of disobedience of instructions. Horsey, Norfolk.

Sappers W K Gilbert and Sullivan also died at this incident.



Died on the 31 July 1946, age 22.

Son of Frederick Charles and Winifred May Rackett of Cowes: Husband of Stella Daphne Rackett of East Cowes.

Buried at Kingston Cemetery, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2351077/arthur-frederick-rackett/>

Photo Credit Frank Grant.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146852765/arthur-frederick-rackett>

RAY, Connor Robert, (30047356) Sapper, 49 Squadron (EOD), 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

On 11 April 2012, Sapper Ray was involved in a search and clearance operation in the Nad 'Ali district of central Helmand near to Checkpoint Kahmanan. The aim of the mission was to clear a compound previously used by insurgents, allowing the local population to safely return to the area.

During this operation Sapper Ray was seriously injured in an IED strike. He received immediate medical attention before being taken to the Camp Bastion Role 3 Hospital and was later evacuated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Sapper Connor Ray

Sapper Connor Ray, aged 21, from Newport, Gwent, started his military career in January 2008 at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate. He joined the Corps of Royal Engineers in June 2009 and qualified as a Building and Structural Finisher upon completion of his trade training at Chatham.

He joined 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), in April 2010, where he trained as an Advanced Searcher. He was kept busy in his specialist role, which included providing support for a number of high-profile events. During his time in Afghanistan, Sapper Ray and his team successfully undertook a number of high-risk searches which undoubtedly saved numerous British and Afghan lives.

A popular young soldier who was cheerful and engaging, Sapper Ray showed much promise. He was professional and dependable and was well liked by those that knew him. He leaves behind his brother Vinnie, stepfather Steve, sisters Hollie and Bonnie, Aunty Eileen, and girlfriend Hollie.

The family of Sapper Ray have made the following statement:

We are intensely shocked, distressed and saddened after losing our hero Connor Ray, who died as a result of injuries sustained in Afghanistan. We are all tremendously proud of Connor. Connor was part of Britain's engineer search unit - 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD); he was critically hurt last Wednesday, the eve of his 21st birthday.

He loved his time in the Army and made great friends. Connor was a hero to all of his family and friends; brother Vinnie, 21, sisters Hollie, 17, and Bonnie, 16, Aunty Eileen, stepfather Steve, grandparents Leo and Linda, Keith and Sue, girlfriend Hollie, and all of his good friends and family will miss him terribly.

In heaven with his mum now, we will always remember his love of life, his sense of humour and cherish the short time he had to touch our lives. We would like to thank everybody for their kind words, love and support at this tragic time.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Bell, Commanding Officer of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

The tragic loss of Sapper Ray has shaken both the EOD and Search Task Force and the regiment deeply. At this most difficult time my thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with his family and his many friends.

An extremely positive and determined young soldier, Sapper Ray was a real team player. Amiable and upbeat, he had a natural ability to encourage and inspire others with his limitless optimism. He would often be found in the gym, working hard to maintain his fitness, whilst setting an excellent example to those less motivated.

A very professional soldier, he had taken to the extremely challenging role of being a High Assurance Searcher with gusto and had already demonstrated significant potential in this specialist role. Sapper Ray undoubtedly had a bright future ahead of him.

During physically and emotionally demanding times here in Afghanistan, Sapper Ray remained his upbeat and professional self. Hardworking and dedicated, his positive attitude had a tangible effect on those around him. He easily integrated into an Advanced Search Team from another squadron, quickly making his mark and new friends.

Sapper Ray epitomised the 'One Team' ethos of the disparate Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Task Force and was an absolute pleasure to have within the unit.

The Corps of the Royal Engineers has today lost an inspiring young soldier who was certainly going places. He set an excellent example to others, had many friends and leaves a gap in our ranks. He will be sorely missed by all members of both the EOD and Search Task Force and his regiment, but never forgotten. His family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Major Ben Hawkins, Officer Commanding Operations Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Task Force, said:

Deliberately going into an area suspected to contain improvised explosive devices is perhaps one of the most challenging jobs in the world; to do so takes a certain type of character. It demands a stoic resolve and resolute dedication. Sapper Ray had these virtues in abundance.

I have known Sapper Ray for nearly a year; he was always happy, never more so than when busy. Always smiling and exceptionally personable, Sapper Ray had the kind of 'can do' attitude that every commander would want in his soldiers.

His quick wit and easy-going nature endeared him to all who had the privilege of working with him. He was an ideal and immediate choice to integrate into a Search

Team from another squadron; such was our faith in his abilities and character. In short, he was a fine soldier, ideal Sapper, and an excellent searcher.

Sapper Ray's loss will be keenly felt by my squadron and in particular by those many who were privileged to have been his friends.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Kevin Prevett, Squadron Sergeant Major, Operations Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search Task Force, said:

From the offset, I recognised that Sapper Connor Ray was a superb soldier. He never failed to impress those around him with his infectious wit and humour. Totally professional and reliable as a young Royal Engineer he would, without question, have been a future leader of men.

My abiding memory of Connor is simply his smile, which infected those around him. It was these qualities, to name but a few, which will be cherished by his friends and colleagues of the Royal Engineer Search community. The lads and I will never forget him.

Sergeant Simon Gardner, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operator and Troop Sergeant, 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Sapper Connor Ray was an irreplaceable character within 3 Troop, 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). His infectious smile and keen sense of humour will be sorely missed. Throughout his two years with 3 Troop, he carried out many duties including maritime interdiction and search assistance to the civil powers. In this diverse role, Connor excelled in every aspect.

He was a young soldier filled with promise for the future. Always full of morale, he was the first to volunteer for any task. He was a pleasure to serve with. There will be a huge hole left in the lives of all that met Connor, but these will be healed by the fond memories of such an inspiring young man. RIP Connor.

Corporal Jamie Paul, Section Commander, 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Connor was simply one of the best Sappers I've ever known and, even more, he was a true friend. I'd known Connor for three years. He was quiet at first but as he settled into his role his true personality began to shine. Kind in nature, Connor is what a Sapper should be: extremely fit, reliable and trustworthy. He will be sadly missed by his friends, family and loved ones.

Connor, you will never be forgotten, memories I have will last forever, sleep well pal, we'll meet again soon.

Sapper Sean Cairns, 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Connor was a great lad - always smiling, always laughing. He made the best of a bad situation. He loved having a good laugh whether it was with the lads or

generally messing about. He was looking forward to coming on tour and getting on 'Op Bronze' and 'Op Massive', then going back to see his girlfriend Hollie and enjoying a good holiday with her.

I noticed when joining the squadron he was a popular lad and, after meeting him, I soon realised why. He was an all-round top bloke. Stay safe now and see you soon big guy.

Sapper Daniel Kelly, 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

Sapper Connor Ray, you can never trust a man with two first names, especially Connor. He was a fan of practical jokes and having a laugh. However, one thing you could always trust him to do was to be at the troop bar with a crate under his arm and a big smile across his face.

Connor, it was a shock to hear of your injuries and worse when we found out you had passed away; you were a big lad with a big heart and a big smile. You will leave a big gap but you will never be forgotten. I will always treasure the memories that we shared; my favourite memory being the time spent growing your massive fringe, like your film heroes. You will always be a hero in my eyes.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Philip Hammond, said:

I was very saddened to learn of the death of Sapper Connor Ray, who was severely injured last week while doing a very dangerous and difficult job in the service of his country.

It is clear from the tributes paid to him that Sapper Ray had a bright future ahead of him and was someone who inspired those around him with his positive attitude, infectious wit and limitless optimism. My thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to his family, comrades and friends at this difficult time.

Information from.

[Sapper Connor Ray dies from wounds sustained in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)

22 DEC 2011	CAPT	T N	JENNINGS	RM
23 DEC 2011	SGN LDR	A M	DOWNING	RAF
30 DEC 2011	PTE	J	KING	YORKS
02 JAN 2012	RFTN		SACHIN LIMBU	RGR
24 JAN 2012	SIG	I G	SANTORUS-JONES	R SIGNALS
27 JAN 2012	LCPL		GAJAHADUR GURUNG	ROR
13 FEB 2012	SAC	R K	TOMLIN	RAF
06 MAR 2012	SGT	N A	COOPER	LANCS
06 MAR 2012	CPL	J J	HARLEY	YORKS
06 MAR 2012	PTE	A T	FRAMPTON	YORKS
06 MAR 2012	PTE	C A	KERSHAW	YORKS
06 MAR 2012	PTE	D J	WADE	YORKS
06 MAR 2012	PTE	D J	WALFORD	YORKS
21 MAR 2012	CAPT	R W M	BOWERS	BERGMAN
26 MAR 2012	SGT	L	TAYLOR	RM
26 MAR 2012	LCPL	M C	FOLEY	AGC (SPS)
06 APR 2012	CPL	J L	STANLEY	QPR
18 APR 2012	RPR	C R	RAY	RE
27 APR 2012	GOSM	M J	ROLAND	GREEN GDS
04 MAY 2012	CPL	A S	ROBERTS	RLC
04 MAY 2012	PTE	R M C	SILSBY	RLC
12 MAY 2012	LCPL	L T	DAVIES	WO
12 MAY 2012	CPL	B J	MCCARTHY	RAF
26 MAY 2012	CAPT	S J	HEALEY	R WELSH
01 JUN 2012	CPL	M J	THACKER	R WELSH
03 JUN 2012	PTE	G T	STONE	YORKS
13 JUN 2012	LCPL	J T D	ASHWORTH VC	GREEN GDS
15 JUN 2012	CPL	A W	GUY MC	R ANGLIAN
01 JUL 2012	GOSM	C A	RODRICK	WO
01 JUL 2012	GOSM	A S R	TUSA/USA	WO
01 JUL 2012	WO2	L P	THOMAS	R SIGNALS (V)
09 AUG 2012	LT	A R	CHESTERMAN	RIFLES
10 AUG 2012	LCPL	M D	SMITH	RE
17 AUG 2012	GOSM	J	SHADRAKE	GREEN GDS
07 SEP 2012	GOSM	K L	WHITTLE	GREEN GDS
14 SEP 2012	SGT	L P	DEWISON	LD
14 SEP 2012	LCPL	D	GROOM	GREEN GDS
15 SEP 2012	SGT	G D	THURSBY	YORKS
15 SEP 2012	PTE	T J	WRICE	YORKS

Died on the 18 April 2012, age 21.

No other details known.

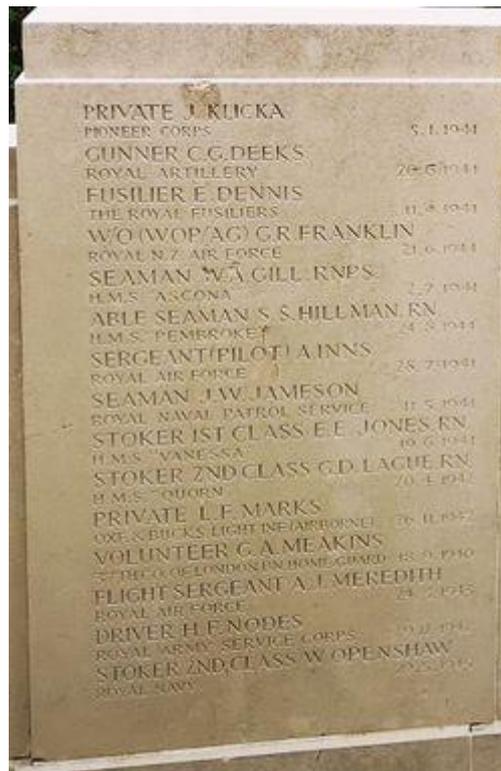


RAYNER, Edward John, (1990000) Driver, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Enlisted on the 30 June 1940.

Served with 728 General Construction Company, Chatham, 21 June 1940; 17 Field Company, 1 November 1941; 20 Bomb Disposal Company, 28 November 1941, 12 Bomb Disposal Company, 24, May 1943, 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 12 July 1943, 6 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 December 1944; 1 Bomb Disposal Company 11 August 1944;

No further information available.



Died on the 3 July 1946, age 36.
Husband of Muriel Maud Rayner of Edgeware.

Buried and Commemorated at Hendon Cemetery, Section F Grave 58408, Screen Wall Panel 4.

Photo Credit Remembering Our Fallen.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32667411/edward-john-rayner>

RICHARDSON, Brian John, (24529513) Sapper, 58 Squadron (EOD, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Died in a Road Traffic Accident.

Sapper G J Heney also died. Off duty at the time.

No Photograph available

Died on the 31 October 1985, age 22.

No other details available.

RICHARDSON, Alan William Barry, (14512490) Driver, 1 Bomb Disposal Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 5 September 1924 in Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Enlisted on the 21 January at Ossett. Next of Kin Mother, Furzeholme, Dawney Hill, Pirbright, Surrey.

Died at home on leave, found by his mother, in his bed. Inquest adjourned by Mr G Willis-Taylor, West County Coroner, for the Police to investigate, by a theory put forward by his mother. Inquest Verdict; held at Woking Police Station, the coroner gave an open verdict.



Died on the 28 May 1947, age 22.
Son of Eric Barrington and Ellinor Richardson of Pirbright, Surrey.

Buried at Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey. Grave 34 A D 1.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2928708/alan-william-barry-richardson/>

Photo Credit Retired QA.
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17666042/alan-william_barry-richardson

**SALES, Phillip Owen, (22211630) Sergeant, 583 Bomb Disposal Squadron (TA),
Royal Engineers.**

Casualty card states died heart failure.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 10 January 1955, age 55.

No further information available.

SETTER, Ronald William George, (346947) Lieutenant, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. It is possible that the elements in the rocks affected the mine detectors making them unreliable. Peffer Sands, Whitekirk. Not to blame.

Lance Sergeant J Connor and Corporal W King, Sapper G Dallas also died at this incident.



Died on the 14 September 1945, age 22.

Buried at Bridgetown and Berry Pomeroy Church Cemetery, Chester. Centre Part.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2441301/ronald-william-george-setter/>

Photo Credit David Milborrow.

[Photograph of the final resting place of SETTER, RONALD WILLIAM GEORGE - The War Graves Photographic Project](#)

SHRIMPTON MBE, Charles Leonard, (312216) Lieutenant, 1 Bomb Disposal Troop, Royal Engineers.

Died through an explosion of a British mine. Sergeant L Horsham who was engaged in clearance work nearby, heard the explosion at 1445. He believed that Lieutenant Shrimpton had been very close to the mine and Corporal Griffiths to have been within a 50 feet radius, when it exploded. Caister, Norfolk, next to the lifeboat station.

Lance Corporal E J Griffiths also died at this incident.



Died on the 17 September 1945, age 25.
Son of Charles and Ester Winnifred Shrimpton of Port Talbot.

Buried at Saint Mary Church Cemetery, Aberavon. Row 7 Grave 10.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2716604/charles-leonard-shrimpton/>

Photo Credit Remembering Our Fallen.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/216062816/charles-leonard-shrimpton>

SLEE, Richard Thomas, (2078494) Sapper, 109 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 9 September 1919 in Port Talbot. Enlisted on the 16 May 1939 in Neath. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs M M Slee, 2 Pendarvis Terrace, Aberavon, Port Talbot. Another address 5 Michaelston Terrace, Cwmavon, Port Talbot.

Served with 248 Field Company, 16 May 1939 555 Field Company, 30 December 1939; 109 Bomb Disposal Section, 29 June 1940; 27 Bomb Disposal Company 6 May 1941; 1 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 August 1943; 5 Bomb Disposal Company, 16 September 1943; 160 Tunnelling Company, 29 October 1943; 180 Tunnelling Company, 19 December 1943; Obstacle ? Centre, 5 April 1944; Land Assault Wing 9 June 1944.

Died of natural causes, brain tumour. Neurological Institute, Bristol.



Died on the 5 October 1945, age 27.
Son of William Henry and Margaret Matilda Slee of Cwmavon.

Buried at Port Talbot Holly Cross Churchyard, Glamorganshire. Weir Side D 92.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2717965/richard-thomas-slee/>

Photo Credit Terry W.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/213229926/richard-thomas-slee>

**SMALE, Martin John, (24243832) Staff Sergeant (PSI) 579 Squadron (EOD) (TA),
Royal Engineers.**

Took his own life.



Died on the 29 April 1990, age

Buried at Fort Pitt Cemetery, Rochester, Kent. Grave 1789.

[Fort Pitt Military Cemetery](#) | [Cemetery Details](#) | [CWGC](#)

Photo Credit Cindy Murray.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194107241/martin-john-smale>

STRETTON, Gerald, (2002743) 19 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 31 May 1918 in Hull. Enlisted on the 16 February 1940 in Leeds. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs L Stretton, 12 Wrygarth Avenue, Brough, Yorks. NOK notified on the 18 September 1945.

Served with 3 Bomb Disposal Company, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 14 January 1941; embark for Middle East, 17 March 1941; disembark Middle East, 18 Bomb Disposal Company, 11 May 1941; embark Egypt, 9 June 1941; disembark Cyprus, 19 June 1941; P Bomb Disposal Company changed title to 29 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 January 1942; embarked Cyprus, 22 January 1943; disembark Haifa 23 January 1943; 28 Bomb Disposal Company, 1 February 1943; 19 Bomb Disposal Company, 13 June 1943; embarked for the UK, 22 December 1943; disembark UK, 5 January 1944, 58 Bomb Disposal Section, 12 June 1944; embarked UK, 27 July 1944; disembarked North West Europe, 19 Bomb Disposal Company 30 July 1944.

Died whilst on Bomb Disposal Operations. Hamburg, Germany.

Driver M Newcombe died at this incident and 7 others injured. Putlos Bomb Cemetery.



Died on the 30 August 1945, age 27.
Son of William James and Lillian Rose Stretton of Brough, Yorkshire.

Buried at Hamburg Cemetery, Germany. Grave 4 A N 10.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2200984/gerald-stretton/>

Photo Credit The Dark Poet.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20941219/gerald-stretton>

SULLIVAN, Stanley James, (14037169) Sapper, 4 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 1 May 1927 in Pontypool. Enlisted on the 7 June 1945. Next of Kin Mother, Mrs M Sullivan, 68 Woodlands, Penycarn, Pontypool, Mons.

Died whilst clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Explosion of a B Type C Beach mine. Opinion of Chief Royal Engineer 3 Bomb Disposal Group; No evidence to show how the mine was activated or at what stage of the operation the accident occurred. It is assumed that the mine was in process of being uncovered, the deceased were guilty of disobedience of instructions. Horsey, Norfolk.

Lance Corporal A F Rackett, Sappers W K Gilbert also died at this incident.



Died on the 31 July 1946, age 19.
Son of James and Mary Sullivan of Pontypool.

Buried at Saint Cadoc Churchyard, Trevethan, Wales. Plot A Row 3 Grave 10.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/4019553/s-j-sullivan/>

Photo Credit JohnM.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162730517/stanley-james-sullivan>

THATCHER, John Richard, (1946571) Driver, 17 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 24 October 1912 in Peckham. Enlisted on the 12 December 1940 in Acton. Next of Kin Father, Mr T J Thatcher, 90 Geringham Road, Newport.

Died in a Road Traffic Accident, on duty not to blame. Opinion of Commander 1 CRU; Driver Thatcher sustained fatal injuries by being struck by an Italian Civilian vehicle, which has not been identified. Italy.



Died on the 2 February 1946, age 33.

Buried at Padua War Cemetery, Italy. Grave 11 C 2.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2077085/william-frederick-terry/>

Photo Credit Ursula.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21559760/john-r-thatcher>

THOMAS, Michael, (14101788) Driver, 10 Bomb Disposal Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 10 May 1927 in Penzance. Enlisted on the 16 August 1945. Next of Kin Father, Chynance, Penbrth, Saint Buryan, Cornwall.

Died of Tubercular Meningitis. Admitted to General Hospital Ipswich 11 February 1946. West Suffolk General Hospital Bury Saint Edmunds, placed on Dangerously ill list, 18 February 1946. Ipswich, Suffolk.



Died on the 23 February 1946, age 18.

Buried at Saint Levan Churchyard, Cornwall.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2948911/michael-thomas/>

Photo Credit Derek Mountjoy and David Ayling.

[Photograph of the final resting place of Thomas, Michael - The War Graves Photographic Project](#)

WALLACE, (Alias WALLIS), Reginald Albert Frederick, (1920411) Lance Corporal, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 15 January 1920 in Bury Saint Edmunds. Enlisted on the 7 March 1940 in Ipswich. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs J Wallis, 110 Henry Strett, Chatham, Kent

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

Corporal J M C Wood also died at this incident.

Further Information.

Corporal Wallis had been at Dunkirk and returned to the UK. He married on the 16 September 1941 and was posted to Ireland. He went through the London Blitz. He was posted to Dunbar in Scotland. Mrs J E Wallis re-married on the 28 September 1946, her married name is Mrs J Coleman and she was widowed on the 8 March 1986. At this time we are not aware of the reason for him using an alias.



Died on the 26 March 1946, age 26.
Son of Sydney and Anne Wallis; Husband of J Wallis of Chatham.

Buried at Palmerstone Road Cemetery, Chatham, Kent.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2824451/reginald-albert-frederick-wallis/>

Photo Credit js.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33713733/reginald-albert_frederick-wallis

WARBURTON, Barney Dillon, (24658649) Corporal, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Corporal B D Warburton died whilst making safe numerous large TV Mines, next to the football Stadium at Stari Vitez, Bosnia.



Died on the 19 March 1994, age 27.

Buried at Saint Peters Church, Llanbrdr, Gwynedd, Wales.

[Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd \(St. Peter\) Churchyard | Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit Peter Lucas.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/199566097/barney-dylan-warburton>

WATSON, David Mitchel, (30010895) Sapper, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Sapper David Watson, born on 28 October 1986 and known to his friends as 'The Leg', deployed on Op HERRICK 11 as a Number 3 Operator in a Conventional Munitions Disposal Team as part of the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group within the UK Counter IED Task Force.

Sapper Watson died of wounds sustained in an explosion caused by an Improvised Explosive Device in the vicinity of Patrol Base Blenheim in the Sangin region of Helmand Province.

Sapper David Watson's family made this statement:

Dearly beloved Son, brother, grandson, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend, David. He always managed to achieve above and beyond the goals that he set for himself often going that extra mile to achieve beyond the bounds of what was expected of him.

He loved life itself and all of its challenges. David's dry sense of humour combined with his ability to articulate any situation into a moment of laughter were two of his many talents, he was loved by all.

The Army was his career which he loved the most and his achievements whilst serving in the Army show his genuine commitment and determination to serve his country proud.

Amongst his many accomplishments, David was awarded the fittest soldier upon completion of his basic training, moving onto do his Commando and Paratrooper training as well as becoming top recruit for P Company Infantry training.

"He lived his dream and did what a true soldier is ready to do for his country, a true hero.

David was a proud and very much-loved uncle of Michael. Michael would often ask to be lifted high in the sky, now he will be regularly reminded that David has joined the stars above, giving hope and inspiration to those that hear of his story.

David was a very much respected friend to all that had the pleasure of meeting him and most of all a very much appreciated and inspirational member of his family. His life taken away from us and words left unspoken.

You will be dearly missed in our hearts and thoughts, always loved and missed by all family.

Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Bex Royal Logistic Corps, Commanding Officer Counter IED Task Force, said:

Sapper Watson was the epitome of a warrior: fearless, ruthlessly determined and a great team player. An immensely proud parachute and commando trained soldier he was highly respected by his peers; they looked up to him with the deference that individuals of his sheer quality warrant.

Although this was his first operational tour Sapper Watson was a man very much in his element out here in Afghanistan; if ever there was a man born for soldiering it was him.

Sapper Watson excelled on operations in Afghanistan, revelling in the vital role his team conducted. I am humbled and inspired by the courage and resolve men like him show every day in ridding Afghanistan of the threat from IEDs.

“Although it is a tragedy to lose such a fine soldier, it is a comfort knowing that he served a noble cause and that his efforts are recognised in Helmand and back home in the UK.

Sapper Watson will always have a place in our hearts and his loss will hit the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group and wider Counter IED Task Force very hard, but we will never tire in our efforts.

The Counter IED battle is tough and ongoing, but he knew that we are making steady progress. This success is due to the courage and deeds of men like Sapper Watson and we must continue to hold our nerve and plough on with the same determination that he showed.

Major Tim Gould QGM Royal Logistic Corps, Officer Commanding Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, said of him:

Sapper Watson was brought up in Whickham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and joined the Royal Engineers in February 2007.

It is incredible what an inordinate amount this promising young Sapper managed to fit in to his relatively short career. He qualified in his chosen trade as a Builder and Structural Finisher and in the field of Combat Engineering.

A natural soldier and candidate for both Airborne and All-Arms Commando training, Sapper Watson completed both arduous courses within the first two years of his career. He excelled on Pegasus Company, so much so that he was awarded the honour of being the course top student.

On meeting Sapper Watson you could very quickly see that it was not only his outstanding athletic fitness that gave him the accolade of best student on Pegasus Company, it was his team spirit, his drive and his willingness to help his comrades in every way he knew how.

He was delighted to be posted to 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), specifically the Airborne Troop of 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Royal Engineers.

A man-mountain of a young man, Sapper Watson was as strong as an ox and was completely unsurpassed in any challenge of a physical nature; he was a veritable 'machine' in these terms and countless numbers of his peers sought to emulate his exacting standards.

Sapper Watson was the archetypal gentle giant; strong and silent, the big brother that you never had. He was the one that you wanted by your side no matter what you were doing, be it on a night out in town, the sports pitch or on the battlefield here in Helmand.

"What does a man like Sapper Watson do in his spare time? As you would undoubtedly expect of a soldier who had passed so many arduous courses, he loved to fell run and was a keen mountain biker.

This was his first experience of an operational deployment and one that he was very much looking forward to. From the very outset he had tackled every challenge head on in his characteristically unflappable manner.

"He excelled in his chosen profession and was carving out a very bright and promising career for himself.

To say that it is a tragedy to lose a soldier of Sapper Watson's calibre is an understatement. This remarkable young man leaves a substantial void in our hearts and we will honour his memory in both our thoughts and our deeds in our endeavours here in Helmand.

Lieutenant Colonel David Southall MBE Royal Engineers, Commanding Officer 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) said:

Sapper Dave 'The Leg' Watson was a remarkable soldier. Known and respected for his phenomenal fitness, this Commando, Parachute and Bomb Disposal trained Sapper was simply a cut above the rest - no one was surprised when he excelled as the top student during his Parachute training this year.

Sapper Watson's physical prowess was founded on a character of immense strength and whilst his natural talent always shone through, it was always with great modesty and good humour; such qualities won him tremendous respect from all whom he served with.

Sapper Watson worked selflessly on the most demanding of tasks; working to liberate Afghanistan from the threat of IEDs. In doing so, he paid the ultimate price - his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Kitson, Commanding Officer 3 RIFLES Battle Group, said:

In the time he had been with the Battle Group, Sapper David Watson had made a significant contribution to our efforts to provide security to the local population here in Sangin.

With his close-knit team he had been involved in a large number of operations to deny insurgents the use of weapons caches, firing points and munitions in the ongoing fight against improvised explosive devices.

Sapper Watson's loss is a tragedy but we are at least comforted by the fact that he died in the finest traditions of his regiment, providing security for one of our outlying patrol bases.

He will be missed by the Battle Group and our thoughts and prayers are with his team, his friends but above all his family at this most difficult of times.

Major Richard Hawkins Royal Engineers, Officer Commanding 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), said:

To be so highly thought of in a Squadron of so many talented and professional soldiers, is an indication of just how exceptional Sapper Dave Watson was, both as a soldier and a friend to many.

Men of his high calibre can often be arrogant; Sapper Watson was anything but. A real team player, he helped out whenever he could and carried himself with a quiet confidence that was humbling given his obvious ability.

Sapper Watson's vital work clearing mines and unexploded bombs throughout Helmand Province has undoubtedly saved the lives of countless soldiers and local civilians. No other job more directly represents the commitment of the British Army to ISAF's mission in creating a safer environment for the people of Afghanistan and he was immensely proud of his role.

Sapper Watson's death is a tragic loss to his family, friends and brothers in arms, but it has also strengthened the Squadron's resolve to finish the job in hand. It was an honour to have served on operations with Sapper Watson and he will never be forgotten.

Lieutenant Lee Thornhill Royal Engineers, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Bomb Disposal Officer and 1 Troop Commander:

Sapper David Watson was a true soldier. On a recent pre-Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre he gained the nickname 'PAM Head' such was his capacity to absorb and recall the information he was being taught.

But he wasn't the kind of soldier who was satisfied with just the lesson and always wanted to know the 'whys and the how's?'. As his Troop Commander, I could not have asked for any more of him. He was a model Sapper and was most certainly destined for great things.

He had already 'smashed' two arduous courses and had been awarded top student on Pegasus Company such was his ability and determination. He had gained the nickname 'The Leg' as his capacity for running was unsurpassed.

Sapper Watson was a traveller at heart and loved to share stories of his trips to Australia and Thailand.

No doubt the boys will raise a number of glasses in memory of 'The Leg' when they take their leave. He was a rare breed - the type of man who considered nothing too demanding or tough.

He feared no challenge. 1 Airborne Troop and 49 Field Squadron (EOD) will be a lesser place without him.

Captain Gareth T Bateman RE, Second-in-Command 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal):

Simply unstoppable, Sapper Watson was an inspirational soldier.

His tremendous physical ability was matched by a terrific mental capacity, a combination that was fast carving out a very promising career.

His death is a tragic loss both to the Counter IED Task Force and to 33 Engineer Regiment but it has galvanised our will to push on with our task and we will take our inspiration to continue from the example that he set.

Sergeant Dave Hird, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, his colleague said:

The future of my Corps has been denied a real star. "The Leg" (because his were freakishly long and he ran like the wind!) came to 1 (Airborne) Troop, after a short time at 24 Commando Engineer Regt where he had passed the All-Arms Commando Course.

Without much chance for hesitation or protest he was loaded straight on to P Company in order to be suitably qualified to wear the Maroon Beret.

He came away with the Top Student award! His size and physical prowess were so immense his potential was seemingly limitless.

It would have been very easy for Dave to get a big head and carried away with his achievements to date, but the measure of the man was his incredible humility.

He never saw anything as a task beneath him and never hesitated in anything that was asked of him by anyone.

He is a huge credit to his family and parents and should be held as the measure of what "the youth of today" can actually achieve. Dave Watson will not be forgotten amongst his Airborne and Commando Bomb Disposal brothers.

Lance Corporal Ellis Acaster, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, his friend and colleague said of him:

The very first moment I met him I knew he was an absolute machine. We did the Commando Course together and Dave was one those blokes everyone wanted to be.

I remember Dave for many things but for me it was the nine-mile speed march on our course, he cared more about the other blokes than he ever did for himself.

The Army was made for him; he had achieved so much in such a short time, more than some in a career. Dave 'The Leg' Watson, Commando, Para, 'Machine' and friend - Always in our thoughts.

Lance Corporal Charles Best, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, - friend and colleague:

Sapper David Watson, 'The Leg', was probably one of the most professional and fittest soldiers I have met to date.

I really got to know this huge structure of a man when we completed P Company together. He was always willing to do anything for anyone, even if he was already busy with other tasks.

With a bad knee injury from Pre Para, he just worked harder and was rewarded with the Top Student on our course, breaking the existing record for points scored.

You made such an impact on my life in such a short space of time, it is an honour to have been your friend and to have served with you, my thoughts are with your family and friends, take it easy mate.

Sapper Stu Little, Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, - friend and colleague:

Dave 'The Leg' Watson had many moments of distinction in his short time with us, but this one sticks in my mind the most.

After successful completion of P Company, the blokes who had passed were taken down town to take part in a time-honoured ritual. 2 Chicken Phal's were ordered and Dave and Besty commenced eating. He destroyed it in seconds with his typical no fuss manner whilst Besty struggled in agony. True to the spirit of the man he took the remainder of Besty's Phal and smashed that down as well.

Nothing you can say or write will be able to justify how good a soldier he was and how much he was one of the lads. We will all miss you Dave and we will always remember you.

Secretary of State for Defence, Bob Ainsworth, said:

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Sapper David Watson, a brave soldier whose courageous work in Afghanistan made it safer for both forces and civilians. He was a first-class engineer and highly respected by those he served with.

His death is a huge loss to the Royal Engineers and to the Army. My deepest sympathies are with his family who will feel his loss so keenly at this time.

Information from.

[Sapper David Watson killed in Afghanistan - Fatality notice - GOV.UK](#)



Died on the 31 December 2009, age 23.

Buried at Catterick Military Cemetery, Yorkshire. Section 3 Row 13 Grave 389.

[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit Retired QA.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90379924/david-michael-watson>



WHITFIELD, Ronald Victor, (2015376) Sapper, Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 21 February 1920 in Balham. Enlisted on the 16 May 1940 in Bournemouth. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs J E Whitfield, 23 Eldridge Road, Balham. SW 12.

Served with evacuated to UK from Italy, Pinderfields Emergency Hospital, Pleural Effusion, 24 July 1945; Discharged and granted 28 days disembarkation leave, 25 August 1945; Admitted hospital from leave, Saint James Hospital Ouseley Road, Balham, 25 August 1945; Transferred to 102 M C D Kingston, 27 September 1945; Granted 9 days leave 28 November 1945; Report to ? Train Centre, Longmoor, Liss, 7 December 1945; Admitted to Kecks Infirmary 21 January 1946; Placed on the Seriously ill list, acute Cervical Adenitis, query Pul Tuberculosis, 1 February 1946; Transferred to Dangerously ill list 2 February 1946. Died at Connaught Hospital, Knaphill Military TB 27 February 1946.



Died on the 27 February 1946, age 26.
Son of Edward William and Ellen Alice Whitfield of Balham.

Buried at Streatham Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. Block 11 Grave 256.
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2429944/ronald-victor-whitfield/>

Photo Credit UKLynnC.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91559830/ronald-victor-whitfield>

WHITTIGHAM, Anthony John, (14190160) 2 Bomb Disposal Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Died at home had been evacuated from Middle East Land Forces, natural causes tumour.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 19 September 1949, age 21.

No other information available

WILKINSON BEM, Stephen Gordan, (24270309) Sergeant, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers.

Born in Gateshead 1n 1955.

Served with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover in 1970. Training Regiments Aldershot in 1974. 26 Engineer Regiment, Osnabruck, two tours in Northern Ireland. Casevaced to UK when diagnosed with cancer. 18 months in hospital. Whilst in hospital he took an Open University degree in photography. Posted to Depot Regiment, Chatham. Whilst there wrote a paper on Ultra Violet Photography, which was published by the Royal Society of Photography. Posted in 1981 to 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) as an air photograph interpreter. Hi illness had left him with a shake in his right hand. On one job he was travelling in the back of a vehicle with the remains of a phosphorous sea marker, which unknown to him was leaking off gas, this caused damage to his lungs and he was again admitted to hospital. Due to his paper on ultra violet photography, he worked on thermal imagine in relation to the Falkland's Conflict. Since his illness he spent a great deal of time with physically and mentally handicapped children.

Stephen's illness steadily worsened and eventually he was admitted permanently into The Queen Elizabeths Military Hospital in Woolwich, were he passed away.

Awarded the British Empire Medal.

No Photograph available.

Died on the 5 August 1987, age 30.

No further information available.

WOOD, John Miller Cowper, (2157702) Corporal, 11 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 8 August 1922 in Edinburgh. Enlisted on the 26 February 1942. Next of Kin Wife, Mrs R Wood, 41 Bonce Road, Preston, Lancs. NOK Widow temporary address, 21 Jamaca Street, Edinburgh. 3. 18 June 1946.

Died whilst clearing mines lais as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

Lance Corporal R A F Wallis also died at this incident.



Died on the 26 March, 1946, age 24.

Son of Elisha Brenchley and Margaret Wood of Copnor, Portsmouth.

Buried at New Hall Lane Cemetery, Preston. Section W C of E Grave 420.

Photo Credit Steve Larn.

<https://www.royalengineersbombdisposal-eod.org.uk/individual/wood-w-c-b/>

WYATT, Ernest James, (1921092) Sergeant, 23 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born in 1909.

No information available.

Served with 14 Training Battalion 14 October 1940; 125 (Bomb Disposal) Quarrying Company; 22 Bomb Disposal Company, 11 January 1941; 25 Bomb Disposal Company, 15 February 1941; 23 Bomb Disposal Company.



Died on the 7 February 1947, age 38.

Son of George Henry and Sarah Ann Wyatt; Husband of Margaret W Wyatt of Plaistow.

Buried a Commemorated at East London Cemetery, Plaistow, London. Grave 16582 Screen Wall Panel 16.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2721742/ernest-james-wyatt/>

Photo Credit Peter Markham

YOUNG BEM, George, (2129049) Sapper, 20 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers.

Born on the 5 March 1910 in Perth. Enlisted on the 28 October 1940 in Halifax. Next of Kin Wife, Donaldine Young, 27 Union Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll. NOK notified on the 5 September 1945.

Served with 20 Bomb Disposal Company, 26 November 1941.

Died clearing mines laid as part of the anti-invasion measures around the UK. Opinion of Colonel IC ADM; This occurrence was due to a pure accident. Method employed was efficient, the personnel fully trained. Dover, Kent.

Sapper H Haynes also died at this incident.



Died on the 3 September 1945, age 35.

Son of James and Georgina Young; Husband of Donaldina Young of Lochgilphead, Scotland.

Buried at Achabreac Burial Ground, Glassary, Scotland. Section F Grave 473

YOUNG, John Osmund, (899) Sapper, 3 (Bombay) Fortress Company, Royal Engineers.

No clear information, however sources say he was Bomb Disposal. It is known and verified that there was a Bomb Disposal School at Kirkee where he is buried.



Died on the 1 August 1943, age
Son of Mr and Mrs G H Young of Mahim, India.

Buried at Kirkee War Cemetery, India. Grave 9 K 10.
[Cemetery Details | CWGC](#)

Photo Credit ?

Acknowledgements

There are so many people that have over the years, inputted and supported this project that it is impossible to name them all. Therefore it's a big thank you to all who have been involved, from organisations and individuals who have taken photographs, and from family members, researchers who have passed information on.

The people who took photos at times didn't have an easy task, not all cemeteries were easy to locate a grave in, however, people persevered contacting local clergy, record offices and at times badgered those responsible to clear the areas round the graves. Some cleared them and still maintain them, one in particular comes to mind, who without fail yearly cleans the grave and has improved it, he is in contact with the family and they appreciate it. Another was a lady in Wales, how went far and wide to take photos, at times dragging along her mother or daughter. This lady found a headstone in a poorly maintained area of a churchyard, tracked down the local clergy and extracted a promise that it would be looked after. The clergyman involved contacted me, asked the history of the person buried there and used the details on the next Remembrance Day Service.

Therefore, there is only two words I can use to end this acknowledgement, that seem so inadequate, but come from the heart, THANK YOU.

Source References

Ancestry

[Forces War Records - Historical military records - Forces War Records](#)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

[Find war dead | War graves search | CWGC](#)

Find A Grave

[Find a Grave - Millions of Cemetery Records](#)

Find My Past

[Search British Army, Royal Engineers Other Ranks: Casualty Cards, Regimental & Service Records | Findmypast.co.uk](#)

[Search British Army, Royal Engineers 1900-1949, Regimental & Service Records | Findmypast.com](#)

Forces War Records

[Forces War Records - Historical military records - Forces War Records](#)

Royal Engineers Association, Bomb Disposal Branch Roll of Honour

[Royal Engineers Association \(EOD\) roll of honour](#)

Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal EOD History Group

[RE Bomb Disposal EOD History Group | Facebook](#)

War Graves Photographic Project

[War Grave and Memorial Photographs supplied by The War Graves Photographic Project](#)

Books.

Bombs and Booby Traps Captain H J Hunt MBE

BD and the British Casualties of World War 11 Chris Ranstead.

Bomb Disposal in World War 2 Chris Ranstead.

Designed to Kill Major Arthur Hogben QGM

Disarming Hitler's V Weapons Chris Ranstead.

Living with Danger Captain H W Beckingham.

My London Bomb Squad C Nevil Newitt.

Once a Sapper Always a Sapper Major Stephen Hambrook (Rtr) MBE GM

The Danger of UXB's Eric Wakeling.

The History of the Corps of Royal Engineers Volumes V111, 1X, X, X1, X11, X111.

The Lonely War Eric Wakeling.

The Royal Engineers Operation TELIC October 2002 - July 2003.

Unexploded Bomb Major A B Hartley MBE.

Archives, Minutes and Newsletters.

The Royal Engineers Association Bomb Disposal Branch.

Abbreviations

General

BD	Bomb Disposal
BDO	Bomb Disposal Officer
GP	Group
NOK	Next of Kin
POW	Prisoner of War

RV	Rendezvous Point
UXB	Unexploded Bomb
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

Medals

BEM	British Empire Medal
GC	George Cross
GM	George Medal
MM	Military Medal
OBE	Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Ranks

Capt	Captain
Corp	Corporal
CO	Commanding Officer
CQMS	Company Quarter Master Sergeant
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
Dvr	Driver
L/Cpl	Lance Corporal
Lt	Lieutenant
Lt Col	Lieutenant Colonel
L/Sgt	Lance Sergeant
Maj	Major
NCO or N.C.O or NCO's	Non-Commissioned Officer
OC	Officer Commanding
Pte	Private
QMSI	Quarter Master Senior Instructor
Spr	Sapper
Sgt	Sergeant
S/Sgt	Staff Sergeant
SMI	Senior Military Instructor

SSM	Squadron Sergeant Major
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
WO	Warrant Officer Class 1 or 2

Units

Coy	Company
Gp	Group
Plt	Platoon
Regt	Regiment
Sec	Section
Sqn	Squadron

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