

**“70 YEARS ON”**

**THE SUMMER  
OF 1940**

**MAY – OCTOBER**

**Created by**

**The**

**Dover War Memorial**

**Project**

**[www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk](http://www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk)**

# Panel Two

# Herbert Muller

Recorded in the Book of Remembrance, now at Dover Museum, Herbert was 28 when he was reported missing on 1 May 1940.

An RAF Pilot Flying Officer, he had taken off from Newmarket for an evening raid on Stavanger, Norway.



The aircraft crashed into The Wash. Eventually the bodies of all six of the crew were recovered

Herbert is buried at Richmond, Surrey, where his mother was also laid in 1952.

# The Admiral Harvey

HMS Glorious, an aircraft carrier, with two destroyers, HMS Acasta and HMS Ardent, was sunk in the Norwegian sea on 8 June 1940. Over 1,500 men were lost.

Amongst them were Edwin Wright, 21, and Charles Rogers of the Royal Navy. Charles was the only son of Frank and Elizabeth Rogers, licensees of the Admiral Harvey, Bridge Street.

Three months later, on 10 September, Mrs Rogers suffered a fractured arm during shelling, but her husband was badly injured and died next day in hospital.

The shell fell in almost exactly the same place as a Great War bomb, dropped by a Gotha on 22 August 1917. Lucy Wall, a servant at the pub, suffered severe injuries. She died on her way to hospital.

Mrs Rogers gave up the licence to Alfred and Flora Harper, of the now-demolished pub “The Cause is Altered”. On 26 November 1941, their only son, Cyril, serving with the Royal Tank Regiment, was killed in Egypt.





# Accidents



Owing to war-time operations, some Dovorian service personnel died at home in The Summer of 1940.

Patrick Curran, Royal Artillery, was 21 when he was killed on 19 August whilst returning to his unit. Believing he was following a safe footpath in a restricted area, he trod on a mine.

The Coroner observed it was the second such death within a week. Two more occurred the next, when Lord North, Major in the Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry, and his sister Cynthia were killed by a landmine whilst on a Sunday stroll by the beach on 25 August. The family vault is at Waldershare church (left).



A road accident at Leighton Buzzard killed old Charlton schoolboy Leslie Taylor, RAMC, while Robert O'Connor, 25, RASC, died on 8 September during a surgical operation at Basingstoke. On the left is the headstone of Douglas King, Royal Engineers. He was buried in Liskeard, Cornwall, after his accidental death on 30 August.

**TAYLOR.**—In ever loving memory of our dear brother, Corpl. Frederick Leslie Hicks Taylor, who was killed in a road accident, October 7th, 1940.  
Without farewell he fell asleep,  
With only memories to keep;  
Sleep on, dear brother, God know's best,  
On earth, there's strife; in heaven, rest.  
Sadly missed, but not forgotten.—From  
Brothers and Sisters.

At the opposite end of Britain, while his ship was undergoing repairs, Ordinary Seaman Sidney George Smith (“Chub”), 19, was drowned on 9 August. He is buried in Glasgow.

# The Home Guard

In May 1940, with invasion believed imminent, the Local Defence Volunteers were raised. Several Dovorians killed in the war served:

William Stacy, marine workshop d 2 Oct 1941

Frederick Mische, bus employee, d 23 Mar 1942

Walter Sherwood, bus driver, d 23 Mar 1942

William Ford, bus employee, d 23 Mar 1942

Leonard White, farm worker, 7 Sept 1942

Dennis Burns, a taxi driver, d 10 Dec 1942

George Kerry, telephone operator, d 28 June 1943

Fred Ashman, banker, d 26 Nov 1943 in RAFVR

Cyril Coe, shopworker, d 17 May 1944 in RAF

and

George Baker, Harbour Board, brother of casualty Henry Baker

Percy Taylor, postman, brother of WWI casualty Jack Taylor



Cyril Coe

# “By Enemy Action”

Dovorian service personnel also lost their lives in raids during The Summer of 1940.

John Holbrook, RA, died the night of 25/26 October in New Malden, London. He is buried there and commemorated on the screen wall (below).



Edward (“Teddie”) Chapman, The Buffs, was a keen cricketer and footballer, and member of the Dover Football Supporters Club. He had just gone back to London after a week’s leave at home when he was killed at Olympia on 7 September. John Hughes, also of The Buffs, died too.



# We Remember Too ...

## **Leonard Flisher – RAF. Died 12 May, aged 26**

K9353 was shot down attacking the enemy and crashed at Sensenruth. John Horner, 24, and Leslie Davies, 21, also died



## **James Robertson (left) – Black Watch. Died 14 May, aged 26**

Killed in action in France. He is buried in the Choloy War Cemetery, France

## **Edgar Watt - RAOC. Died 16 May**

Died suddenly, and buried at Fowey, Cornwall

## **Charles Smith - Grenadier Guards, Died 19 May, aged 35**

Killed in action in Belgium

## **Frederick Sweeting – RAC. Died 26 May, aged 30**

He was reported missing, then as a POW and wounded. He died in a Belgian Military Hospital.

## **Geoffrey Onslow – Beds and Herts. Died 1 June, aged 28**

Killed in action in Belgium

## **Jack Watson – Merchant Navy, Died 1 June, aged 24**

HMT Orford on loan as a troop carrier, was bombed off Marseilles

## **Lawrence Hunt – RAF. Died 2 June**

He was reported as missing from operations over Germany, and later as having died.

## **John Myers – RAF. Died 11 June**

During a communications mission over France. his Whitley was probably hit by anti-aircraft fire. Leslie Keast, 25, David Braham, 25, James Black, 24, and Raymond Nuttall, 28, also died. .

## **John Smith – RE. Died 11 June, aged 30**

He died at St Valery.

## **Robert Balfour - Black Watch. Died 11 June**

He was reported missing, and over a year later as having died. He is remembered on the Dunkirk Memorial,

## **James Low – Black Watch. Died 12 June, aged 36**

He is buried in the Veules-les-Roses Communal Cemetery, France

## **John Hogben – RN. Died 16 July, aged 20**

His destroyer HMS Imogen collided with HMS Glasgow, and caught fire and sank near Duncasby Head, Scotland

## **Frederick Geard – RN. Died 3 August, aged 24**

HM Submarine Thames was sunk by an enemy mine.



*Our happy memories of you are gathered up and stored away ...  
Like faded petals that retain the fragrance of a summer's day,  
Without you winter lingers long, yet always in my heart it seems  
I catch the perfume of the past, the breath of unforgotten dreams.*

*In Memoriam Jack Watson, from his parents, 1941*

## **William Rolfe – RE. Died 7 August, aged 41**

He is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial

## **Douglas Hudson – RN. Died 15 October, aged 21**

He died from wounds after HMS Liverpool had undergone sustained attack near Leros and suffered severe damage