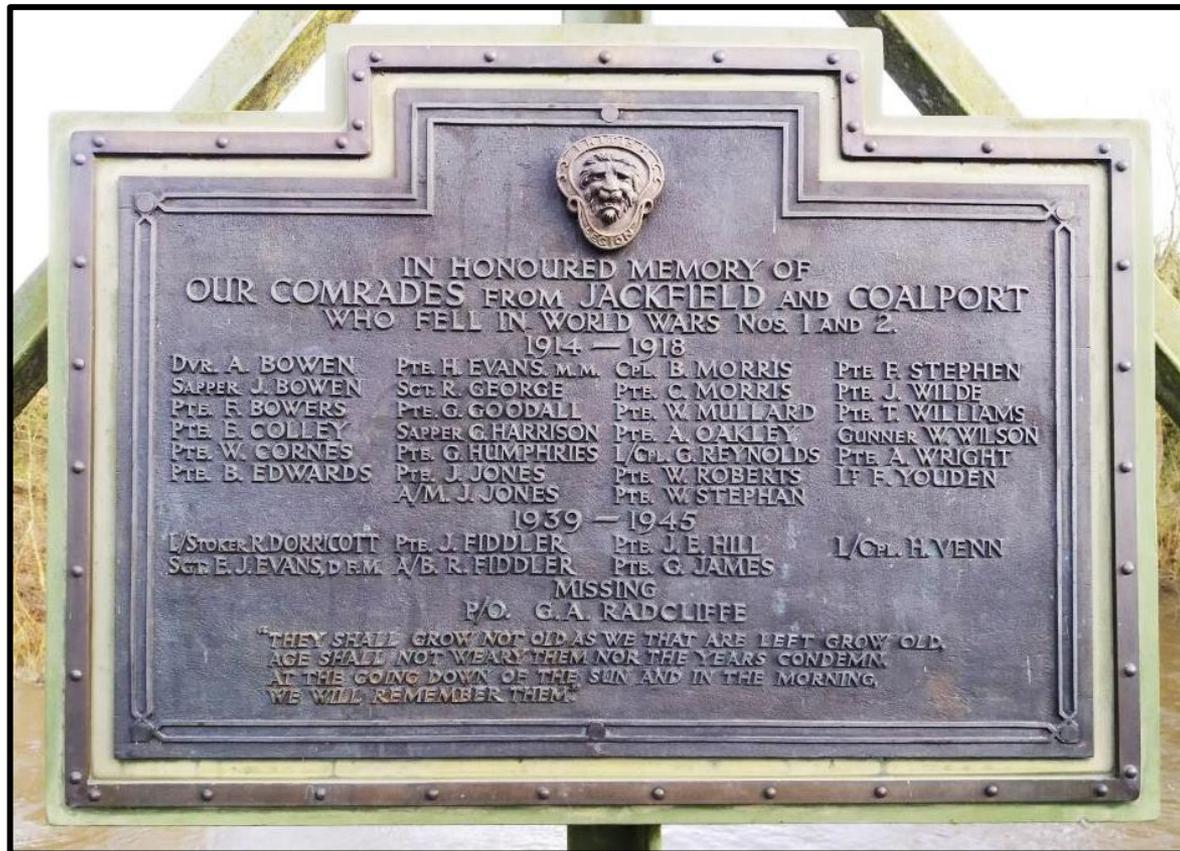




# Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

**Researching local servicemen, servicewomen and civilians remembered on local memorials and buried in local churchyards and cemeteries**



Martin Phillips, Heritage Schools, May 2020

# **Approach 1**

## **Researching servicemen/women from finding names on local memorials**

Sticking to the government advice on leaving the house you may decide to visit your local war memorial. Please go with an adult family member.

(You may decide it is better to wait until current measures are relaxed)

**When researching Local War memorials there are 2 definite key websites:**  
**Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Ancestry Military Records and War Memorials Online**  
**CWGC** have all the records of all UK & Commonwealth war dead since 1914  
**War Memorials Online** have information about most – though not all – local war memorials.  
Your school could always add any missing information.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The header is green with the CWGC logo and navigation links: Home, About Us, Help and FAQs, News, Shop, Log In, and a yellow button for 'JOIN OUR FOUNDATION'. Below the header, there are four main navigation categories: 'Find war dead & cemeteries', 'Explore history & archives', 'Learn about our activities', and 'Visit Us CWGC Experience'. A search bar is located to the right of these categories. The main content area features a large banner for 'THE CWGC EXPERIENCE' with the text 'Take a tour behind the scenes at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission' and 'Open Now, Beaurains, France'. Below this, the word 'COMMEMORATING' is partially visible.

The screenshot shows the homepage of War Memorials Online. The header is dark blue with the site name 'WAR MEMORIALS ONLINE' and navigation links: MEMORIALS, GET INVOLVED, FAQs, ABOUT US, CONTACT, LOGIN, and a red 'SEARCH' button. Below the header, there is a large image of a young boy pointing at a war memorial. To the right of the image, the text reads: 'Help us to record, conserve and remember our war memorials'. Below this, a paragraph explains: 'War Memorials Online is an unprecedented opportunity for the public to upload images of war memorials and log concerns for the conservation of these important community and historical sources for future generations. Together, we can build a complete picture of the whereabouts, type and condition of all war memorials in the UK. To date, our Contributors have added over 40,000 war memorials to War Memorials Online and over 30,000 condition reports.' Another paragraph states: 'Anyone and everyone can help protect war memorials for future generations. Your content is vital. Register to contribute information or explore the site to find out more about war memorials.' At the bottom, there is a red banner with the text 'Find or submit a war memorial' and a search form with 'KEYWORD SEARCH' and 'LOCATION SEARCH' options, a search bar with the placeholder 'Search the memorials by name or keyword', and a yellow 'SEARCH Q' button.

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/>

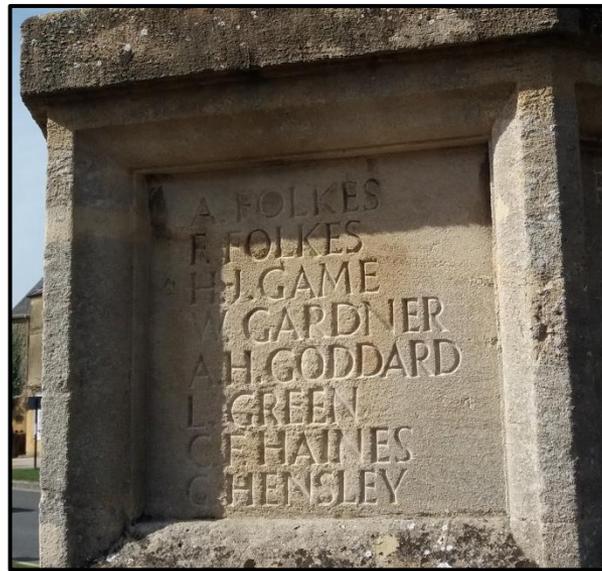
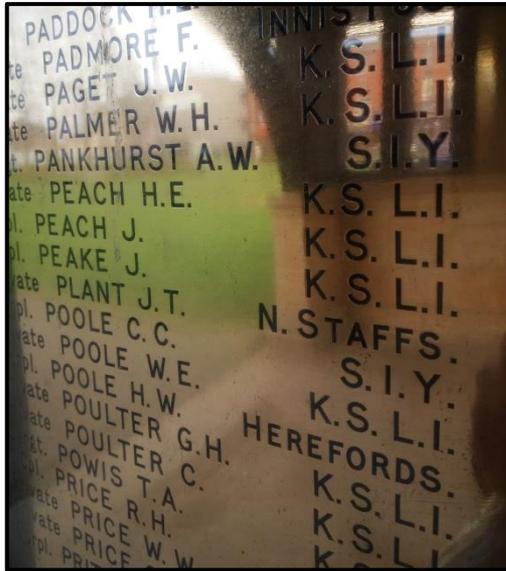
# Steps to researching local soldiers

- Identify a name from the memorial – either by visiting a memorial on your daily exercise or by finding names via a web search
- You may also find that some servicemen, servicewomen or civilians killed during the Second World War are buried locally. You may find an individual grave stimulates your research.
- Search for the name in the CWGC website
- If you only have a first initial to work with, it may help to try using local regiments in your search such as Worcestershire, Warwickshire or Staffordshire, especially with common surnames.
- Sometimes the results will give you more information such as: full name, age at death, regiment, home address, parents address
- Follow up with further research about the regiment and the events that were occurring at the time of the serviceman's death
- If you find a home address, perhaps see if the house is still there (as long as you do not breach government restriction guidelines)
- If someone in your family has an Ancestry subscription, this opens up further research opportunities

# Memorials do not have a consistent design or amount of information.

Some give rank and regiments: some do not.

This can make it easier or harder to research your serviceman.



You will also usually find websites for specific areas and localities

**Example: For Wordsley War Memorial:**

War Memorials of Dudley is an excellent site and includes researched information about almost all these men and the Stourbridge website has a full list. Most areas will have something similar.



## Wordsley

Wordsley Memorial was erected in 1921 in front of the street. It was dedicated on the 12th November of the armistice. The architect was A.T. Butler and the firm responsible for the Memorial was Messrs. Kildner & Co. of Kidderminster, the firm responsible for the Memorial. The stone memorial stands some 20 feet high and rests on a base of four feet. The Great War names are carried on the sides of the memorial and is headed with the dedication:

ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF WORDSLEY  
TO HONOUR THEIR GLORIOUS DEAD  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
FIGHTING FOR HONOUR  
AND JUSTICE  
IN THE GREAT WAR

Welcome to **Stourbridge**

Welcome | About Stourbridge | Glass | Town Tours | Can you help? | What's on | Stourbridge Lion | Music | Sport | Long Lost friends | Pubs | Schools and Colleges | Shopping | Clubs and Charities | Genealogy | Stourbridge Area | Business | Links | Lots more stuff | Contact | Homepage

### Wordsley War Memorial - World Wars 1 and 2

Wordsley War Memorial can be found at the entrance to the Holy Trinity Parish Church on the A491. There are two inscriptions on the memorial, one for World War One and the other for World War Two.

"ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF WORDSLEY TO HONOUR THEIR GLORIOUS DEAD WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FIGHTING FOR HONOUR AND JUSTICE IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1919

GOD, THEIR KING AND COUNTRY"

We have taken the names from photos taken of the memorial so if there are any errors [please let us know](#)

G. Abbot	C. Dudley	W. Kendrick	A.R. Roberts
W. Atkins	W. Dyer	J. Kenyon	A. Rogers
R. Babbs	W. Elcock	S. Lane	A. Rowbottom
D. Baker	A. Elwell	W.H. Lewis	W. Rowbottom
W. Baker	J. Evans	J. Lowie	E. Ryder
J. Barker	F. Facer	H. Maiden	G. Shillingsford
S. Barker	G. Field	W.H. Maiden	W. Sidaway
W. Barker	J. Firmstone	A. Male	S. Simpson
H.L. Barlow	I. Fletcher	W. Maycroft	D. Skidmore
J. Bateman	F. Giles	E. McCarthy	S.F. Skidmore
G. Battin	F.E. Gould	H. McCarthy	E. Smith
C.J. Beddard	S. Granger	A.K. Millwood	J.F. Sneyd
W. Bolton	H. Green	J. Moore	C.A. Snow
W. Bowater	H. Guest	Walter Moore	S. Snow
J.E. Brooks	G. Gwilliam	Wilfred Moore	J. Southall
W. Bullock	S.A. Hall	C.A. Nicklin	C. Standley
E. Burton	A. Hancox	E. Nicholls	W. Stinton
A. Carrington	J.A.S. Hand	J.E. Nixon	A. Sutton
G.E. Chapman	C. Harris	G. Page	L. Sutton
W. Colledge	G. Hayes	S. Page	J. Tomkins
G. Cooper	J. Hayes	T. Pargeter	C. Waldron
H. Cooper	H. Havnes	F. Parrish	C. Wall

## Searching for an Individual Soldier

Start by finding a name directly from your local memorial or from a memorial website  
Unusual names are usually easier to find. Example: V.S. Gadd

"THIS TABLET IS ERECTED IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF WORDSLEY WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945  
AND IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING WHO FELL"

F. Bradbury  
J.B. Bills  
R.J. Britt  
W. Banks  
C.F. Bill  
A. Bate  
J. Carter  
A.R. Chamberlain  
A.W. Cooper  
G.D. Darby  
K. Firmstone

J.R. Gittens  
V.S. Gadd  
J.M. Ganner  
D. Gomers  
J. Husselbee  
F.L. Holdnall  
R.F. Hancox  
A.M. Hancox  
A.M. Howe  
F. Jones  
R.J. Kirkham

W.H. Lampitt  
K.V. Lowe  
J. Male  
K.O. Morris  
R. Nicholls  
H. Nicholls  
S. Perry  
W.C. Prescott  
B.J. Powell  
P.J. Phillips  
J. Perry

J.D. Ritchie  
E.J. Steward  
A. Sherriff  
A.W. Sneyd  
L. Stanley  
S.G. Smith  
S.W. Turley  
C.A. Wellings  
J.H. Wassell  
A. Whitehouse  
G. Wilkinson

**What can we find out about V.S. Gadd?**

# Searching for an individual soldier Start by finding link to CWGC website

**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Home | About Us | Help and FAQ's | News | Shop | Log In | [JOIN OUR FOUNDATION](#)

**Find war dead & cemeteries** | Explore history & archives | Learn about our activities | Visit Us CWGC Experience

Search war dead, cemeteries, website

POET, AUTHOR, MUSICIAN  
**SECRET AGENT**

**A NEW DIGITAL EXHIBITION**  
**NOOR INAYAT-KHAN**  
A WOMAN OF CONSPICUOUS COURAGE

COM

**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Home | About Us | Help and FAQ's | News | Shop | Log In | [JOIN OUR FOUNDATION](#)

**Find war dead & cemeteries** | Explore history & archives | Learn about our activities | Visit Us CWGC Experience

Search war dead, cemeteries, website

## FIND WAR DEAD

[How To Search](#)

Last name <sup>?</sup>  Initial(s) <sup>?</sup>  OR First name <sup>?</sup>

Some records do not include a first name so try searching with initials first.

Country (commemorated in) <sup>?</sup>  Cemetery or memorial (commemorated at) <sup>?</sup>

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

# Search for V.S. Gadd, using the very limited information we have

Last name 	Initial(s) 	First name 
<input type="text" value="Gadd"/>	<input type="text" value="VS"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Some records do not include a first name so try searching with initials first.</small>		
Country (commemorated in) 	Cemetery or memorial (commemorated at) 	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Service number 	Regiment 	
<input type="text" value="e.g. 1308345"/>	<input type="text"/>	
War 	Match terms exactly 	
<input type="checkbox"/> First World War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second World War	<input type="checkbox"/>

[CLEAR](#) [SEARCH](#)

# We are offered only one result: Victor Samuel Gadd

Showing 1 record(s) sorted by Relevance 

[Download results](#)

### Refine results

**War**

Second World War (1)

**Served with**

United Kingdom (1)

**Served in**

Army (1)

Last name	First names or initials	Date of death	Regiment
GADD	VICTOR SAMUEL	26 April 1941	Royal Armoured Corps
Trooper		Age 27	United Kingdom
553142		PHALERON WAR CEMETERY 9. D. 19.	

20  Results per page

**1**

We learn his full name and those of his parents. We do not find his address but we do learn he lived in Wordsley. He was serving in the Queens Hussars Royal Armoured Corps. Perhaps this was a tank regiment. We learn that his date of death is not certain.

Trooper

**GADD, VICTOR SAMUEL**

Service Number 553142

Died Between 26/04/1941 and 30/04/1941

Aged 27

4th Queen's Own Hussars

Royal Armoured Corps

Son of Walter and Jemima Gadd, of Wordsley,  
Staffordshire; husband of Edith Gadd, of  
Wordsley.



# CWGC Certificate for Victor Samuel Gadd

In Memory of

Trooper

**Victor Samuel Gadd**

553142, 4th Queen's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps who died between 26 April 1941 and 30 April 1941 Age 27

Son of Walter and Jemima Gadd, of Wordsley, Staffordshire; husband of Edith Gadd, of Wordsley.

Remembered with Honour

**Phaleron War Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

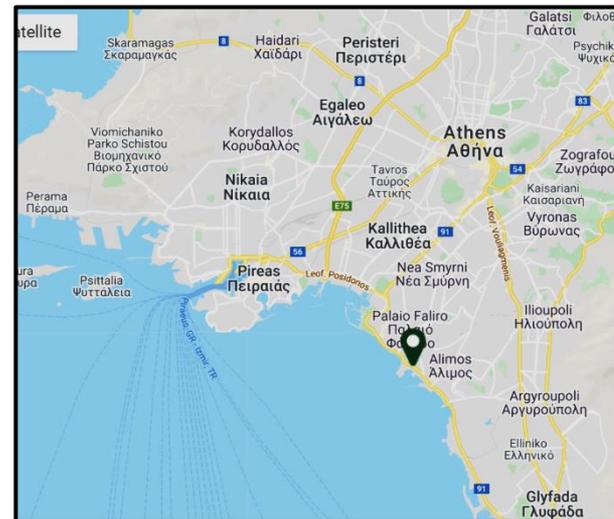
# Information about Phaleron War Cemetery, near Athens

## This helps us to understand why Victor Samuel was killed in Greece

Phaleron War Cemetery is permanently open and may be visited at any time, including weekends and public holidays. For further information and enquiries please contact [enquiries@cwgc.org](mailto:enquiries@cwgc.org)

### History Information

The site of what is now PHALERON WAR CEMETERY was chosen originally by the 4th Division as a burial ground for Commonwealth casualties of the Greek Civil War (December 1944–February 1945). Subsequently, the military authorities, in conjunction with the Greek Government and the Army Graves Service, decided that it would be the most suitable site for a Second World War cemetery for the whole mainland of Greece. The 23rd and 24th Graves Registration Units and the 21st and 22nd Australian War Graves Units worked together to bring in graves of the 1941 campaign from the battlefields, temporary military cemeteries and from various civil cemeteries. There are now 2,029 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 596 of the burials are unidentified. Special memorials commemorate casualties known to have been interred in certain groups of graves in the cemetery, but whose individual graves cannot be precisely located within these groups. Other special memorials commemorate casualties re-buried in the cemetery from original graves which, owing to the destruction of local records, could not be identified. Also within the cemetery are: The PHALERON CREMATION MEMORIAL, commemorating 74 men of the army of undivided India who died during the campaigns in Greece and Crete during the Second World War and who were accorded the last rite required by their religion - committal to fire. The ATHENS MEMORIAL, commemorating nearly 3,000 members of the land forces of the Commonwealth who lost their lives during the campaigns in Greece and Crete in 1941 and 1944–1945, in the Dodecanese Islands in 1943–1945 and in Yugoslavia in 1943–1945, and who have no known grave. In the north-east corner of the cemetery, a plot contains the graves of servicemen and civilians who after serving in the Crimean War, died in Greece, and were buried in the Anglo-French Crimean Cemetery, New Phaleron. The graves were moved in 1966 when that cemetery could no longer be maintained. The CEMETERY and the ATHENS MEMORIAL were designed by Louis de Soissons.



## Follow up activity

Search for more regiment about Victor Gadd's Regiment, the 4<sup>th</sup> Queens Own Hussars. It turns out Winston Churchill served in the same regiment.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

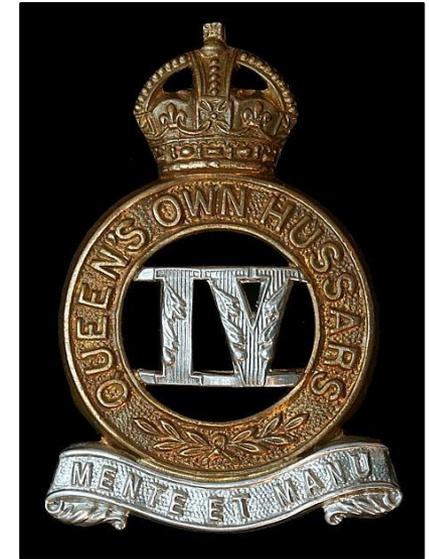
CLOSED FREE Chelsea, London

WHAT'S ON COLLECTIONS EXPLORE SUPPORT US SHOP | PLAN A VISIT FAMILIES SCHOOLS

[Regiments and Corps](#)

# 4th Queen's Own Hussars

This British Army cavalry regiment was formed in 1685. It went on to serve in many campaigns until 1958, when it merged with the 8th Hussars to form The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.



[View this object](#)

Saddle used by Captain Thomas Hutton, 4th (The Queen's Own) Light Dragoons, at Balaklava, 1854



[View this object](#)

Second Lieutenant Winston Churchill, 4th (The Queen's Own) Hussars, 1895

We learn that the Hussars were in Greece, trying to repel the German invasion, launched on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1941. The Germans attack was swift and successful.

The Allies were forced to retreat and Athens fell to the Germans on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

We know that Victor Gadd died between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1941, so it is likely that he died in this campaign to repel the German advance in Greece.

11,000 allied men were taken prisoner. 45,000 were evacuated to Crete.

[Second World War](#)

## War in the Balkans, 1941-45

In 1941 the Axis powers invaded Yugoslavia and Greece. British and Commonwealth intervention and evacuation followed before a vicious partisan conflict began that raged across the Balkans for the following four years.



This force, commanded by General Henry Maitland Wilson, included 1st Armoured Brigade, 6th Australian Division and 2nd New Zealand Division.

### Allies in retreat

Despite the brave resistance of the Greek and Commonwealth troops, the speed of the German 'Blitzkrieg' overwhelmed their defensive positions. The Germans quickly captured the southern Greek cities and the struggle ended with the fall of Athens on 27 April 1941.

The Allies lost around a quarter of their strength, including 11,000 men captured. Nevertheless, about 45,000 Allied soldiers were successfully evacuated to Crete. German losses were about 11,500, with 2,500 dead.



[View this object](#)

Raising the swastika at the Acropolis, Athens, April 1941



[View this object](#)

Commonwealth troops evacuate Greece, 1941

A further Google search, using the regiment, date and action (Retreat from Athens) resulted in a set of war diary entries.

The regiment were known as the 'Desert Rats' from their service in North Africa. We learn that it was a tank regiment. It is clear that the regiment was defending Corinth, during the retreat, on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

They suffered bombing and a German parachute attack on the Corinth Canal. It looks like they suffered losses on 26<sup>th</sup> April and further disaster on 27<sup>th</sup> when one evacuating ship was sunk and *'Others lost in destroyers. Casualties – numerous – but scarcity of information'*. This may help explain why there is uncertainty surrounding the date of Victor's death

21/4/1941	Maintenance carried out and Regt moved after dark to GLYFADA via ATHENS. Three patrols, 2Lt Paterson, 2Lt Beachcroft and 2Lt Peacock were sent out. 2Lt Henderson attached to Ferrying party in PELEPONESE under 3rd RTR.
22/4/1941	0400 – Regt arrived GLYFADA and reorganised. HQ – 3 Tanks and 1 Armd Car and three Sqns of four Troops (one Armd Tp of 3 Tanks and 2 Bren carriers and 3 rifle Tps of 1 Officer and 25 ORs with varying quantities of light automatics). Role – ordered to take up position inclusive CORINTH Canal, inclusive PATRAS. A Sqn to PATRAS. C Sqn East of PATRAS. B Sqn East of C Sqn. HQ at CORINTH Bridge with one Tp of C Sqn, Capt Taylor. Moved off after dark.
23/4/1941	Regt moved into position and recess carried out. One truck of B Sqn bombed – direct hit, 8 killed and 5 wounded. Approx 80 ORs remained at GLYFADA under command Major Cowdell. Took up position on ATHENS Racecourse.
24/4/1941	Force LO sent to ATHENS to attempt to get reinforcements from Force HQ for defence of CORINTH. BGS visited CORINTH at 2000 hours and agreed to attach one Coy of Australians. Regt ordered by BGS to leave CORINTH area on the 27th and to embark KALAMATA on the night 28/29th.
25/4/1941	Major Cowdell's force left ATHENS 0200 hours, arrived ARGOS approx 2200 hours. Orders to embark NAUPLION cancelled and proceeded to KALAMATA. One Coy Australians under 4th Hussars took up covering position North of CORINTH Canal. CO sent orders to Sqns to rendezvous South of CORINTH on night 26/27th
26/4/1941	0700 – Heavy bombing followed by parachute attack on CORINTH Canal. RHQ heavily involved and a total loss. A, B & C Sqns under command Major Clements left PATRAS approx 1400 hours and proceeded independently to KALAMATA, arriving night 27/28th. No further information available.
27/4/1941	40 ORs under command Capt Taylor proceeded to MONEMVASIA, arriving morning of the 28th. Major Cowdell's party embarked night 27/28th at KALAMATA on various ships. Major Cowdell and 16 ORs on "Costa Rica", which was sunk. Others lost in destroyers. Casualties: - numerous but scarcity of information.
28/4/1941	4th Hussars party landed in CRETE, consisting of 4 Officers and 70 ORs under Major Cowdell. Capt Taylor's party embarked night of 28th, arriving SUDA BAY approx 0700 hours on the 29th.
29/4/1941	Capt Taylor's party proceeded to ALEXANDRIA, arriving approx 1800 hours on the 30th. Major Cowdell's party organised into HQ and three Troops.
30/4/1941	Capt TI Taylor, Capt J Eden, 2Lt P Chrichton, 2Lt R Beachcroft, 2Lt JG Vaughan, 2Lt EB Newton and 85 ORs disembarked ALEXANDRIA. Attached leave and transit camp, SIDI BISHR.
<b>NOTE.</b> As all the Senior Officers of the Regt who took part in the Greek Campaign are now missing or PoW, this diary is incomplete and is only intended to act as a guide for the writing of the complete diary at the conclusion of the War.	

## German Parachute Attack on Corinth Canal



Percy Parrymore was with the 122/13th Light Anti Aircraft unit in Greece. As the British made their withdrawal from Greece his troop was selected to remain as a rearguard on the last bridge over the Corinth canal. The eight men on his gun were reduced down to six and they were told to watch out for parachutists:

*‘Came the dawn on Saturday, 26th April, along with scores of German fighters with machine guns blazing. The man taking cover alongside me was killed outright and I was wounded in the right hand and arm. Then the Germans started dropping the parachutists, and it was quite evident that nothing was going to stop them’*

## You would need to subscribe to Ancestry or Find My Past

In normal circumstances you can use Ancestry for free, in public libraries

If you *do* have access to these (find out if a family member already has a subscription), you can search the military records.

In this case, we learn that Victor Samuel Gadd was reported missing.

### Military Records

[View sample images and collection details](#)

**Search**  Match all terms exactly

**First & Middle Name(s)**   Exact...

**Last Name**   Exact...

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="e.g. London, England"/>
Death	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lived In	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="e.g. London, England"/>
Military	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="e.g. London, England"/>
Any Event	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="e.g. London, England"/>

**Keyword**

### V. S. Gadd

**in the UK, Allied Prisoners of War, 1939-1945**

Name:	V. S. Gadd
Rank:	Tpr.
Military Date:	1939-1945
Service Number:	553142
Source Description:	172: British Army List of Missing to be Circulated to POW Camps: includes Copy of 1st & 2nd Lists

**Save**

The 1911 Census is of limited use when searching for Second World War servicemen as most will not have been born then.

However, the 1939 Register, compiled to bring knowledge of communities up to date to support rationing and air-raid procedures, gives us plenty of information.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		See INSTRUCTIONS.	
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
This record is officially closed.									
INST 291	31/04/39	ORF M	7. CART WRIGHT Ameller, Maurice	F		31 <sup>st</sup> March	15 (18/5/90/80)	S	Glass, Acid Polesider
22. ditto	74		1. Smart Mary	F		22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.	70.	M	Charwoman
			2. * Smart Mary	F		15 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	04.	M	Domestic Servant
			3. Smart Thomas	M		16 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	02	M	Railway Labourer G.M.
This record is officially closed.									
23. ditto	75.		1. Challingsworth David	M		5 <sup>th</sup> April	78.	M	Glass Cutting
INST 291			2. Challingsworth, Fanny	F		17 <sup>th</sup> March	78	M	unpaid domestic duties
INST 291			3. Challingsworth, Mabel	F		2 <sup>nd</sup> March	01	S	Glass Warehouse
		19/04/39	4. <del>Challingsworth, Vera</del> STOKES	F		28 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	13	S	Glass Warehouse
		ORF M	5. Challingsworth, Fanny	M		31 <sup>st</sup> May	17	S	Retiring Leaves Child (18/10/08)
24. ditto	76.		1. Gadd Walter	M		18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	63	M	House decorator
			2. Gadd feminine	F		20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	77.	M	unpaid domestic duties
			3. Gadd Daisy	F		16 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	09	S	Counter Hand (Lead Dept)
This record is officially closed.									
			5. Gadd, Victor S.	M		20 <sup>th</sup> March	14.	S	Regulator Army
			6. Gadd, Thomas W.	M		20 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	16	S	Royal Air Force.
25. ditto	77.		1. Challingsworth, Fanny	M		1 <sup>st</sup> April	03.	M	Glass Maker

100 per. 553142. B. Squadron  
4<sup>th</sup> Bomber Hq  
Aircraftman 1<sup>st</sup> Class 527224  
N.S.10. Flight Lt

Gadd Walter	✓	M	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	63	M	House decorator
Gadd feminine	✓	F	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	77.	M	unpaid domestic duties
Gadd Daisy	✓	F	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	09	S	Counter Hand (Lead Dept)

This record is officially closed.

Gadd, Victor S.	✓	M	20 <sup>th</sup> March	14.	S	Regulator Army
Gadd, Thomas W.	✓	M	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	16	S	Royal Air Force.

100 per. 553142. B. Squadron  
4<sup>th</sup> Bomber Hq  
Aircraftman 1<sup>st</sup> Class 527224  
N.S.10. Flight Lt

This is the information for Manor Road Brierley Hill. In 1939, the Gadds live at Number 24 Manor Rd. Victor's parents are Walter and Jemima. Walter is a house painter. Victor has an older sister, Daisy and a younger brother, Thomas. Thomas is an Aircraftsman, 1st Class (ground crew) in the RAF. Victor was born on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1914.

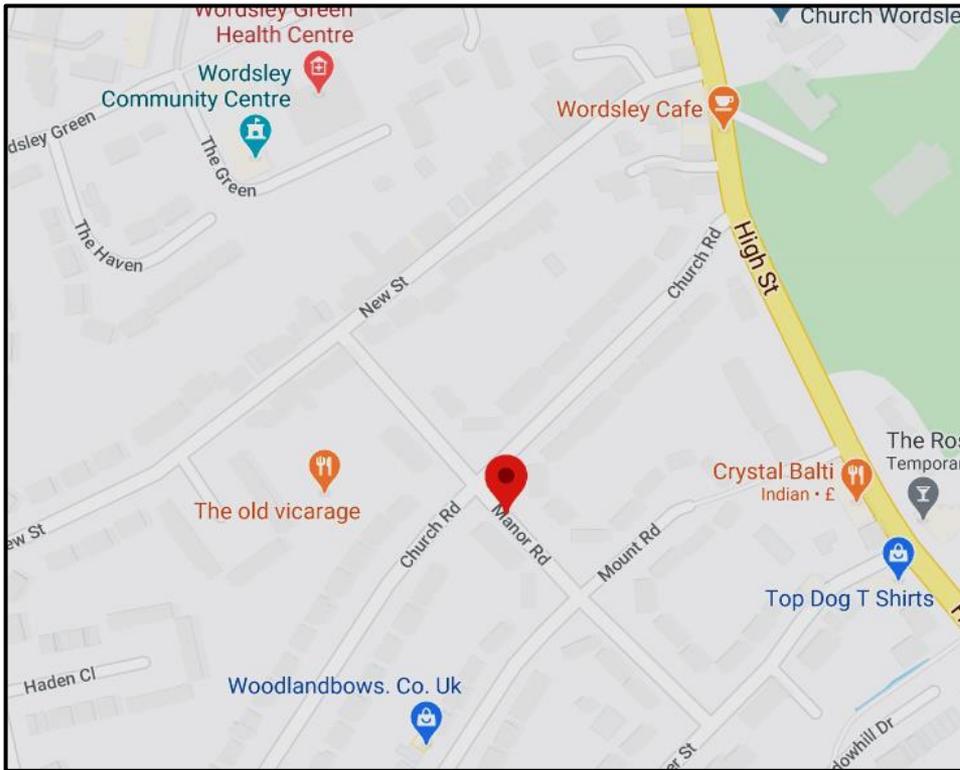
We know this is the correct person because Victor's regt. number is given.

A new search for Thomas in the CWGC records yields no results: he survived the war

24	ditto	76.	1.	Gadd Walter	✓	M	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	63	M	House decorator
			2.	Gadd Jemima	✓	F	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	77	M	unpaid domestic duties
			3.	Gadd Daisy	✓	F	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	09	S	Counter Hand (Leed dept)
This record is officially closed.										
			5.	Gadd Victor S.	✓	M	20 <sup>th</sup> March	14	S	Regulator Army
			6.	Gadd Thomas W.	✓	M	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16	S	Royal Air Force

M	20 <sup>th</sup> March	14.	S	✓	Regulator Army	100 per. 553142. B Squadron 4 <sup>th</sup> Queen. Hq
M	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16	S	✓	Royal Air Force	Aircraftman 1 <sup>st</sup> Class 527224 N.9.10. Flight Sq
M	1 <sup>st</sup> April	03.	M	✓	Glass Maker	
F	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	97.	M	✓	unpaid domestic duties	

We can locate Victor's house.  
Manor Road was built between the 2 world wars and is just a few minutes' walk  
from Wordsley War Memorial



**Now, look back and review all that we have learned about Victor Samuel Gadd, having started with just one piece of information.**



## **Approach 2**

### **Finding and Researching servicemen/women and civilians buried in our local cemeteries and churchyards**

Sticking to the government advice on leaving the house you may decide to have a look in your local churchyard or cemetery. Please go with an adult family member. (You may decide it is better to wait until current measures are relaxed)

**You may often find military graves in your local churchyard or cemetery.**

These will usually be servicemen or women who died in the UK – either from wounds, from illness, during training or after the war ended.

The graves are of a consistent, distinctive and recognisable design.

Most will contain name, regiment, rank & number, date of death and a regimental badge.



# Searching by Cemetery

As well as searching for servicemen by name, we can also find out who is buried in churchyards and cemeteries near us. This will also help us to find out about civilians, were killed during the Second World War.

Like searching for an individual soldier, you can search for a specific location or, just by putting in your town name, several options may come up (look back at slide 8 for starting point)

## FIND CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS

[How To Search](#)

[Nearby cemeteries and memorials](#)

Country ?

Locality ?

Name ?

War ?  First World War  Second World War

- Birmingham (Brandwood End) Cemetery
- Birmingham (Brandwood End) Jewish Cemetery
- Birmingham (Elmwood) Cemetery
- Birmingham (Handsworth) Cemetery
- Birmingham (Key Hill) Cemetery

We can quickly learn that there are 127 Second World war Graves in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham. Many wounded men will have been brought to nearby hospitals such as the Queen Elizabeth and Hollymoor.

You searched for: Cemetery Or Memorial: birmingham (lodge hill) cemetery X EDIT SEARCH

[Start a new search](#)

Showing 127 record(s) sorted by Relevance ⌵ [Download results](#)

**Your Filters** [Clear all](#)

- Second World War

**Refine results**

**War**

- Second World War (127)

**Served with**

Last name	First names or initials	Date of death	Regiment
Rank		Age	Country of service
Service Number		Cemetery/memorial	
		Grave Reference/Panel Number	
ABBOTTS	ARTHUR THOMAS	02 June 1940 BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY Plot 2E. Coll. grave 2887.	Dorsetshire Regiment United Kingdom <span>&gt;</span>
ATTWOOD	THOMAS JACK	16 September 1940 Age 21	Royal Army Service Corps <span>&gt;</span>

**In Handsworth Cemetery, we can find 99 graves relating to the Second World War.**  
We can find the grave of Dennis Audley, from Handsworth, an RAF wireless operator and air gunner, killed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1940, aged 20.

Sergeant (Wireless Op./Air Gunner)  
**AUDLEY, DENNIS SYDNEY**

Service Number 1576642

Died 03/09/1943

Aged 20

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Son of Sidney and Doris May Audley, of Handsworth, Birmingham.



INSCRIPTION

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN  
HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS"

In Memory of  
Sergeant Wireless Op./Air Gunner  
**Dennis Sydney Audley**

1576642, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 03 September 1943 Age 20

Son of Sidney and Doris May Audley, of Handsworth, Birmingham.

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham (Handsworth) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Buried at [BIRMINGHAM \(HANDSWORTH\) CEMETERY](#)

Location: Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Number of casualties: 205

Cemetery/memorial reference: Sec. 10. Class B. Grave 9970.

[CEMETERY DETAILS >](#)

**Thomas Belcher, serving with the Home Guard, was killed between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1940. Perhaps this was during an air raid.**

Volunteer  
**BELCHER, THOMAS**

Died Between 06/11/1940 and 07/11/1940

40th Warwickshire (Birmingham) Bn.  
Home Guard



In Memory of  
Volunteer  
**Thomas Belcher**

40th Warwickshire (Birmingham) Bn., Home Guard who died between 06 November 1940 and 07 November 1940

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham (Handsworth) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# Websites such as Birmingham Images or Staffordshire Past Track may help you find more information on air raids and bomb damage in your area.

**BIRMINGHAM IMAGES**  
© THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM

Search

Home Text Search Latest Additions Theme Explorer Map Explorer - My Album My Account

Theme Explorer  
Start Again > Time > 1901 - 2000 (20th Century) > 1939 - 1945 (World War II)

Page 1 of 19 333 Records Found

1 2 3 ...



60th anniversary of VE Day in Chamberlain Square : "George Formby" entertains



[Details »](#)

A Shelter That Collapsed



A tour round a public ARP shelter - sixty years on

A.C. Gurley - Perry Barr Music Stores



Disc sold by A.C. Gurley who traded at 506 Birchfield Road. The record is 78rpm - a format replaced eventually by the 7" single and since

A.R.P. for Rats.



**Staffordshire Past Track**

Search

Home Text Search Latest Additions Theme Explorer Map Explorer - My Album My Account -

Theme Explorer  
Start Again > War & Armed Forces > Air-raids & Bomb Damage

Page 1 of 2 20 Records Found

1 2

A.R.P. Wardens, Stone



[Details »](#)

Air raid warden, Bilbrook area



An Air Raid Warden pictured during the early part of the 2nd World War. He is wearing helmet, overalls and an arm band. Later on in the war he would probably be wearing battle dress.

[Details »](#)

ARP Warden Helmet, World War II



During World War II Air Raid Precaution warden's had the job to protect civilians from the dangers of air-raids. During blackouts they were responsible for ensuring no light was visible. They had ...

[Details »](#)

Bomb Damage



Bomb damage at the rear of Heathouse Lane, Bucknall, photographed on 23 August 1942. Comment by David Salt: "I was born

Bomb Damage



Bomb damage at Old Stoke Road, Stoke-on-Trent, 1941.

Bomb Damage



Photograph of a bomb damaged shop on the High Street in Pittshill, Stoke-on-Trent. Part of an official survey.

## Servicewomen

Buried in Handsworth Cemetery is Joan Constance Breedon, a Leading Aircraftwoman who served the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1943.

Leading Aircraftwoman  
**BREEDON, JOAN CONSTANCE**

Service Number 2063174

Died 02/07/1943

Aged 19

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Daughter of Thomas and Margaret Breedon, of  
Handsworth, Birmingham.



INSCRIPTION

“YOU ARE MINE TO REMEMBER WHEN OTHERS FORGET”

In Memory of  
Leading Aircraftwoman

**Joan Constance Breedon**

2063174, Women's Auxiliary Air Force who died on 02 July 1943 Age 19

Daughter of Thomas and Margaret Breedon, of Handsworth, Birmingham.

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham (Handsworth) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# Servicewomen

In Brandwood Cemetery, there are 100 graves relating to the Second World War, including Mary Emily Stevens, of Shirley. A Corporal in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, Mary died on 10h March, 1944.

Corporal  
**STEVENS, MARY EMILY**

Service Number 893468

Died 10/03/1944

Aged 25

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Daughter of Percy and Emily Mary Stevens, of Shirley.



INSCRIPTION

“UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY”

In Memory of  
Corporal

**Mary Emily Stevens**

893468, Women's Auxiliary Air Force who died on 10 March 1944 Age 25

Daughter of Percy and Emily Mary Stevens, of Shirley.

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham (Brandwood End) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The RAF Museum is now closed until further notice

Collections

The Royal Air Force Museum At Home

Home | Research | Online exhibitions | Women of the Air Force  
| Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) 1939 - 1949

## Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) 1939 - 1949

On 28 June 1939 King George VI established the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) for duty with the Royal Air Force (RAF) in time of war.

Since 1938, RAF Companies had existed within the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the female force equivalent to the Territorial Army. These companies were affiliated to Royal Auxiliary Air Force squadrons but by May 1939, the Government decided that a separate women's air service was necessary.



## Polish Army and Air Force

In cemeteries such as Lodge Hill, we can find graves of members of the armed forces of other countries, such as Poland, who fought alongside the Allies.

Here we see Edward Pachlicki and Wladyslaw Szajnowski, of the Polish Army.

Your Filters		<a href="#">Clear all</a>			
		Last name	First names or initials	Date of death	Regiment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second World War		Rank		Age	Country of service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Polish		Service Number		Cemetery/memorial	
<b>Refine results</b>				Grave Reference/Panel Number	
<b>War</b>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second World War (2)		PACHLICKI	EDWARD	14 October 1944	Polish Army
		Starszy Szeregowiec		Age 36	Polish
				BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY	<a href="#">&gt;</a>
				Service Plot 2E Grave 3302.	
<b>Served with</b>					
		SZAJNOWSKI	WLADYSLAW	13 November 1945	Polish Army
		Porucznik		Age 44	Polish
				BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY	<a href="#">&gt;</a>
				Service Plot 2E Grave 3303.	

## Civilians

Some cemeteries in those cities that suffered particularly heavy bombing contain the graves or memorials of civilians killed in air raids.

To search for civilians, do a general search, using 'Civilian War Dead'

Country (commemorated in) ?	Cemetery or memorial (commemorated at) ?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Service number ?	Regiment ?
<input type="text" value="e.g. 1308345"/>	<input type="text" value="Civilian War Dead"/>
War ?	Match terms exactly ?
<input type="checkbox"/> First World War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second World War
<input type="button" value="CLEAR"/>	
<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>	

**Then filter for the local authority**  
 (This tends to be certain cities and will not include every area)

Country				
<input type="checkbox"/> Civilian War Dead (67831)	TRAFFORD Civilian	JOHN	20 September 1940 Age 65 BERMONDSEY, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH	Civilian War Dead  United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/> LIVERPOOL, COUNTY BOROUGH (2644)	DARBY Civilian	DORIS	22 November 1944 Age 19 BETHNAL GREEN, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH	Civilian War Dead  United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/> BIRMINGHAM, COUNTY BOROUGH (2130)	LAKE Civilian	ELIZA	16 November 1940 Age 74 BETHNAL GREEN, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH	Civilian War Dead  United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/> LAMBETH, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH (1613)	STRETCH Civilian	WILLIAM	03 March 1943 Age 49 BETHNAL GREEN, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH	Civilian War Dead  United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/> MALTA, G.C. (1471)	BOWLING Civilian	JESSICA	11 May 1941 Age 16 CAMBERWELL, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH	Civilian War Dead  United Kingdom
<input type="checkbox"/> BRISTOL, COUNTY BOROUGH (1229)				
<input type="checkbox"/> WANDSWORTH, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH (1176)				
<input type="checkbox"/> WEST HAM, COUNTY BOROUGH (1166)				
<input type="checkbox"/> KINGSTON-UPON-HULL, COUNTY BOROUGH (1140)				
<input type="checkbox"/> PLYMOUTH, COUNTY BOROUGH (1130)				

Two civilians, killed during the Second World War, Gordon Johnson, aged 8 and Christopher O'Neill, aged 45. There is no grave reference for these two civilians.

Civilian  
**JOHNSON, GORDON DONALD**

Died 09/04/1941

Aged 8

Civilian War Dead

of 414 Victoria Road, Aston. Son of Margaret  
Brand Johnson. Died at 414 Victoria Road.

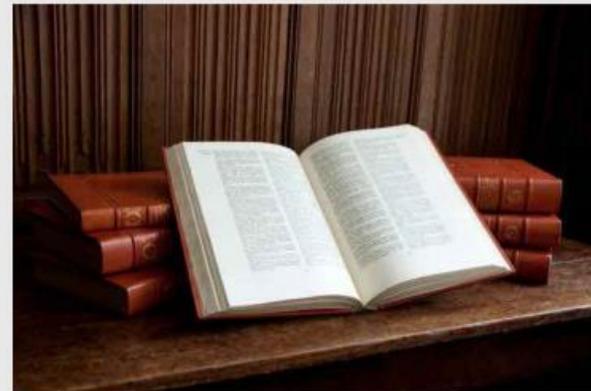


In Memory of  
Civilian  
**Christopher Joseph O'Neill**

Civilian War Dead who died on 15 October 1940 Age 45

of 199 Belgrave Road, Edgbaston. Died at 199 Belgrave Road.

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham, County Borough



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**Frances Magdalene Daniels was a nurse at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, one of two who were killed when bombs fell on the hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1940.**

Civilian  
**DANIELS, FRANCES MAGDALENE**

Died 23/11/1940

Aged 40

Civilian War Dead

S.R.N.; of 324 Chester Road, Streetly. Daughter of Ernest Daniels, of 10 Bridge Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Died at The Woodlands Hospital, Bristol Road.

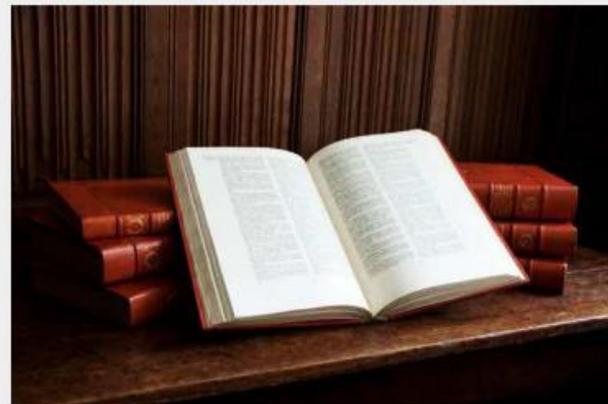


In Memory of  
Civilian  
**Frances Magdalene Daniels**

Civilian War Dead who died on 23 November 1940 Age 40

S.R.N.; of 324 Chester Road, Streetly. Daughter of Ernest Daniels, of 10 Bridge Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Died at The Woodlands Hospital, Bristol Road.

Remembered with Honour  
Birmingham, County Borough



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Other Useful Links

- <https://www.tracesofwar.com/default.asp>
- [www.britishmilitaryhistory.co.uk/](http://www.britishmilitaryhistory.co.uk/)
- [http://battlefieldsww2.50megs.com/british\\_divisions\\_ww2.htm](http://battlefieldsww2.50megs.com/british_divisions_ww2.htm)
- <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Army/BritishArmyDivisionsWW2.html>