

# Summary of the casualties of the Imber live firing tragedy

## 13<sup>th</sup> April 1942

### 1) CORPORAL CHARLES VICTOR BLACKMAN - aged 35

Born East Meon, Hants 8.3.1907 to Albert Blackman (1877-1951) and his wife Sarah Nutley (1879-1947) of East Meon.  
Served in Royal Armoured Corps

Service No. 7903460

Husband of Lucy Dodds. Born Horncastle 1910 of East Meon - He married at East Meon in 1931.

He is buried at East Meon (All Saints Church) Cemetery New Portion Row 13, Grave 296.

NOTE - His brother Ernest Edward Blackman also died at Arnhem on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1944.

### 2) CAPTAIN MAXWELL BROWN - aged 33

Born January 1909 in Leicester to Thomas William Brown (1861-1940) and his wife Alice Ash (1870-1954) of Leicester.

Served with No.5 Survey Regt Royal Artillery.

Service No. 97135.

He is commemorated at Leicester City (Gilroes) Crematorium Panel 1.

### 3) BOMBARDIER WILLIAM GOLLAN CONNELLY - aged 26

Born at Dundee 8.3.1916 to Peter Connelly (1887-1971) and his wife Glenorchy Dewar (1887-1953) of Dundee, Scotland.

Served with No.5 Survey Regt Royal Artillery

Service No. 961976

Husband of Mary Margaret Gorrie of Dundee whom he married in Scotland in 1941.

Buried at Dundee Eastern Necropolis Section X.E. Grave 168.

### 4) MAJOR GEORGE BEVAN DAVIES - aged 58

Born at Whitchurch, Shropshire on 24.7.1883 to Nathaniel Davies (1845-1923) and his wife Sarah born 1846.

Served in the Home Guard - 8th Happy Valley Battn.

Previously commissioned in India 24.1.1906 as a Lieutenant in 48<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Corps.

Was Mentioned in Dispatches in 1914-1918 War and had an M.A. (Cantab.).

Husband of Margaret G. Sharp (1883-1931) whom he married at Kirkee, Bombay, India in 1914.

He is buried at Thorney Hill (All Saints Church), Hampshire. Grave 119.

### 5) MAJOR ADRIAN JOHN FITZGERALD - aged 27

Born in Tipperary, Ireland on 17.5.1914 to Lt. Colonel Peter Francis Fitzgerald (1879-1968) and his wife Adrienne Jacoba De Geer (1879-1973) of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Served in the Royal Engineers.

Service No. 62544.

Buried at Tidworth Military Cemetery (Officers Section) E. Grave 61.

### 6) SECOND-LIEUTENANT COLIN GEORGE HAMILTON - aged 32

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1909 to George F. Hamilton and his wife Maria Ricketts of Edinburgh.

Served with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn. London Scottish - Royal Artillery.

Service No. 228095

Husband of Margaret Helen Gibson of Slough, Bucks whom he married at Eton in 1936.

Buried at Slough (Stoke Road) Cemetery N.C. Plot Grave 709.

### 7) LIEUTENANT JOHN CHRISTOPHER HAWKES - aged 28

Born at Wigton, Cumbria on 1.6.1913 to Dr. Francis Swanson Hawkes (1884-1967) and his wife Edith Maud Ray (1881-1964).

Served with R.A.M.C. but was attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battn. London Scottish.

Service No. 199932.

Husband of Rosamund Sara Dell of Golders Green, London whom he married at Hendon in 1941.

Had an M.A., a B.M., and a B. Ch.

Buried at Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery Section M. 12 Grave 54.

**8) LANCE BOMBARDIER DAVID CAREY HODGE - aged 30**

Born at Lambeth London on 23.11.1911 to Wilfred P. Hodge (1870-1957) and his wife Emily Wilson (1878-1935) of St Austell, Cornwall.

Served with 117 Field Regt. Royal Artillery.

Service No. 979144.

Buried at Liverpool (Allerton) Cemetery Section 4, Grave No 25.

**9) LIEUTENANT WILLIAM LAWRENCE HODGE - aged 27**

Born in Glasgow, Scotland on 1.1.1914 to William Crabb Hodge (1880-1957) and his wife Gordon McKenzie (1888-1960) of Glasgow.

Served in 54 Heavy Regt. Royal Artillery.

Service No. 100473.

Buried at Bournemouth North Cemetery Row B. 4 Grave 93.

**10) DRIVER CHARLES HENRY KENT - aged 35**

Born in Coventry on 31.12.1906 to Charles H. Kent (1870-1939) and his wife Ellen Plester (1862-1938) of Coventry.

Served in Royal Army Service Corps.

Service No. T/ 271337.

Husband of Alice Louisa Coley (1910-1989) of Exhall, Warwickshire whom he married at Bromsgrove in 1935.

Buried at Exhall (St Giles) Churchyard Section E Grave 42.

**11) SECOND-LIEUTENANT RONALD BENJAMIN LIPMAN - aged 30**

Born at Paddington Jan. 1912 to Adolph Hyam Lipman and his wife Ettie Hyam of Edgware, Middlesex.

Served in Royal Army Service Corps.

Service No. 224307.

Buried at Willesden Jewish Cemetery Section FX, Row 3, Grave 54.

**12) SECOND-LIEUTENANT KENNETH RONALD MATTEY - aged 41**

Born in Swansea, Wales in 1900 to Andrew Mattey (1865-1939) and his wife Jennie German (1867-1932) of Swansea.

Served in Welsh Regt.

Service No. 178593.

Husband of Elsie Thompson (1894-1984) of Bournemouth whom he married at Llanfihangel, Newport in 1928.

Buried at Cockett (St Peter), Swansea Churchyard S.E.A. Grave 81.

**13) LANCE BOMBARDIER IVOR McNEILL - aged 25**

Born at Whitby, Yorks. on 22.9.1916 to Capt. Herbert William Mc Neill born 1884 whose M/V Underwood was sunk by enemy action 6.1.1944 and his wife Hannah Turner of Whitby.

Served in 140 Field Regt. Royal Artillery.

Service No. 1091497.

Husband of Mary Clarkson (1918-1958) of Grosmont Hags, Yorks. whom he married at Watford in 1939.

Buried at Whitby (Larpool) Cemetery Grave 2683.

**14) FUSILIER FRANCIS VERDUN LLELWELLYN PARRY - aged 24**

Born at Pontypool, Wales 9.2.1918 to James Sidney Parry (1875-1938) and his wife Emily Rosina King (1883-1949) of Pontypool.

Served in 10th Battn Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Service No. 4197951.

Husband of Dulcia Beryl Hale of Cwmyniscoy, Wales whom he married at Pontypool in 1940.

Buried at Pontypool (Panteg) Cemetery Plot J, Grave 26.

**15) LIEUTENANT HENRY ERNEST PHILLIPS - aged 51**

Born at Richmond, Surrey in 1891 to Henry J. Phillips (1859-1931) and his wife Mary Ann Hord.

Served in Home Guard 7<sup>th</sup> Wiltshire Regt. - previously in 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorsetshire Regt.

Husband of Rosa Ethel Bedward (1885-1946) of Downton - he married at Richmond in 1920.

Buried at Downton (St Laurence) Churchyard, Wiltshire.

*NOTE - His son Cecil Henry Walter Phillips born 18.9 1920 a Sergeant in RAFVR (Service No. 1312445) also died in service with 18 Sqn. RAF on 30.1.1943 and is buried in Tunisia.*

**16) SECOND-LIEUTENANT JAMES CAREY POOLE - aged 21**

Born in Coventry in 1921 to Stephen Carey Poole (1888-1969) and his wife Elsie May Paton (1891-1942) of Shipton.  
Served in 1st Airborne Regt. Border Regt.  
Service No. 228602.  
Commemorated at Bradford, Yorks. Crematorium Panel 2.

**17) SERGEANT ALFRED GEORGE SMITH - aged 38**

Born in London on 23.2.1904 son of Albert Edward Smith born 1873 and his wife Mary Ann Bygraves born 1874.  
Served in 140th Field Regt. Royal Artillery.  
Service No. 6756882.  
Husband of May Ruth Mead (1906-1976) of Canewdon, Essex whom he married at St Olave, London 7.1930.  
He is buried at Canewdon (St Nicholas) Churchyard.

**18) BRIGADIER ROBERT ALLAN GRANT TAYLOR O.B.E. M.C. - aged 45**

Born at Finchley on 20.6.1896 son of Allan MacNab Taylor (1856-1917) and his wife Helen O. Lawrence (1862-1936).  
He served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers.  
Husband of Vera Constance Tarleton (1896-1954) of Carden, Cheshire whom he married at Uxbridge Middsx. in 1924.  
Officer of the Order of the British Empire. Awarded his M.C. in the King's list of 1919 probably for conspicuous gallantry in the advance on the Hindenburg line in Sept. 1918.  
Buried at Tidworth Military Cemetery, Officers Section E, Grave 60.

**19) CORPORAL ERNEST TRAVERS - aged 23**

Born at Canterbury, Kent 24.12.1919 son of Ernest Lawrence Travers (1892-1969) and his wife Elizabeth Amy Rennells (1897-1975) of Kent.  
Served in Royal Armoured Corps.  
Service No. 7888427.  
Buried at Canterbury, Kent Cemetery Plot XM, Grave 119.

**20) LIEUTENANT LEONARD GEORGE TUNBRIDGE - aged 25**

Born in Hampshire 8.8.1916 son of George Tunbridge (1883-1938) and his wife Gertrude Mary Cuthbert (1882-1965).  
Served with 70th Battn Hampshire Regt. - previously with Seaforth Highlanders  
Service No. 143734.  
Buried at Farnborough (Victoria Road) Cemetery Section L, Grave 155.

**21) CAPTAIN JAMES ROWLAND WEST M.C. - aged 47**

Born at Alton March 1895 son of Henry James West (1863-1930) and his wife Annie Maria Stuart (1861-1942).  
Served in the Home Guard - 5th Dorsetshire Regt. Also in 1914 in Royal Berkshire Yeomanry.  
Won his M.C. for conspicuous courage, gallantry and outstanding leadership of his and another Company which had lost its Officers in fire swept territory in early-1918.  
Husband of Florence Mary Bird (1899-1980) whom he married in Basingstoke in 1922.  
Had a B.A. and a Ph.D. He is commemorated at Weymouth Crematorium, Dorset.

**22) CAPTAIN FREDERICK JOSEPH WILLY - aged 55**

Born at Poplar, Middsx 2.1.1897 son of Henry Masters Willy (1856-1918) and his wife Eliza Jane Jenkins (1857-1912).  
Served in the Home Guard - 3rd Dorsetshire Regt. - previously a Sub Lt. in Royal Navy.  
Husband of Gertrude Alice Dyatt (1895-1970) of Parkstone, Dorset whom he married at Poole on 23.11.1916.  
Buried at Parkstone (St Clement) Cemetery, Poole, Dorset.

**23) LIEUTENANT RALPH PATRICK FARQUAHAR WILSON - aged 31**

Born at Bengal, India in 1911 son of Ralph Alexander Wilson (1878-1948) and his wife Winifred Wilson (1873-1944) of Golders Green, London.  
Served with Gordon Highlanders 2<sup>nd</sup> Battn, London Scottish.  
Service No. 117099.  
Had a M.A. (Oxon) and was a Barrister at Law.  
Buried at Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery Section M. 12 Grave 78.

**Died on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1942**

**24) CAPTAIN GEORGE RICHARD GORTON ROBERTS - aged 27**

Born at Gwersyllt, Denbighshire son of Rev'd George Ishmael Roberts B.A. (1871-1941) and his wife Alice Hall Gorton (1875-1964) of Welshpool.

Served in Royal Artillery 1<sup>st</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regt.

Service No. 68150.

Buried at Guilsfield Cemetery near Welshpool. Grave A 512.

**Died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1942**

**25) SECOND-LIEUTENANT HENRY WILLIAM CUNINE ROBSON C.I.E., O.B.E. - aged 55**

Born in India 8.12.1886 son of Edward Robson (1853-1946) husband of Frances Mary Bowen-Powell (1893-1961) whom he married in Quetta, Pakistan on 11.10.1917.

Served in the Home Guard - 5<sup>th</sup> Hampshire (Winchester) Battn. Previously the 7<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles.

Formerly a Lt. Colonel in the Indian Army - a Companion of the Order of India.

An Officer in the Order of the British Empire

Buried at Compton (All Saints) Churchyard, Hampshire. East Part. Grave 379.

Compiled by Richard Smith

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

**Background:**

*A few days before a planned demonstration of aerial firepower for Winston Churchill, six Spitfires and six Hurricanes attacked dummy tanks and armoured personnel carriers at Imber on Salisbury Plain. Due to hazy weather conditions and pilot error, one of the Hurricanes strafed the spectators having mistaken them too for dummy troops.*

*On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 a plaque was unveiled at St. Giles' Church, Warminster.*

Additional information and copy editing by David Simons

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