

*These are the men of Artington
in the County of Surrey who gave
their lives for their King and
Country, their names and their
sacrifice will ever be held in proud
and grateful remembrance.*



‘THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE’

Great War 1914-1918

Private Charles J Carrack, 49338 Royal Fusiliers

Private Robert G J Caesar, G/4635 Royal Sussex Regiment

Private Albert Jackson, 1565 Northumberland Fusiliers

Private Ernest A Jackson, G/22336, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Sergeant Harry G Punter D.C.M, 848, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Private Arthur Raggett, G781, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Private Ernest Raggett, G/72684 Duke of Cambridge’s Own (Middlesex) Regiment

Private John J Westbury, G604 The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Gunner Alfred White, 68148, Royal Field Artillery

Interwar Period 1919-1939

Stoker 1st Class Alfred D Raggett, K/26671, Royal Navy

Second World War 1939-1945

Driver Fredrick J Ives, T/232944, Royal Army Service Corps

Acting Leading Stoker William W Ives, P/KX85800, Royal Navy

1914-1918

Private Charles James Carrack, Royal Fusiliers

Private 49388, (formerly Ps/165) of the 22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), killed in action on Saturday 17th February 1917, aged 22 years.

Charles was born on 19th February 1894 in Pendleton, Salford in Greater Manchester to the Reverend James Masters Carrack and Mary Frances (nee Kingston). He had two sisters, Winifred and Mary and was educated at Whitgift School in South Croydon, then St Bee's School in West Cumbria, while his father ministered in London.

Charles had arranged to go up to Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1914 but joined the Army instead. As the son of a clergyman he could presumably have qualified for a commission. He served, however, as a Private in the 19th Battalion Royal Fusiliers from 11th November 1915 to 18th May 1916; in the 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers from 16th November 1916 to 3rd December 1916 and finally in the 22nd Battalion of the same regiment from 4th December 1916 until his death on 17th February 1917.

The Surrey Advertiser Monday 5th March 1917:

“LITTLETON. PTE CARRACK KILLED

We regret to have to announce the death of Charles James Carrack, killed in action on Feb 17th at 7am, two days before his 23rd birthday on the 19th. He had just left school when war began, and, instead of proceeding to Magdalene College Cambridge he decided that it was his duty to take his part in the defence of his country. He joined one of the Public Schools Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers and after training experiences at Epsom, Clipstone Park (Notts and Salisbury Plain) he crossed to France with his battalion in autumn of 1915. Many of his comrades fell but he himself escaped any injury until he met his death in a recent battle. Although a sergeant in his school OTC, and naturally fitted for the soldier life his great delight was in country interests, birds trees and flowers. He revelled in the situation of Littleton Parsonage on the Compton Road, his father, the Rev. J M Carrack, having held for the last three years or so the Loseley Chapelry.”

Charles J Carrack is also commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, overlooking the Somme, France; on the Magdalene College Chapel Memorial; at St Bee's School Cumbria on the Old St Beghian's, First World War Memorial and on Whitgift School WW1 Memorial in South Croydon, London.

Private Robert George Julius Caesar, Royal Sussex Regiment

Private G/4635 of the 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, killed in action on Sunday 9th May 1915 at Richebourg L'Avoue, during the battle of Aubers Ridge, aged 19 years.

Robert was born on 16th September 1896 in Lascombe, Puttenham the second son of domestic gardener, Samuel Caesar and his wife Lucy (nee Ollis). Robert was a slightly built lad, at 5'6" tall and just 8 ½ stone, of fair complexion, with brown hair and brown eyes. The family lived at 21 Littleton from around 1914 until late 1916.

Robert enlisted on 17th November 1914, and was sent to 1 GS Coy of the Royal Sussex Regiment. He was posted 10 days later, to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, a depot/training unit based in Chichester. Four months later, on 24th March 1915 Robert joined the 2nd Battalion, part of the British Expeditionary Force who'd been in France since the summer of 1914. In March 1915 The Royal Sussex Regiment formed part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Division. Two weeks later on 6th April 1915 Robert was drafted to the Front, arriving at Pont Hinges, near Neuve Chapelle, on 14th April 1915, with 20 other men. Over the next 3 weeks, after training and musketry, they dug trenches, put up breastworks, increased barbed-wire entanglements amidst heavy German shelling from the enemy trenches just 300 meters away, withdrawing to billets every 5 days. Robert was killed in the battle to come.

Excerpt from 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment War Diary, 9th May 1915 –Richbourg L'Avoue -

“The day started with an issue of tea and rum at 3.30am. At 5.30am an intense bombardment commenced and two platoons advanced over the parapet, and two more over the breastworks. Men carried bridges and ladders. Bombers were grouped near their respective platoon commanders. Two machine guns went forward with the leading company's line, one firing for 15 minutes before withdrawing. However the right flank was hit early and the left suffered badly from German enfilade fire. In general, the central assaulting troops did not get much more than 150 yards, or about half way from the German Breastworks, and the Germans fired from loopholes low down in the parapet. At 6.30am orders were given to withdraw, but one coy did not receive the order and some men had to remain until dark. Our casualties were due to shrapnel and high explosive shells when advancing over the first breastwork land and between our line. 2 officers killed 101 other ranks. 9 officers wounded 329 other ranks. Trameries 3 officers 118 O.R”

Robert George J Caesar is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, north-east of Bethune, in the Pas-de-Calais region of France; and also on the memorial in the Royal Sussex Regimental Chapel of St George in Chichester Cathedral together with all 6,800 regimental casualties of the Great War.

Private Alfred Jackson, Northumberland Fusiliers

Private 1565 of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, missing, presumed dead, 26th October 1914, at Neuve Chapelle during First Battle of Ypres, aged 25 years.

Alfred, the eldest son of Sarah Jane Horley, was born in Epsom at the beginning of 1889, two years before his mother married Edward Jackson, a Cowman. Alfred had 2 half-brothers, and three half-sisters. The family were living in East Clandon in 1911, moving to Artington Manor Farm, around 1915 where they lived until the late 1930's.

Alfred was a soldier with the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers at the outbreak of the War assigned to the 9th Brigade, which was commanded by Brigadier General Shaw in General Haldane's 3rd Infantry Division. The battalion needed 621 reservists to bring it up to war strength, of which Alfred may have been one. They landed in Le Harvre on the 14th August 1914 and were soon in action at Mons in which the 3rd and 5th Divisions bore the brunt of the fighting. There after they saw action in all the major battles of 1914, Marne, Aisne, La Bassee, Armentieres and Ypres where Alfred was killed just two months after leaving home:

Excerpts from the Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers War Diary 26th October 1914:

“Left billets at 1.30 am and started relieving the line. Regiment in trenches in front of NEUVE CHAPELLE. Battalion in position by 5.25am. Some sniping but all fairly quiet until 3pm when enemy's big guns started heavy artillery fire on the trenches and reserve trenches, this was followed at 3.30pm by an infantry attack on our right trenches. About 4.20pm right trench commander reported that enemy had occupied the trenches on his right, and driven out our men with enfilade fire. During the night the enemy made another attack on the right in considerable strength but were driven off. Our line was not broken but bowed back round Neuve Chapelle. 10 killed. 21 wounded. 33 missing.”

Alfred Jackson is commemorated with others from his regiment on panels 5 and 6 of the Le Touret Memorial, at the east end of Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg L'Avoue in the Pas-de Calais region of France.

Private Ernest Alfred Jackson, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Private G/22336 of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 7th Division, was killed in action 2nd April 1917 west of Croisilles, Arras, France, aged 22 years.

Ernest was born in 1895 in Croydon, the second son of Edward Jackson and Sarah Jane (nee Horley) he had one half-brother, Alfred, and 4 other siblings. Like his father, Ernest worked as a Cowman.

Ernest was initially part of the 10th Service Battalion of The Queen's, and he was therefore probably one of the thousands of Kitchener's Volunteers. He and many other territorials from Kitchener's First New Army went on to fill the ranks of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's who had suffered horrific casualties in the first months of the war. The 2nd Battalion formed part of the 7th Division which attacked Croisilles in March 1917, finally taking the village on the day Ernest was killed.

The Surrey Advertiser on Monday 7th May 1917:

“PTE E A JACKSON

Another local man killed in action is Pte Ernest Arthur Jackson, The Queen's, whose home is at Artington. The son of Mr and Mrs Edward Jackson he was 22 years of age and before joining the army in August 1915 was employed by Mr Thorne at Artington Farm. Writing to the family Captain Secretan says: “He died nobly in an attack on a German strong-point going forward with a Lewis gun team. I and all of us are very sorry to lose him: he was always a good worker and set a good example to all.” His platoon sergeant writes; “He was killed while our regiment were driving the Germans out of the village. Your son was one of the best in our platoon – always ready to do anything.” The Rev Basil Churchward, chaplain wrote that the deceased was buried in a little cemetery close to where he fell, and that a cross has been erected on the grave. “I am sure you will be as brave in bearing his death as he was meeting it.”

Mr and Mrs Jackson lost another son early in the war – Pte Alfred Jackson Northumberland Fusiliers – and a third Pte Albert Jackson, Essex Regiment has been at the front two years.”

Ernest Arthur Jackson is buried in grave 1.A.16 at Croisilles British Cemetery, south-east of Arras in the Pas-de-Calais region of France and in the Book of Life at Holy Trinity Church Guildford.

Sergeant Henry ‘Harry’ George Punter, D.C.M **The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment**

Sergeant 848 D.C.M of the 7th Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment was killed in action on 18th November 1916, aged 27 years. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Medal for Military Valour (Italy) in May 1917.

Harry was born in Guildford in 1889, the son of Henry George Punter, a railway plate layer, and his wife Emma (nee Harding). He had 4 sisters, Emma, Alice and Martha, and Edith, and lived in Little Peasmarsh, Littleton working, before the war, as a domestic gardener. His family remained in Artington until around 1926.

Harry joined the 6th Battalion which was raised in Guildford in August 1914 as part of Kitchener’s First New Army. The 6th Battalion, part of the 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division, trained at Purfleet and Aldershot and were then posted to the Western Front. Harry arrived in Boulogne on 1st June 1915 where his Battalion took over a section of the front line at Polegsteert Wood on 23rd June 1915. He was later transferred to the 7th Battalion, The Queens and promoted first to Corporal and then Sergeant.

Harry was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery during the 7th Battalion’s assault on Schwaben Redoubt, and the capture of Thiepval during the Battle of the Somme, 28th September 1916, but he lost his life just two months later.

Surrey Advertiser Saturday 7th April 1917:

“SERGT. H.G. PUNTER KILLED

Having been reported missing since November 18th last year, official news has this week been received of the death in action on that date of Sergeant Henry George Punter, The Queen’s, only son of Mr and Mrs H G Punter, Peasmarsh Junction where Mr Punter is employed on the London and South West Railway. Though only 27 years of age, Sergeant Punter had seen much service and had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was a gardener by occupation and before the war was for some years at Loseley Park and afterwards at Lady Sligo’s. He was seriously wounded in March 1916, but returned to the front in August and on September 28th rendered the distinguished service which won him the medal.

This act was officially described in the following terms: “For conspicuous gallantry in action. He led a bombing party of seven men with great courage. Later, accompanied by one man, he went to the assistance of an officer and reduced an enemy strong point, capturing a machine gun and 46 prisoners.”

Harry Punter is buried in grave A37 of the Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, in the Somme region of France, not far from where he fell. He is also remembered in the Book of Life at Holy Trinity Church Guildford.

Private Arthur Raggett, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Private G/781 of the 6th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment died of wounds sustained during the British attack at the Hohenzoller Redoubt at Auchy-les-Mines near Loos on 19th March 1916, aged 21 years.

Arthur was born in Littleton in December 1894, to David Raggett, a farm labourer, and his wife Eliza (nee Dicker). He had five brothers, and a sister and worked as a handyman on the farm. The family had moved from Bentley in Hampshire to live at Stakes Corner, Littleton around 1892, and they remained in the Parish for over 35 years, later living at Orange Court Farm.

Arthur, like his friend Harry Punter, joined the 6th Battalion which was raised in Guildford in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army. The 6th Battalion, part of the 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division, trained at Purfleet and Aldershot and were then posted to the Western Front, arriving at Bolougne on 1st June 1915.

1/6th Battalion, The Queen's War Diary, 8th March 1916, records what happened to Arthur and the soldiers of 'D Coy' who had been positioned in the craters in what was formerly 'no man's land' between the two front lines:

Excerpt: "In Trenches. Relieved 7th East Surrey Regiment in HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT. 'D Coy' in CRATERS, 'A Coy' in West Face, 'C Coy' in Sticky Trench, 'B Coy' in Mud and Northampton Trench. Enemy attacked CRATER at 6pm and again at 2am when bombing continued until dawn, enemy were driven back. Casualties: 4 killed, 40 wounded."

Arthur was transferred to the hospital centre in the town of Lilliers, 15km north-west of Bethune, where he later died.

The Surrey Advertiser 1st April 1916

"LITTLETON. THE DEATH OF PTE ARTHUR RAGGETT"

News has been received during the present week of the death from wounds in a field hospital of Pte Arthur Raggett of the The Queen's, sixth son of Mr and Mrs D Raggett of Stakes Corners, Littleton. He was wounded on March 8th by a bomb which exploded at his side and he died on March 19th. Mr and Mrs Raggett have two other sons in the Army and another in the Navy. Pte Raggett was, prior to the war, employed by the late Mr W Flemming, Orange Court Farm, Littleton. On the outbreak of hostilities he immediately enlisted in the Queen's. he was a cheerful young fellow, well-liked by all who knew him.

Two of his friends in the same regiment were wounded on the same day – Sergt H G Punter, only son of Mr and Mrs Punter, Peasmarsh and Pte A Butler, second son of Mrs Butler, Old Cottages, Shalford. We are glad to learn they are recovering from their wounds.”

Arthur is buried in grave IV E 50 Lilliers Communal Cemetery, north-west of Bethune in the Pas-de-Calais region of France. The inscription reads:

**‘LOVING MEMORIES LIVE FOREVER,
NEVER FORGOTTEN BY HIS BY HIS MUM & DAD, BROTHERS & SISTER’**

He is also remembered in the Book of Life at Holy Trinity Church Guildford.

**Private Ernest Raggett,
Duke of Cambridge’s Own (Middlesex) Regiment**

Private G/72684 of the 23rd Battalion, Duke of Cambridge’s Own (Middlesex) Regiment, was killed in action on 9th May 1918 in the Zonnebeke region of West Flanders near Ypres, Belgium, aged 33 years.

Ernest Raggett was born in 1885 in Bentley Hampshire, and was the husband of Annie Eleanor Gertrude Raggett (nee Gadd) of 10 Paths Fields, Shere where he worked as a contractors labourer. They married in 1909 and had two daughters Evelyn May (b. 1910), and Annie (b.1911). As the third son of David and Eliza Raggett he was brought up in Littleton, at Stakes Corner with his siblings. He also seems to have spent 6 years from 1901-07 in the Navy as a boy stoker (296981), before joining the Royal (London) Fusiliers Pvt 53492.

Ernest initially served in the 21st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment then was transferred to the 23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football) which formed part of the 123rd Infantry Brigade of the 41st Division. The 23rd Btn returned to France from Italy in March 1918 and was sent on to Flanders where Ernest was killed during heavy shelling whilst his battalion were holding a defensive outpost line.

Ernest’s name is remembered on panel 113 to 115 of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, in the Ypres Salient, with the names of 34,887 other men who died from 16th August 1917, who have no known graves.

**1914 - HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO FELL IN YPRES SALIENT, BUT TO WHOM
THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN
TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH – 1918**

Ernest is also commemorated on the WW1 memorial in St James’ Churchyard, Shere

Private John James Westbury, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Private G/604 of the 6th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment died of his wounds, at the 33rd (Bethune) Casualty Clearing Station, 4th October 1915, aged 28 years.

John James Westbury was born in Catford in 1886, the eldest son of Alfred Westbury and Margaret (nee Major). He had a brother William and a sister, Margaret. John's father was a Gardener at Worth Hall in East Grinstead, Sussex and later at Wootton near Canterbury. He and his brother followed in their father's footsteps; William became the gardener at Nonsuch Park; and by 1911 John was employed as the Under Gardener for Lady Sligo at Mount Browne, Artington living in a room above the stables, his wages 17s 6d a week, the bothy light and coke included.

John like the other young men of Artington joined the 6th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment which was raised in Guildford in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army. The 6th Battalion, part of the 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division, trained at Purfleet and Aldershot and were then posted to the Western Front, arriving at Boulogne on 1st June 1915. His regiment were fighting in the area of Le Touquet Salient near Armentieres on the Belgian France border when John was seriously injured and taken west to Bethune to the Casualty Clearing Station where he later died.

John James Westbury is buried in a grave IV.E.85, Bethune Town Cemetery, in the northern Pas-de-Calais region of France. The words on his grave, chosen by his mother Margaret, read:

'TO DEAREST MEMORY OF A LOVING SON AND BROTHER'

He is also remembered in the Book of Life at Holy Trinity Church Guildford.

Gunner Alfred White, Royal Field Artillery

Gunner 68148 of the Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action by fire from his own side whilst serving in D Battery, 58th Brigade, on 18th November 1916, aged 22 years.

Alfred was born on 8th August 1894 in Artington, one of 6 children of Isaac White and Annie (nee Choules). The family had moved from St Mary Bourne in Hampshire to Artington around 1895 and remained in the Parish until 1930 living latterly at Artington Manor Farm and 27 Artington Cottages. His father Isaac was a farm labourer and, at the age of 16, Alfred worked as a Milk Boy, possibly at Manor Farm Dairy.

Later in 1911, Alfred joined the Royal Field Artillery as a regular soldier, and when war was declared in August 1914 he was sent to the front attached to the 37th (Howitzer) Brigade. He was in action almost immediately at the retreat from Mons, then the Battles of Marne, Aisne, and Messines. He may have been injured in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle as he returned to hospital in Britain for six weeks sick leave in March 1915. But Alfred was back at the Front with the 118th Brigade by the beginning of April 1915, later seeing action at the Second Battle of Ypres then a year later, in July 1916, posted to the Somme. By November 1916 the 118th Brigade became D Battery 58th Brigade RFA, serving with the 11th Northern Division in action at Courcellette. The brigade war diary of 18th November briefly records his tragic death "D/58 lost man, killed by premature from 18th Battery behind them."

Surrey Advertiser Monday 11th December 1916 wrote:

"GUNNER WHITE KILLED

Mrs White of Thorne's Cottages Artington has received official news that her son, Gunner Alfred White R.F.A was killed in action by a shrapnel shell on the morning of 18th November. His Captain, in a letter to Mrs White says: "He was an excellent fellow, always the first to offer himself for any dangerous work that was on hand, and his death is a sorrow to my Battery and to his country. . . .He was killed instantaneously, and he did not suffer for he fell right into my arms." His Sec. Lieut wrote that "he died bravely near his gun"."

Surrey Advertiser Notices, on the first anniversary of his death, Saturday 17th November 1917

"WHITE: In ever loving memory of our dear Alf. Gunner Alfred White RFA, killed in action at Courcellette Nov 18th 1916 aged 22 - From Mother, Father, Sisters and Brother

**A year has passed with our hearts still sore;
As time rolls on we miss him more.
None but those who have lost can tell
How great our grief - for we loved him well."**

Alfred White is buried in grave 1.C.8 in the British Cemetery at Courcellette, just to the north east of Albert, in the Somme region of France. The inscription reads:

'MAY THE PERPETUAL LIGHT OF THY GLORY SHINE ON HIM'

Interwar Period 1919-1939

Stoker 1st Class, Alfred David Raggett Royal Navy

Stoker, 1st Class K/26671 Royal Navy, serving on HM Submarine 'K5', drowned in the accidental loss of the vessel off Ushant in the Atlantic on 20th January 1921, aged 23.

Alfred was born on 18th April 1897, a fair haired blue eyed boy with a fresh complexion and the youngest son of David and Eliza Raggett of Stakes Corner, Littleton. He joined the Navy on 8th June 1915 and served on HMS Minotaur at the Battle of Jutland during WW1.

Alfred served on 'M Class' submarines towards the end of the war, moving on to 'K class' in early 1920. The 'K5' left Torbay on 19 January 1921 with four other 'K class' experimental submarines for a mock battle in the Bay of Biscay. 120 miles south west of the Scilly Isles the K5 signalled its intention to dive. She never surfaced again; all 57 men on board died.

Alfred was the third son of David and Eliza Raggett to die serving his country and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial panels 1918-1921, first erected after WW1 to commemorate 10,000 sailors who lost their lives at sea and have no known graves. It was unveiled in 1924 by the Duke of York.

1939-1945

Driver Fredrick James Ives R.A.S.C.

Driver T/232944 Royal Army Service Corps was killed in action 17th September 1941 in Egypt, aged 32 years.

Fredrick was born on 19th September 1909, the first child of James Ives and Clara (nee Nash), who later went on to have another son and three daughters. Fredrick worked, like his father, as a Gardener and in 1934 married Emily Alice (nee Heather), in Fleet. They lived at 37 Artington Cottages and their daughter Doris was born in the summer of 1940.

As a driver with the RASC, Fredrick could have been assigned to army units to transport troops or vehicles, alternatively to transport general or petrol supplies to forward combat units. After his death in 1941, his body was buried in the Military Cemetery in the Western Desert oasis town of Siwa, in Egypt. It is therefore likely that he when he was killed whilst supplying the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) who operated covert surveillance behind the Axis lines, reporting intelligence to HQ at Siwa and ultimately to GHQ in Cairo.

Fredrick Ives is commemorated in the Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt just 12km east of the Libyan boarder. A Kipling Memorial headstone, (so called because Rudyard Kipling was tasked by the CWGC as a literary advisor to recommend inscriptions to commemorate casualties whose graves were either destroyed or the exact location of which is not known) bears an inscription and the authors chosen words, from Ecclesiasticus 44 Verse 13:

To the memory of T/232944 Driver F. J Ives, Royal Army Service Corps

17th September 1941 Age 32

Buried at the time in Siwa Military cemetery but whose grave is now lost

'THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT'

Acting Leading Stoker William ‘Bill’ Walter Ives RN

Acting Leading Stoker, P/KX85800 Royal Navy, was reported missing, presumed killed as a result of enemy action whilst serving on HMS Suffolk, 17th April 1940, aged 24 years.

Bill Ives was born on 4th February 1916 the second and youngest son of James Ives and his wife Clara. He was unmarried and had joined the Navy before, or at the outbreak of war.

On 17th April 1940 HMS Suffolk and four destroyers (HMS Kipling, Juno, Janus and Hereward) were sent to bombard the airfield at Sola Norway as part of the Norwegian Campaign and Stavanger Bombardment. The operation had little effect and the retaliation from German bombers severely damaged the aft of HMS Suffolk, killing Bill Ives and 31 other men and injuring 38. HMS Suffolk was forced to return to Scapa Flow where she remained out of action from April 1940 until February 1941.

In writing to the Secretary of the Admiralty, on 26th April 1940, Captain J W Durnfold described what had happened. Bill Ives was in the After Engine Room as the bomb struck:

Excerpt: “17th April: 10.37. The bomber approached down sun and was expected to make a high level attack. The ship was brought to beam on to meet this attack but on reaching an angle of 65 to 70 degrees, at a height of 10,000 feet the aircraft dived on the ship releasing the bomb at 4 to 5 thousand feet. The weight of the bomb is estimated at 500 kilos. The bomb passed through the Ward Room, Warrant Officers’ Flag and store rooms to the Platform Deck from Starboard to Port and exploded in the inflammable store close to the bulk head of the After Engine Room. The effect of this explosion penetrated forward to the After Engine Room and aft through X shell Room and to X Cordite Handling Room, where a charge exploded...”

Bill Ives is commemorated on a headstone at Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, on the Island of Hoy in the Orkney Islands grave P.2.34. With a simple inscription from his mother:

‘Not forgotten.’

