

CHESTERFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ROLL OF HONOUR 1939–1945

The following list, courtesy of Philip Riden, of former pupils of Chesterfield Grammar School who died in the Second World War is taken from that published in an article in the May 1950 issue of the Cestrefeldian, the school magazine, recording the unveiling on 2 April that year of the memorial at the school by Air Marshal Sir Philip Wiggleworth, a pupil at the school in 1910–12. The names also appear on the memorial itself, but with only initials rather than Christian names in full. The additional information added for many of the names has been taken mainly from the reports in the Derbyshire Times, supplemented by standard genealogical sources. The following table summarises various pieces of information about all the men included in the text and provides a quick access method.

Name	Born	Died	Service	Unit	Rank
J.D. Ashley	1921	1943	RAF	23 Sqn	Sgt
C.C. Adams	1922	1943	RAF	605 Sqn	Sgt
J. Adsetts	1917	1943	RAF	619 Sqn	Sgt
R.A. Ashmore	1914	1942	RAF		Sgt
K.J. Ball	1915	Survived	Army	Royal Corps of Signals	Signalman
R.A. Ball	1921	1942	RAF	408 Sqn	Sgt
E.C. Barley	1921	1941	RAF		Cpl
C. Bethell	1910	1942	Army	Sherwood Foresters	Capt.
D.D. Beynon	1923	1944	Army	South Wales Borderers	Lieut.
T. Blackshaw	1915	1945	Army	Royal Engineers	Capt.
T.W. Booker	1920	1945	RAF	190 Sqn	Sgt
P.A. Botham	1921	1944	RAF		Cpl
G. Bradshaw	1923	1942	RAF		LAC
R. Brewin	1921	1944	Army	Royal Artillery	Lieut.
J.E. Burcher	1914	1942	RAF	83 Sqn	Sgt
J.J. Carley	1922	Survived?	Australian Imperial Force		Pvt
G.A. Carline	1910	1941	RN	HMS Audacity	Lt Cdr
W.R. Clark	1911	1942	RAF		PO
R.G. Cooke	1913	1943	RAF		AC 1
A. Cooper	1921?	1940	RAF		LAC
F.B. Cooper	1923	1943	RN	HMS Charybdis	L/Tel.
R. Cox	1908	1943	RAF		LAC
P.H. Dickens	1919	1943	Army	Royal Artillery	Bdr
R.R. Dickinson	1924		RAF		

Name	Born	Died	Service	Unit	Rank
F. Dobson	1918	1943	Army	Parachute Rgt (AAC)	Pvt
A. Flint	1923	1944	Army	South Lancashire Rgt	Pvt
W.A. Foulstone	1922	1945	Army	West Yorkshire Regt	L/Cpl
A. Glossop	1921	1942	RAF		Sgt
J.E. Goddard	1916	1943	RAF	101 Sqn	Sgt
H. Goulden					
C.E. Gregory	1924	1945	RN	HMS Khedive	CPO
D. Haddock	1914	1942	RAF	408 Sqn	Sgt
C.H. Hall					
F.I.G. Hall	1917	1943	Civilian	British Army Aid Group, Hong Kong	
J.A. Harrison	1921	1944	RAF	619 Sqn	Flt Sgt
W.K. Holmes	1918	1943	Army	Sherwood Foresters	Pvt
K.G. Iremonger	1911	1942	Army	Royal Engineers	Capt.
E.A.H. Jobes	1922	1944	Army	East Yorkshire Rgt	L/Cpl
E.G. Kirkland	1921	1943	RAF	254 Sqn	Sgt
D.M. Laycock	1922	1944	Army	Durham Light Infantry	Lieut.
J.D. Middleton	1917	1940	RAF	201 Sqn	Flt Lt
D.L. Mothersole	1924	1945	RAF		PO
D.F. Newsham	1919	1942	RAF		FO
G.S. Oldfield	1920	1941	RN	HMS Goshawk	Actg L/Airman
M. Parker	1918	1940	RAF		
G.C. Rawlinson	1925	1945	RN	HMS Formidable	A/PO
H.B. Ridgeway	1913	1944	Civilian?	ROF Bridgend?	
J.J. Robinson	1921	1943	RAF		PO
C.H. Rudge	1920	1942	RAF		PO
T.A. Sharpe	1913	1944	Civilian	Indian Civil Service	
G.H. Slack	1919	1941	RAF	240 Sqn	Sgt
L.H. Smith	1909?				
R.R. Smith		1940	RAF		LAC
T.R. Smith	1913?	1943	Army	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Pvt
G.A. Stamp	1911	1940	RAF	228 Sqn	Sgt
A.T. Taylor					
F. Taylor	1923	1942	RAF		LAC
A. Towndrow	1919	Survived?	RAF		Flt Sgt

Name	Born	Died	Service	Unit	Rank
J.A. Turner	1915	1944	RAF	101 Sqn	FO
E.B. Tuxford	1905?	1943	Army	Rifle Brigade	Capt.
H.N. Unwin	1918	1941	RAF	44 Sqn	Sgt
J. Wagstaffe	1918	1943	Army		Sgt
S.H. Wetherill	1921	1944	RN	Royal Naval Patrol Service	Tel.
C. Wharton	1922	1943	RAF	57 Sqn	Sgt
H. Wheeldon	1918	1943	Army	Royal Corps of Signals	Signalman
G. Widdowson	1911	Survived	Army	Parachute Rgt	Lt Col.
E.H. Wild	1922	1945	Army	Devonshire Rgt	Capt.
J.P. Wilson	1922	1942	RAF	222 Sqn	Sgt
W.P. Wilson	1923	1943	RAF	7 Sqn	Sgt
F.K. Wright	1917	1945	Army	Royal Army Service Corps	Major
W.G. Yeomans	1917	1944	Army	Sherwood Foresters	Major

John Douglas Ashley (known as Douglas) does not appear in the list in the Cestrefeldian of May 1950 but his name was added later to the memorial. He was born on 29 May 1921, the son of Thomas Ashley (b. 1896), a general labourer, and his wife Amy (b. 1897) of 18 Littlemoor, Newbold. He entered the grammar school in 1932 on a county minor scholarship from Newbold Church of England school. Douglas left school at 16 and went to work at the Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Company's chemical works. He attended evening classes at Sheffield University, cycling there after work. On one occasion he was trapped by bombing at the university overnight and was then unable to cycle home because of broken glass on the roads in the city. It was this experience which prompted Douglas to join up. He became a sergeant-observer in 23 Squadron RAF (VR) in the Middle East. The squadron was then flying the De Havilland Mosquito NF Mk II from RAF Luqa on Malta on intruder missions over Sicily, Italy and Tunisia. On 2 August 1943 Ashley's plane left Luqa for Italy but contact with it was lost over the Isole Lipari. The crew were reported missing, presumed dead. Ashley is commemorated on the Malta Memorial on Malta. His parents received a letter of condolence from J.S. Lightfoot, 14 Queensberry House, Friars Lane, Richmond (Surrey), whose daughter's husband was the pilot who died with Douglas.

(Inf. from a descendant, per Frank Gorman; CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5894A/006/21; Derby Times, 25 June 1932; internet accounts of 23 Squadron)

Charles Corringham Adams, the son of Thomas and Caroline Adams, died on 21 May 1943 whilst serving as sergeant pilot in 605 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve. On the day he was killed Adams took off from RAF Castle Camps (Camb.) with his navigator, Sergeant Eddie Wright, in a De Havilland Mosquito NF2 on an intruder mission to Evreux (Eure). Both were 21 and are buried in a joint grave at Grandcourt War Cemetery (Seine Maritime).

Charles Adams was born in Chesterfield in the first quarter of 1922. His parents, Caroline Priestley, then of Valley Road, Spital, the daughter of a farmer, the late William Corringham Priestley, and Thomas Adams, a colliery fireman of Birdholme, were married at Chesterfield parish church on 13 August 1906. In 1911 the couple were living at 14 Penmore Street, Hasland; both were 32 and had two young sons, Thomas Arthur and William Priestley.

Thomas was then working as a colliery winder. Charles was born some years later, when his mother was about 43. His father died in Chesterfield in 1934. In 1939 Caroline was still at 14 Penmore Street with her daughter Dorothy, a shorthand typist; the other person at the same address whose entry in the National Register is closed may be her son Charles. Mrs Adams later moved to Middlesex and was living at 63 Queens Avenue, Hanworth, when she died on 17 March 1958, aged 79, leaving estate valued at £191. She was buried at St Paul's, Hasland, on 22 March.

The squadron in which Adams was serving when he was killed was formed in June 1942 as a night intruder squadron, attacking Luftwaffe airfields in France, for which it was initially equipped with Douglas Boston and Havoc aircraft. These were replaced from February 1943 with the Mk II De Havilland Mosquito. The squadron, part of No. 13 Group, Fighter Command, was stationed at RAF Castle Camps between March and October 1943.

According to an internet history of the squadron, Adams and Wright were lost on only their second operational sortie.

(CWGC; Find a Grave website; TNA, RG 14/21086, no. 95; RG 101/5900G/013/14; Cal. Grants, 1958; internet accounts of 605 Squadron, including 'We Never Slept: the story of 605 Squadron')

John Adsetts has not been identified under this name in other sources, but the surname is not common in the Chesterfield area and a family headed by John Henry Adsetts (1874–1945), who was a member of Bolsover urban district council and a well-known local figure, kept the Angel public house in Bolsover in this period. In his later years he lived at 6 Welbeck Road. In 1939 his second son Jack Adsetts (born on 11 November 1917) was an aero-engine fitter in the RAF. Adsetts, then a sergeant in 619 Squadron RAF died on 29 June 1943 and was buried at Eindhoven (Woesnel) General Cemetery in the Netherlands. A year later the Derbyshire Times published notices marking the anniversary of the death of Flight Engineer Sergeant Jack Adsetts, 'a dear son and brother', killed in action over Cologne on the night of 29–30 June 1943, signed by 'Mother and Dad', 'Fred and Emmie', and 'Fred, Wendy and Emmie'. J.H. Adsetts' surviving son, Frederick Sutherland Adsetts, was a colliery statistician.

619 Squadron, part of No. 5 Group Bomber Command, was a heavy bomber squadron, which at the time of Adsetts's death was flying Lancasters from RAF Woodhall Spa (Lincs.). Another former pupil of the grammar school, J.A. Harrison (qv) died in November 1944 while serving in the same squadron.

(TNA, RG 101/5889B/014/17; CWGC; Derby. Times, 30 June 1944, 25 May 1945; Cal. Grants, 1945; internet accounts of 619 Squadron)

Roy Alan Ashmore was born on 1 May 1914, the son of Reuben Ashmore (1873–1936) and his wife Kate Elizabeth (1880–1956). The couple were married at Brimington parish church on 16 September 1903, when Reuben, aged 30, was a sergeant instructor in the Royal Artillery; he was the son of John Thomas Ashmore, a miner. Kate was 23, the daughter of Charles Bates, a foundryman. Reuben left the Army early in 1911, when he was on the district staff of the Royal Garrison Artillery, South Western Coast Defences.

When the census was taken later that year he and his wife were living at 6 Alwyn Terrace, Shirburn Road, Torquay (Devon). Ashmore was working as a wagon driver for a Devonport firm of petroleum importers and dealers and described himself as an Army pensioner and former regimental quartermaster sergeant. They had a five-month-old son named Reuben.

At the time of his death, Roy was said to be his parents' eldest son, but may in fact have been their eldest surviving son. Similarly, Reuben was described as 'Captain Ashmore', which may have been an error by the Derbyshire Times or a case of his widow embellishing her late husband's Army career. Ashmore died in Chesterfield in 1936, aged 63. There was no grant of probate or administration. Kate was then living at 10 Cross Street, Chesterfield, and was said to be formerly of Brimington. In 1939 the household also included Kitty P. Ashmore (born on 11 December 1916), a clerk and shorthand typist with a building society, and Alwyn T. Ashmore (born on 9 September 1918), an insurance broker's clerk, who were presumably her unmarried children. Mrs Ashmore died in Chesterfield in 1956, aged 75, also intestate.

After leaving the grammar school Roy worked for the public assistance service in Chesterfield for seven years, before becoming relieving officer and registrar of birth, deaths and marriages at Diss (Norf.). In 1938 he married Mabel Wright (1913–87) at St Bartholomew, Clay Cross. Mabel's father was a master painter. The following year the couple were living at 25 Stanley Road, Diss.

After joining up, Ashmore was initially attached to the Royal Army Service Corps but was transferred to the RAF in 1940. He was reported missing on 8 July 1942, aged 28, while serving as a sergeant observer in the RAF. In November a trawler picked up the wreckage of his plane, including his body and that of another member of the crew. They were buried at sea the same day. Ashmore was commemorated at St Thomas, Rathlin Island (co. Antrim), Church of Ireland burial ground.

Ashmore's wife Mabel was living with her parents, Arthur and Mary Wright, at 72 Thanet Street, Clay Cross, at the time of his death, and working at the Chesterfield branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank. In 1944 she inserted an In Memoriam notice in the Derbyshire Times from 'Mabs and Pat' to a 'dearly loved husband and daddy'. Their daughter Patricia A. Ashmore was born in Norfolk in the summer of 1939. Mabel Ashmore remarried in Chesterfield registration district in 1960; her second husband was John Eaton Bird, a chartered accountant of 'The Hawthorns', Old Brampton, whose first wife, Mary Elizabeth, died in 1958. He died on 28 July 1963, leaving estate valued at £56,875, when probate was granted to his widow Mabel and Allen Morris Bird, a chartered accountant, who was presumably also a member of Carline, Watson & Bird of Chesterfield. Mabel Ashmore (otherwise Mabel) Bird, then of 18 Mendip Crescent, Chesterfield, died on 29 January 1987, when she left estate valued at £205,745.

(CWGC (which does not state the squadron or unit in which Ashmore was serving at the time of his death); TNA, WO 97; RG 14/12771, no. 263; RG 101/5895G/005/25; RG 101/6524D/004/11; RG 101/5899H/010/20; RG 101/5901C/013/3; *Derb. Times*, 7 July, 18 Dec. 1942, 7 July 1944; *Cal. Grants*, 1963, 1987).

Kenneth James Ball was born on 23 June 1915, the eldest son of Albert James Ball (1883–1951), a clerk with the LMS Railway, and his wife Maude (1886–1976), who in 1939 were living at 56 Storforth Lane. Kenneth was then an assistant architect and surveyor. In 1940 he married, at Wingerworth, Daisy Brummell, who was born on 17 December 1919.

The couple lived at The Brambles, 25 Longedge Lane, Wingerworth, which had been Daisy's home before she was married. She was the daughter of George W. Brummell, a wholesale boot and shoe factor, and his wife Florence, and in 1939 was working as secretary to a medical officer of health.

Before joining the Army, Ball was an architect's assistant with Houfton & Kington, Market Place, Chesterfield, and a scoutmaster at Wingerworth. He was drafted abroad in October 1941 and embarked for Cape Town, where he spent a short leave with his mother's two sisters and their families. In March 1942 he was reported missing in Malaya while serving as a signalman in the Royal Corps of Signals. In August 1943 his wife received a postcard from him stating that he was a prisoner of the Japanese. At that date both Kenneth's twin younger

brothers were serving in the Forces. Gunner Peter Ball was taken prisoner by the Italians in June 1942, and Gunner Roger Ball (1919–2007) was serving in the Middle East.

Kenneth Ball's Japanese prison record card confirms the information established from other sources (although it gives his parents' address as Hasland Road, Chesterfield), states that he was captured at Singapore on 17 February 1942, and describes him as a signaller attached to 148th (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, part of the 18th (East Anglian) Infantry Division. A list of prisoners of the Japanese dating from November 1944 names his place of imprisonment as 'Thailand or 4D Camp'. Another list, compiled after the war, gives his date of capture as 15 February 1942, his place of imprisonment as Thailand, and his date of liberation as 2 September 1945.

Although Ball appears on the school memorial (and in the list in the Cestrefeldian) he did in fact survive the war and completed his training as an architect. In February 1949 he boarded the P&O liner Corfu at Southampton for Penang in Malaya, when he gave his home address as 56 Storforth Lane. He and Daisy evidently divorced, since he married for a second time in January 1953 (in Chesterfield) Audrey Willetts, a teacher, who was born in Chesterfield in 1927. In December 1955 the couple left London aboard the Glen Line vessel Glenarthy bound for Singapore, when both gave Malaya as their 'country of intended permanent residence'; while in England they had stayed at Ravensnest, Ashover. Ball later worked in Lesotho, from where he returned in 1992 to live in Winster. He died in March 2000, aged 84.

Daisy Ball remarried in 1949 at Edmonton (Mddx); her second husband was Valentine Counce Quin, who died in Manchester in 1999. Mrs Quin died at Congleton (Ches.) in 2009.

(TNA, RG 101/5900D/009/17, RG 101/5958C/010/17; WO 345/3; WO 361/1954; WO 392/23, no. 2157; BT 27/1644; BT 27/1790/1; *Derb. Times*, 10 July 1936, 20 March 1942, 20 Aug. 1943; internet accounts of 148th Field Regiment RA; inf. From Architects Registration Board)

Richard A. Ball, the son of William and Alice Gertrude Ball of Orchard Villa, Calow, was born in 1921. In July 1941 he married Lilian Pickering of Sheffield. He died from burns, aged 21, on 9 March 1942. A military funeral was held at Calow Congregational church, attended by representatives of (among others) the grammar school and Chesterfield Tube Co., where Ball had worked as a clerk before joining the RAF 15 months earlier. He was buried in the chapel burial ground. At the time of his death Ball was a sergeant navigator observer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, serving in 408 (Royal Canadian Air Force) Squadron, then based at RAF North Luffenham (Rutland), flying the Handley Page Hampden bomber. Ball was remembered by 'Mum, Dad, Lily, Arthur and Alan' on the third anniversary of his death; a similar notice, 'From Cousins at Deepsic Bungalow' appeared in 1944.

Donald Haddock (qv), another former pupil of the grammar school, was killed in action as a sergeant in the same squadron three months after Ball.

(CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 13 and 20 March 1942, 3 March 1944, 10 March 1945; internet accounts of 408 Squadron)

Ernest Cecil Barley, a corporal in the RAF, died on 11 October 1941, aged 19. He was the son of Thomas Wrigley and Annie Maud Barley of Grindleford and was born in Rotherham

registration district in the autumn of 1921. Barley was riding a motorcycle with another RAF corporal, Robert Fryer Watson (29), which came off the road at Bingham, near Nottingham, crashed through a fence and hit a concrete air-raid shelter. Watson died instantly at the scene, Barley soon after admission to Nottingham City hospital. The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. Barley was buried at SS Peter & St Paul, Shelford, also near Nottingham.

(Nottingham Journal, 14 Oct. 1941; CWGC)

Charles Bethell was born in Chesterfield in April 1910, the younger son of George Bethell (1877–1946) and his wife Hannah Jane Bethell (1878–1936). In 1911 the family, which included Charles's older brother, Lloyd, aged eight, and his sister Mary (six) were enumerated at 476 Chatsworth Road, where they had one servant living-in. His parents and two older siblings had all been born in Heaton Norris (Ches.); his father was then a railway clerk. After Charles's death, his father was on the staff of the London & North Eastern Railway at Chesterfield for some years prior to 1928, before moving to Doncaster. In 1945 he was living on Whitecotes Lane.

Charles was an active member of the cadet corps at the grammar school and was commissioned into the Sherwood Foresters before the war. He served with the Foresters in France between November 1939 and June 1940, and shortly after returning to England was promoted captain. He went abroad again in 1941. A school prefect in 1926 and school captain in 1927, captain of fives and a member of the rugby team, and secretary of the debating society, he was described in 1945 as having been 'a prospective graduate of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, at one time', possibly meaning that he had started a degree course before war. He was on the staff of William Deacon's Bank, Sheffield, before being called up, and a member of Hallowes golf club in Dronfield. In 1940 he married Betty Marguerite McCallum, born in 1915, a bank clerk who lived at 'Riverdale', Mytham Bridge, Bamford, with her sister Jean, also a bank employee, and their divorced mother. Bethell was killed, aged 31, at the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942 but his wife, who was then living at Mytham Bridge, was only officially advised in February 1945. He was a captain in the 1/5th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment) at the time of his death and was buried in Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore. His sister was then married to A. Roy Slack, and his brother was living in Birmingham. He left a daughter Jane, born in 1942, whom he would never have seen. Mrs Bethell remarried in 1947 in Bakewell registration district; her second husband was George Doyle. Mrs Doyle died in Norfolk in 2007, aged 92. Her daughter (who retained the surname Bethell) married Keith N. Holt in London in 1973.

(TNA, RG 14/21101, no. 58; RG 1010/5949C/009/16; CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 23 Feb. 1945)

David Devonald Beynon was born on 18 September 1923, the only son of David Watcyn Beynon (b. 1881), an ironmongery shop manager, and his wife Sarah Jane (b. 1886) of 11 (later 13) Madin Street, Chesterfield. He had an older sister, Sarah Gwyneth, born in 1915, who in 1939 was a food shop senior assistant and in 1941 married Jack Johnson. Their father was born in Llanelli (Carms.) in 1881 and in 1911 was living in Cardiff, where he was working as an ironmonger's assistant. Early in 1914 he married Sarah Jane Thomas of Bedlinog, near

Merthyr Tydfil, who does not seem to have worked before her marriage. Both were Welsh-speaking.

David was school vice-captain, captain of Large house and a prefect, a flight-sergeant in the Air Training Corps, and winner of the Coxall debating prize in 1941. He was the first chairman of the Chesterfield Council of Youth (in which capacity he gave a talk on the BBC in March 1941, aged 17), prominent in the Church Lads' Brigade, and a regular worshipper and server at the parish church. He passed the higher school certificate with distinction and won a county major scholarship which enabled him to spend a year at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he began the shortened war-time course in modern history, before being called up in 1942 and volunteering for foreign service.

After nine months' OCTU training Beynon was commissioned as a lieutenant and went out to North Africa. One of the first to land on Sicily, he was severely wounded in the leg and moved to a base hospital in North Africa. He recovered to take part in the early stages of the Italian campaign and was at the crossing of the Sangro river. Beynon was killed in action on 29 January 1944, aged 20. He was a lieutenant in the Brecknockshire Battalion of the South Wales Borderers and is buried at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in Italy.

The vicar of Chesterfield paid tribute to Beynon in a Sunday sermon and conducted a requiem in his memory the following day. In a characteristically forceful address, Dilworth Harrison stated that at the age of 15 Beynon had told him that he felt called to become a priest.

Sarah Johnson, then of 23 Salisbury Crescent, Newbold Moor, died on 13 February 1994, aged 79, leaving estate valued at £125,000.

(TNA, RG 14/32075, no. 398; RG 14/32411, no. 45; RG 101/5895A/016/28; CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 28 Feb. and 14 March 1941, 11 Feb. 1944; *Cal. Grants*, 1994)

Thomas Blackshaw GM was born in Chesterfield in 1915, the eldest son of Arnold Blackshaw (1879–1964) and his wife Gertrude (née Hopkinson) (1885–1971), who were married at Chesterfield parish church on 2 October 1912. Arnold was then a confectioner aged 33 and the son of the late Thomas Blackshaw, a Nonconformist minister; Gertrude was 27, the daughter of the late James Hopkinson, a stonemason. At the time of her marriage, Gertrude was living at 126 Saltergate and was not working; in 1901, when her parents had a sweet shop on Eyre Street (although her father was also a stonemason), Gertrude was a pupil teacher. In 1939 the couple were living at 19 Tennyson Avenue.

After leaving the grammar school Thomas was articled to Eric Perry, surveyor to Wirksworth urban district council. After qualifying he worked for a short time in Manchester before becoming assistant surveyor to Staveley urban district council. He moved from there to Doncaster and in about 1937 to become assistant surveyor to the West Riding county council.

In 1940 Thomas married Dorothy Hill at Chesterfield. She was born in 1916 and before her marriage lived with her widowed mother Emma and younger brother John, a motor mechanic, at 742 Chatsworth Road. In 1939 Dorothy was a shorthand typist at one of the wagon repair companies in Chesterfield.

Blackshaw joined the Territorials in Yorkshire, was called up to the Royal Artillery at the outbreak of war, and later transferred to the Royal Engineers. In August 1943, as a 27-year-old lieutenant RE, he was awarded the George Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner'; a sergeant who worked with him also received the GM. At the time of the award his wife was living with her parents at 742 Brookside, Chesterfield. The couple were married in 1940. He had been commissioned about two years before receiving the GM. His father was concerned in a confectionery, bakery and café business in High Street, where Marks & Spencer's store was later built. Mr and Mrs Blackshaw's second son, Sergeant Ian Blackshaw, was then serving in the Army in West Africa, and their youngest son James, with the aid of a bursary from the grammar school, was reading civil engineering at Liverpool University with a view to becoming an architect.

Thomas Blackshaw was later promoted captain and died on 9 January 1945 while on duty at Bideford. He was 29 and his home address in Chesterfield was said to be 33 Orchards Way. His family were given no details but it was 'presumed that he met his death while discharging the hazardous duties which gained for him the George Medal just over a year ago'. He was said to have volunteered some time previously 'for extremely valuable and highly dangerous specialised work', as the Derbyshire Times put it with appropriate war-time restraint. At the time of his death his brother, Staff Sergeant Ian Blackshaw, was back in Britain after serving in West Africa, and his brother James was about to join the Royal Engineers. His funeral, at Holy Trinity prior to interment at Boythorpe cemetery, was attended by representatives of local business and professional interests, Chesterfield Rugby Club and the grammar school. Wreaths were sent from several RE bomb disposal companies, indicating fairly clearly how Blackshaw met his death. His widow obtained a grant of administration in June 1945, when his estate was valued at £339 and his address was given as 742 Brookside.

Dorothy Blackshaw remarried in 1948: her second husband was Joseph Francis Coogan, born in 1924, who in 1939 was a shop assistant living on Welfare Avenue in Chesterfield. He died in Chesterfield in 2002, his wife in 2005.

Arnold Blackshaw, still of 19 Tennyson Avenue, died at the Royal Hospital on 19 October 1964. Probate was granted the following May to his widow Gertrude, when his estate was valued at £12,050. Mrs Blackshaw died on 1 December 1971 at Dawlish (Devon), leaving estate valued at £17,369.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 13/3247, f. 67v.; RG 101/5895G/020/17, RG 101/5899H/014/18, RG 101/5896F/002/04; *Derb. Times*, 20 Aug. 1943, 12 and 19 Jan. 1945; *Cal. Grants*, 1945, 1965, 1972).

Thomas William Booker was born on 2 May 1920, the son of Thomas William Booker (1883–1959) and Annie Booker (1887–1960) of Woodland View, Barlow. Both father and son were joiners and builders in 1939. Thomas died on 15 April 1945, aged 24. He was a flight sergeant in 190 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve and is commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. At the time of Booker's death the squadron was flying the Mark IV Short Stirling heavy bomber from RAF Great Dunmow (Essex), towing gliders for the Rhine crossing and paratroopers into the Netherlands to disrupt the German retreat.

(TNA, RG 101/5962H/008/7; CWGC; internet accounts of 190 Squadron)

Philip Alwyn Botham was born in 1921, the eldest son of William G.P. Botham (1897–1963), a railway department clerk at a wagon works (probably Eastwood's, on Brimington Road near his home) and his wife Agnes (1897–1973) of 39 Tapton View Road.

He left the grammar school for the City of Leeds training college and later taught at Derby Road junior school (i.e. the present Spire school) in Chesterfield. He attended Chesterfield Congregational church (i.e. the present Rose Hill United Reformed Church). Botham, who was a corporal at the time of his death, joined the RAF in September 1940. He was drafted to Iraq twelve months later. He died in the RAF Hospital in Iraq on 28 May 1944 after five weeks' illness. He was buried in Habbaniya War Cemetery, Iraq.

The Revd Richard Crosse, a son of a former archdeacon of Chesterfield then serving as chaplain to the Forces in Iraq, later wrote to Botham's parents paying tribute to their son's work as secretary to the ToCH group in Iraq, to which Crosse was padre. Botham had also visited many schools in Iraq to gain local knowledge, and lectured to the Forces on post-war education. Crosse described the 'fight' made by five doctors, including a brigadier, to save their son's life. Another chaplain added that when the brigadier decided that only penicillin would save him, a Spitfire was sent to Baghdad, 60 miles away, to collect a supply. It was administered to Botham within 40 minutes of the diagnosis.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5893J/007/24; *Derb. Times*, 2 and 16 June 1944)

Geoffrey Bradshaw was born in 1923, the son of Richard Thomas Bradshaw (1898–1976), a house painter and estate maintenance man, and his wife Selina (née Whiteman) (1899–1989), who were married in 1922 and made their home at 49 Cavendish Street, Staveley. Geoffrey was educated at Peter Webster school and later the grammar school, where he won a number of prizes for cricket and swimming. He entered the RAF at the age of 16 as an aircraft apprentice in 1939 and was a leading aircraftman at the time of his death on active service on 20 August 1942, aged 19. After a funeral at Staveley parish church, which his fiancée, a nurse named Betty Lawrence, was unable to attend, he was buried in Staveley cemetery.

(CWGC, which does not state the squadron or other unit in which Bradshaw was serving when he died); TNA, RG 101/5925A/012/12; *Derb. Times*, 4 Aug. 1939, 4 and 11 Sept. 1942)

Ronald Brewin was born in Chesterfield in 1921, the younger son of Trevor Brewin (1882–1956) and his wife Kate (née Bullivant) (1885–1972), whom he married in 1911. Born at Harrington (Northants.), Kate was in private domestic service at Desborough in the same county in 1901 and at Glynllifon Park (Plas Glynllifon), Llandwrog (Caerns.), in 1911. Trevor was the son of an engine driver at Hasland shed on the Midland Railway and until his marriage lived at 6 North Terrace, off Storforth Lane, one of the groups of houses built by the company for men who worked at the shed. In 1911 he was an 'engineer liner out' and his younger brother was a railway cleaner. This strongly suggests that in 1939, when the family were living at 'Overdale', 574 Derby Road, Wingerworth, and Trevor gave his occupation as 'chief engineering inspector', this was an appointment with the LMS Railway.

Ronald Brewin was school captain in 1939 and later graduated from Selwyn College, Cambridge. In April 1944 his engagement to Jean Marion, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Lee of Norwich, was announced. Brewin was killed in action in Normandy on 9 July 1944, aged 23, while serving as a lieutenant in 288 Battery, 124th (Northumbrian) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He was buried in Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery (Calvados). He had previously served in the North African, Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns.

At the Remembrance Day service at Wingerworth parish church in November 1950 a chalice and paten, given by Mr and Mrs Brewin in memory of Ronald, was dedicated and used for the first time at the sung eucharist which followed, and part of the collection was given to Earl Haig's Fund. Trevor Brewin died at 12a Newbold Road, Chesterfield, on 21 January 1956, leaving estate valued at £2,335. Kate, then of 23 Park Drive, Harrogate, died on 14 June 1972, leaving estate valued at £4,542.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 12/2763, f. 90v.; RG 13/1451, f. 72v.; RG 14/21085, no. 103; RG 14/34424, no. 88; TNA, RG 101/5958C/006/38; *Derb. Times*, 21 April, 21 and 28 July 1944, 17 Nov. 1950; *Cal. Grants*, 1956. On the school memorial Brewin is given a second initial (L.) before Ronald. No other source uses this form, which may result from confusion with his rank at the time of his death)

John Edward Burcher was born on 26 March 1914, the son of Frank Burcher (1885–1980) and his wife Harriet (1889–1983), who in 1939 were living at 566 Chatsworth Road. Frank was the managing clerk of a rent and debt company; his son was an architect's assistant. The household also included Frank's mother, Hannah Burcher (1850–1940), a retired licensed victualler, who died in March 1940 leaving estate valued at £3,844; Frank, as an executor, was said to be an accountant's clerk.

John Burcher died on 29 March 1942, aged 28. He was a sergeant wireless operator and gunner in 83 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve and was buried at Kiel War Cemetery in Germany. At the start of the war 83 Squadron formed part of No. 5 Group, Bomber Command; at the time of Burcher's death the squadron was flying Manchester bombers from RAF Scampton (Lincs.). The Manchester proved an unsatisfactory aircraft and the squadron was re-equipped with Lancasters from May 1942.

Frank Burcher, still living at 566 Chatsworth Road, died in 1980 leaving estate valued at £2,462; Harriet, then of the Spinney care home, Brimington, died in 1983, when her estate was proved at £25,000.

(TNA, RG 101/5899I/008/32; *Cal. Grants*, 1940; CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 27 March 1942; internet accounts of 83 Squadron)

John Joseph Carley was born in 1922, the son of John Joseph Carley (1888–1939) and his wife Emily (1899–1936), and the grandson of Joseph Sowter Short (1875–1947) and his first wife Mary (née Buxton) (1876–1912). In 1911 the Shorts were living at 22 Hollis Lane. Joseph was a mechanic at an engineering works and the couple had three daughters and a son at home, of whom Emily was the oldest. In the second quarter of 1919 she married, at the Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation, Spencer Street, John Joseph Carley, the son of Patrick Carley, an Irishman born in Roscommon. In 1911 the Carleys were living at 34 Rutland Road, when John, then aged 23, was working as a coal trammer. Emily died in 1936, aged 37, her

husband three years later. In 1939 Joseph Short was an unemployed turner and fitter of 39 Wharf Lane, Chesterfield, where he was living with his much younger second wife Dorothy Elizabeth Short (née Paulson) (1912–93), whom he married in 1938. Short died in 1947, leaving effects worth £285.

John Joseph Carley entered the grammar school in 1932 on a county minor scholarship from Derby Lane Junior Mixed school (i.e. what is now Spire junior school, Derby Road). After leaving the grammar school Carley worked for about eight months in the office of the Chesterfield borough police, and was a member of Chesterfield Ragged School.

Possibly because both his parents were dead (which explains why his grandfather was described as next of kin in 1945), he emigrated to Australia in 1939, sailing from Southampton on 3 June in the Aberdeen & Commonwealth Line's vessel *Largs Bay* for Sydney, giving Australia as his 'country of intended future permanent residence'. At some date after his arrival he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Paddington, New South Wales, when he gave his place and date of birth as Chesterfield, 14 March 1919, and his next of kin as his brother Cyril Carley.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (confirmed in part by the records of the Australian Imperial Force), Carley died on 4 July 1942, aged 20, while serving as a private in the 2/30th Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force. He was buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Burma. Carley's death was only officially reported to his family in May 1945, when (according to the *Derbyshire Times*) he was said to have died (as a corporal) aged 23 in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Burma in May 1942. He was posted missing in Malaya in February 1941 and nothing further was heard of him for three years. His brother Cyril was then attached to the Parachute Regiment.

It must, however, be added that in the second quarter of 1983 a man named John Joseph Carley died in Chesterfield registration district, when his date of birth was given as 1 May 1922. The only birth certificate that can be matched to this entry is that of John Joseph Carley, born in Chesterfield registration district in the second quarter of 1922 to a woman whose maiden name was Short. There is no birth certificate for a person named John Joseph Carley born in Chesterfield (or anywhere else in England & Wales) in March 1919. It of course possible that the man named Carley who enlisted in 1939 gave a false date of birth, but the possibility also arises that the man who died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1942 (and appears on the grammar school war memorial) was not the son of John Joseph and Emily Carley of Chesterfield. In the fourth quarter of 1949 John J. Carley married, in Chesterfield registration district, Doris May Sutton, who in 1939 was living with her parents at 4 Hall Terrace, Clay Cross. Doris May Carley, born on 9 January 1928, died in Chesterfield registration district in February 2002, aged 74.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21092, no. 292; RG 14/21089, no. 180; RG 101/5894J/007/11; RG 101/5901C/009/43; BT 27/1547; *Derb. Times*, 25 June 1932, 18 May 1945; Cal. Grants, 1947; National Archives of Australia, A8231, 6/CARLEY JOHN JOSEPH)

George Albert Carline DSC, was born in 1910, the youngest of three sons of G.E. Carline FCA, the head of Carline, Watson & Bird, the well-known Chesterfield accountancy practice, and his wife Leila Isabel (née Tanner). He was living with his brothers, a sister and their widowed

mother at 'Westfield', 66 Newbold Road, in 1911. His father, George Edward Carline, died on 19 February 1910; Mrs Carline was granted letters of administration in May, when his estate was valued at £13,083.

Carline passed out of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1928, after which he served in the Mediterranean, with the Home Fleet, and on the China station. On his return from China, Carline volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm in about 1936. After training he was posted to HMS Courageous, HMS Ark Royal and HMS Belfast, before joining HMS Illustrious. In December 1940 Carline was awarded the DSC as a lieutenant in Illustrious, following a successful attack by the Fleet Air Arm on the Italian navy at Taranto. His eldest brother Francis, a London solicitor, was then serving in a Territorial regiment, and his second brother, Major Norman Carline, was second in command of a Territorial anti-aircraft unit on the East Coast.

Carline died on 22 December 1941, aged 31, while serving as a lieutenant-commander in HMS Audacity, and is commemorated on the Lee on the Solent memorial. Carline was in charge of the aircraft on board HMS Audacity and responsible for the air protection of the convoy she was escorting, which was attacked by submarines and Focke-Wulf aircraft for five days from 17 December 1941. Audacity and a destroyer, HMS Stanley, were lost in the action. His mother was granted letters of administration in 1943, when his home address was given as 13 Cromwell Road, Chesterfield, and he was found to have left effects valued at £4,734. Mrs Carline, also of 13 Cromwell Road, died on 7 January 1954; probate was granted to her sons Francis Allen Carline, a solicitor, and Norman Edward Carline, a chartered accountant, when her estate was valued at £16,556.

(Cal. Grants, 1910, 1943, 1954; TNA, RG 14/21095, no. 288; Derby Times, 27 Dec. 1940, 9 Jan. 1942; CWGC; internet accounts of HMS Audacity)

William Richard Clark was born on 4 March 1911, the son of Richard Clark, a grocer of Hephthorne Lane, North Wingfield, and his wife Fanny. In 1939 the couple were living at 27 Station Road, Hephthorne Lane, when his father was the manager of a beer retailer and provision dealer. In 1941 William married Marjorie Eileen Bowyer, also of Hephthorne Lane. He died on 18 March 1942, aged 31, serving as a pilot officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, 101 Glider Operational Training Unit RAF, and was buried at St Lawrence, North Wingfield. 101 OTU was formed in February 1942 at RAF Kidlington (Oxon) as part of No. 70 Group to train glider pilots using the Hotspur. Clark presumably died in a training accident.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5955D/011/28; Derby Times, 19 March 1943; internet accounts of 101 OTU)

Reginald Graydon Cooke was born on 11 April 1913, the eldest son of Reginald James Cooke (1880–1936) and his wife Annie Elizabeth (formerly Wassell, née Turton) (1879–), who were married on 21 August 1911 St Bartholomew, Whittington, where Cooke was at one time choirmaster. He was then 31, a clerk living at 97 Church Street, Whittington, the son of James Cooke, a labourer; she was also 31, a widow living at 101 Church Street, the daughter of the late John Turton, a saddler. Annie had previously married, also at St Bartholomew, John Joseph Wassell in 1902. R.J. Cooke, then of Belvoir Terrace, Sheepbridge, died on 4 June 1936.

Probate was granted to his son Reginald, a colliery wages clerk with the Sheepbridge Company, when his effects were found to be worth £1,037.

In 1939 Cooke was living with his widowed mother and his younger brother George G. Cooke, a purchase clerk with a coal and iron company, at 58 Brearley Avenue, Whittington. In 1941 he married, at St Bartholomew (where he was a bellringer), Dorothy Adams (a Sunday school teacher at the church), the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Adams of The Grange Lodge, Old Whittington. At the time of his marriage Cooke was serving in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He was an aircraftman 1st class in Air Force E, stationed at RAF Sembawang in Singapore, at the time of his capture by the Japanese. This appears to indicate that Cooke served in 62 Squadron RAF, which was equipped with the Bristol Blenheim light bomber during its time at Sembawang. Cooke died on 26 May 1943, aged 30, while a prisoner of the Japanese in Java and was buried in the Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia. His widow Dorothy obtained letters of administration in 1944, when he was found to have left effects worth £364. His home address was given as The Grange Lodge.

(CWGC; Cal. Grants, 1936; TNA, RG 101/5892A/004/18; WO 361/2008; WO 345/11, no. 1398; *Derb. Times*, 28 March 1941; Cal. Grants, 1944; internet accounts of RAF Sembawang)

Alfred Cooper is too common a name to identify for certain but the reference may be to the Alfred Cooper who died on 1 September 1940, aged 19, while serving as a leading aircraftman in the RAF. He was the son of Albert and Lily Cooper of Shirebrook, where he was buried. In 1939 the family were living at 38 Garden Avenue, Shirebrook. Albert was a coal hewer, his wife and their daughter Betty (aged 20) were not working outside the home, their son Harry, aged 15, was a clerk at a gasworks, and their youngest child, Jean, was aged seven. The records of three other children are officially closed, and it is possible that Alfred is one of these. His 'Pal Harold' inserted an In Memoriam notice in the *Derbyshire Times* on the first anniversary of his death.

(CWGC (which does not state the squadron or other unit in which Cooper was serving at the time of his death); TNA, RG 101/5943C/008/4; *Derb. Times*, 29 Aug. 1941)

Frederick Brian Cooper was born in 1923, the eldest son of Charles Frederick Cooper (1893–1977) and his wife Minnie (née Cotterill) (1895–1980) of 154 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, who were married in 1921. Frederick was reported missing in October 1943. He joined the Royal Navy in May 1940, having previously worked for T.G. Wilcockson of Chesterfield, and was a leading telegraphist, aged 20, in HMS *Charybdis* when he died on 23 October 1943. He was buried in the English Cemetery at Dinard (Ille-et-Vilaine). His father was then serving as a battery sergeant-major in the Royal Artillery in England.

HMS *Charybdis* was a Dido-class cruiser. In October 1943 she was assigned to Operation Tunnel intended to intercept a German blockade-runner, *Münsterland*, which was escorted by five torpedo boats. On 23 October *Charybdis* located the convoy but was hit by two torpedos and sank within half an hour with the loss of over 400 officers and men. Four officers and 103 ratings survived. Some 96 members of the crew were buried at Dinard.

Charles Frederick Cooper died in 1977, aged 84. His widow Minnie died in 1980, aged 84. Neither left a will.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5898B/011/9; Derb. Times, 24 March 1944; internet accounts of HMS Charybdis)

Ronald Cox was born on 28 January 1908. His father was killed in France in 1917 serving with the Sherwood Foresters, and his mother was at one time well-known in the district as a midwife.

After leaving the grammar school Cox was employed by the Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co. before training as a teacher at University College, Nottingham, between 1931 and 1933.

He was described by the college as a most earnest, thought and industrious student, who had shown the greatest keenness in all his work. His preparation of lessons was highly commendable. He was seen as a 'very sound teacher', who would 'reach a high level of usefulness'. He secured a post at Rye Flatt school, Chesterfield, 'on account of his prowess as a child psychologist'. A keen violinist, Cox helped at many local functions and before joining the Forces in 1941 was an ARP warden. In 1937 he married Louie Winifred Widdowson and the couple made their home at 78 Newbold Back Lane.

Cox became a leading aircraftman in the RAF and was killed aged 35 on 19 August 1943 in a tragic accident in England; his death was registered in East Retford (Notts.) registration district. He was about to examine the wireless apparatus in an aircraft when the airscrew struck him and he was killed instantly. He left a wife but no children. Cox was buried at St John's, Newbold, after a funeral at which the congregation included several figures prominent in education locally as well as representatives of the ARP service and of the Sheepbridge Company. His widow obtained letters of administration in 1944, when Cox was found to have left effects worth £654.

(TNA, RG 101/5894B/023/29; UNMASC, UCN/T/1/2/2/146; Derb. Times, 27 Aug. 1943; Cal. Grants, 1944)

Peter Hambleton Dickens was born on 17 April 1919, the son of Arthur Tew Dickens (b. 1876), a schoolmaster, and his wife Edith Man Dickens (née Hellings) (b. 1879), who in 1939 were living at 98 Steynton Avenue, Bexley (Kent). They were married in Croydon registration district early in 1918. Peter joined the Royal Artillery in 1939, having previously worked as a bank clerk. He was captured by the Japanese on 17 February 1942 at the fall of Singapore, when he was serving as a bombardier in 118th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, part of the 55th Infantry Brigade and the 18th Division. He died of acute enteritis on 6 (or 18) July 1943, aged 24, while a prisoner of the Japanese, and was buried in Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand.

The 118th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA) was formed in 1939 as the second-line regiment to the 65th (8th London) Field Regiment (TA) to accommodate the large number of South Londoners who wished to enlist. It was sent with the 18th Infantry Division to India in 1941. In January 1942 the regiment moved to reinforce the Singapore garrison.

Those who survived its fall were taken prisoner and many died during the building of the Thailand–Burma Railway. The regiment lost 182 in the area of the railway, out of total losses

during the war of 291. Another 72 occurred after the official construction dates for the railway, 43 on them on 12–14 September 1944 when a Japanese convoy taking prisoners to Japan was attacked by US submarines and two ships containing over 2,000 prisoners were sunk.

(CWGC; Royal Artillery Other Ranks Casualty Cards; Royal Artillery Attestations; TNA, WO 345/14, no. 4820; WO 361/1954, p. 129; RG 101/1225E/020/8; internet accounts of the 118th Field Regiment. The surname is spelt Dickins on the school memorial and in the Cestrefeldian, and by CWGC, but Dickens in Service records other than his RA Casualty Card, and in his parents' entry in the National Register. Neither of his parents appears to have died in England & Wales.)

Roy Rowlatt Dickinson was born in Chesterfield in 1924, the son of Thomas Dickinson (1895–1975), a constable (later sergeant) in the borough police force, and his wife Eva (née Rowlatt) (1890–1983). In 1939 the family, which also included their daughter Jane (b. 1931), were living at 109 Gloucester Avenue. Roy won athletics prizes and cricket colours while at the grammar school, and was a sergeant in the Air Training Corps. Together with two other former grammar school pupils, Sub-Lieutenant Monty Manners, a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, and Pilot Officer D.L. Mothersole (qv), Dickinson was selected in 1942 for an RAF university short course (in his case at Selwyn College, Cambridge) for air-crew commissions.

In March 1943 he played football for Cambridge against Oxford. In March 1944 Dickinson and Manners met while both were training in Canada. In May 1945 Dickinson was said to have been reported missing 'some time ago'.

(TNA, RG 101/5894E/005/41; *Derb. Times*, 29 May 1936, 28 May 1937, 26 May and 25 28 July 1939, 18 Sept. 1942, 3 and 10 March 1944, 25 May 1945; Dickinson's name is spelt as above in the Cestrefeldian and all other sources; it is 'Dickenson' on the school memorial.)

Frank Dodson was born in Chesterfield registration district in 1918, the son of Fred Dodson (1886–1952) and his wife Tereasa Ann (née Fuller) (1888–1958). In 1930 Frank won a scholarship from the Central school, Brimington, to the grammar school and on leaving went to work for Harold Berresford of Duckmanton Lodge, Calow. He joined up at the outbreak of war and saw service in India. On his return to England he volunteered for and was accepted by an airborne division. In 1942 he married Nina Williams, who worked at Robinson & Son Ltd.

Dodson died on 29 March 1943, aged 25, while serving as a private in the 1st Battalion of The Parachute Regiment (Army Air Corps). He is commemorated on the Madjez-El-Bab Memorial in Tunisia. His parents then lived at 45 Coronation Road, Brimington, and his wife was living at Ponrhydyrun, near Pontypool (Mon.), having possibly returned to her family there. His father was a coke-oven labourer.

(TNA, RG 101/5957C/003/18; CWGC; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 26 June 1930; *Derb. Times*, 14 May 1943)

Alfred Flint. This name is too common to identify for certain but may refer to the Alfred Flint who died on D Day (6 June 1944), aged 21, whilst serving as a private in the 1st Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment. He was the son of John George and Florence Edith Flint of Shirebrook, and is buried in Hermanville War Cemetery at Hermanville-sur-Mer (Calvados). In 1939 the family were living at 9 Avondale Terrace, Shirebrook; his father was a coal hewer and Alfred, born on 17 April 1923, was returned as an ARP messenger. The household also included his mother, who was not working outside the home, his sister Thelma, aged 13 (later Mrs Smith), and a brother, Derek, aged eight.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5943C/018/26)

William Arthur Foulstone was born in 1922, the posthumous son of William Arthur Foulstone (1892–1921) and his wife Mary Edith (née Unwin), and the grandson of Arthur James Foulstone, who in 1901 was working as a mechanical draughtsman, and his wife Hannah Jane. The elder William, described as the eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Foulstone of Main Avenue, New Totley, married Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Heald Unwin of Hall Lane Farm, Totley, at Dore church on 31 August 1920. The couple were living at 77 Berkley Street, Scunthorpe (Lincs.), when William died in a Doncaster nursing home on 11 November 1921, aged only 29, and was buried at Christ Church, Dore. When his widow Mary obtained letters of administration, he was found to have left effects worth £163. Mary Foulstone, then of 'Maycroft', Main Avenue, Totley, died on 1 February 1929, leaving £330.

Probate was granted to W.H. Unwin and A.J. Foulstone, merchants.

William Foulstone junior, who must have been brought up by his paternal grandparents after his mother's death, won a county minor scholarship from Totley Church of England school to the grammar school in 1932. He won both academic and athletics prizes in the lower school, passed school certificate in 1936 and the higher certificate in 1939 as a member of the history stream of the modern sixth. Also in 1939 he was awarded a bronze medal (and came ninth out of contestants from the whole country) in an essay competition organised by the National Society of French Masters in England. The medal was presented at the Mansion House by the Lady Mayoress at a ceremony at which the Ambassador of France presided.

Foulstone died on 28 April 1945, aged 23, while serving as a lance corporal in the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), and was buried in Maynamati War Cemetery in what was then British India (today Bangladesh). Probate was granted in January 1946 to Arthur James Foulstone, a coal and coke agent, Sydney Henry Foulstone, a sales engineer, and Florence Kate Lake, the wife of Ernest Lake. He left effects worth £502.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 13/4377, f. 121v.; Cal. Grants, 1921, 1929, 1946; Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 1 Sept. 1920; Derb. Times, 28 May 1932, 29 July 1933, 31 May 1935, 24 May and 4 Sept. 1936, 17 Feb., 28 July and 25 Aug. 1939)

Arthur Glossop was born in 1921, the only son of Reginald Glossop (1893–1977) and his wife Maggie (née Smith) (1896–1976) of 293 Brimington Road, who were married in 1917. Arthur was killed on active service on 18 February 1942 while serving as a sergeant-pilot in the RAF (VR), and was buried at Brimington cemetery. He was 21 and had been in the RAF for seventeen months, having previously worked at Burton's the tailors. His father, who gave his

occupation in 1939 as a tailor's shop manager, died on 6 May 1977. He left estate valued at £16,786. Maggie Glossop died on 3 February 1976, leaving £2,505. Both were of 293 Brimington Road when they died.

(CWGC (which does not name the squadron or other unit in which Glossop was serving at the time of his death); TNA, RG 101/5894K/002/37; *Derb. Times*, 20 and 27 Feb. 1942, 12 and 19 Feb. 1943, 16 Feb. 1945; *Cal. Grants*, 1976, 1977)

Joseph Eric Goddard was born in 1916, the only son of Tom Goddard (1888–1967) and his wife Mary Ann (1894–1959). The couple were married at Tibshelf parish church on 1 June 1914, when Tom was living at Cross Street, Grassmoor, and working as a miner; his wife, Mary Ann Smedley Anthony, was the daughter of John Anthony, a miner of Primrose Terrace, Tibshelf; she was not working outside the home. In 1939 they were living at 65 New Street, Grassmoor, when Tom described himself rather pathetically as a 'Light labourer. Anything. Unemployed', which suggests that he may have been injured in the pit. His wife was not working. In 1943 they were living at 38 Main Road and Tom had become steward of Grassmoor working men's club.

Joseph won a county minor scholarship from Grassmoor school to the grammar school. In 1939 he joined the Hampshire police and in August 1941 volunteered for the RAF.

He went to America for training in January 1942 and was awarded his wings in August that year. He died on 28 July 1943, aged 27, serving as a sergeant navigator in 101 Squadron RAF.

He was buried at Hamburg Cemetery in Germany. At the time of Goddard's death 101 Squadron, part of No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, was based at RAF Ludford Magna (Lincs.) and was flying Lancasters fitted with a secret radio jamming system codenamed 'Airborne Cigar' (ABC). By transmitting during flights over Germany, these aircraft were especially vulnerable to attack and 101 Squadron had the highest casualty rate of any in the RAF. Another former pupil of the grammar school, John Alfred Turner (qv), also died while serving in the same squadron.

Tom Goddard, then of 220 North Wingfield Road, Grassmoor, died in May 1967, aged 79, and was buried at Hasland cemetery. His wife died in 1959, aged 64. Neither left a will.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5957J/018/13; *Derb. Times*, 6 Aug. 1943, 3 March 1944; inf. from Hampshire Record Office; internet accounts of 101 Squadron)

Harry Goulden has not as yet been identified in other sources, partly because of uncertainty as to whether his given name was Harry, Harold or Henry.

Charles Edward Gregory was the son of John Machin Gregory (1882–54) and his wife Winifred Ann (1891–1969). John Gregory was born on 12 July 1882, the son of George Gregory of Pilsley, an innkeeper, and his wife Mary. In 1911 John was enumerated as the stepson of Richard Clay, who with his wife Mary (presumably the former Mrs George Gregory) was farming at Timberlane Farm, Pilsley, near Chesterfield. He was single and working as an assistant school teacher On 14 August 1918 Gregory, then aged 36, a lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, and living at Pattishall (Northants.), married at Kidlington parish church (Oxon) Winifred Ann Evans of Kidlington, aged 26, the daughter of John Evans,

a gamekeeper. John named his father as George Gregory, a farmer. In 1939 John and Winifred (who was born on 3 November 1891) were living on Main Street in Heath; he was an 'estate cashier', presumably for the Duke of Devonshire's Hardwick estate.

Their son Charles Edward was born on 14 April 1924 at Heath and died on 8 April 1945, aged 20. He was a chief petty officer airman in HMS Khedive and is commemorated on the Royal Navy memorial at Lee on the Solent. Gregory died when his Hellcat aircraft of 808 Squadron crashed while attempting to land on Khedive, a miniature aircraft carrier created from a merchant vessel hull, during trials off the west coast of Ceylon.

J.M. Gregory died on 25 September 1954, aged 72, and was buried at Heath. He left estate valued at £2,637. Mrs Gregory, then of Corner Cottage, Heath, died on 16 February 1969, leaving £2,212.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/202098, no. 89; RG 101/5956E/005/14; ADM 104/131, f. 1558; Cal. Grants, 1954, 1969; internet accounts of HMS Khedive).

Donald Haddock was born in Chesterfield on 10 December 1914, the son of Thomas James Haddock (1882–1938) and his wife Selina Frances (née Wadmore) (1881–1962). In 1911 the couple, who were married in Wolverhampton registration district in 1906, were living at 17 Stanley Street, Spital, with their eldest son Harry James, aged four. Thomas, who was born in Wolverhampton (Staffs.), the son of a beer retailer and edge-tool maker, was secretary to a limited company in the timber trade (which at that date can apparently only mean Allen & Orr, assuming the company was in Chesterfield); his wife, born in Portsmouth (Hants.), was a nurse before her marriage. Thomas, then of 7 Avondale Road, Chesterfield, died on 5 June 1938, leaving estate valued at £4,880.

After leaving the grammar school Haddock attended classes at Chesterfield technical college where in 1933 he completed 'senior courses' in botany and chemistry. In 1939 he was living at 23 Columbia Avenue, Sutton in Ashfield (Notts.) with his mother (who described herself as being of private means) and was working as an unqualified pharmaceutical chemist's assistant.

Haddock was killed on 19 June 1942, while serving as a sergeant wireless operator and air gunner in 408 (Royal Canadian Air Force) 'Goose' Squadron. He had been in the RAF for about eighteen months. Aged 27 and unmarried, he was buried at the Bayeux War Cemetery (Calvados). The squadron was then based at RAF Balderton (Notts.) and was flying the Handley Page Hampden bomber. Another former pupil of the grammar school, Richard Ball (qv), who was also a sergeant in 408 Squadron, died in March 1942.

At the time of her son's death his mother was still living at Sutton in Ashfield (Notts.). Mrs Haddock, who never remarried, was of Westminster Bank House, 34 Bath Street, Ilkeston, when she died on 20 October 1962. Probate was granted on 17 December to H.J. Haddock, a bank manager, and Kenneth Haddock, a representative for an insurance company, when her estate was valued at £6,422.

(TNA, RG 12/2241, f. 43; RG 13/991, f. 69; RG 14/21087, no. 165; RG 101/6240I/012/42; Cal. Grants, 1938, 1962; CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 29 July 1933, 26 June 1942; internet accounts of 408 Squadron)

C.H. Hall does not appear in the list printed in the Cestrefeldian in 1950 but is on the school memorial. Without full Christian names it is difficult to trace a man with this common surname in other records.

Frederick Ivan George Hall was born in Chesterfield early in 1917, the son of Christopher George Hall and his wife Aline (née Shearer) of Spital. The couple were married on 29 July 1901 at St Paul's, Hasland, when Christopher was 32 and Aline a 26-year-old widow. Both Christopher and his father George described themselves as engineers; Aline was the daughter of a retired police constable. In 1911 the family were living at 5 Central Street, Hasland Road, when Hall was working as an engine fitter. In 1939 they were at 8 Stanley Street, Spital; Christopher, then aged 70, gave his occupation as a 'marker off' in an engineering works, and his son Percy William Oliver Hall (30) was a travelling salesman in retail groceries and provisions. In both 1911 and 1939 the household also included his stepson, James Harold Mennell, aged 41, the managing director and secretary of a firm of iron, steel and brass founders, who was presumably Mrs Hall's son from her first marriage.

Frederick Hall died on 29 October 1943, aged 27, when he was a civilian volunteer with the British Army Aid Group. He was buried at Stanley Military Cemetery, Hong Kong.

The Aid Group came into being early in 1942 to assist escapes from the prisoner of war and civilian internee camps established by the Japanese at Stanley after the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941.

Christopher G. Hall, aged 75, died in Shardlow registration district in 1944. Aline Hall's death, aged 86, was registered in Chesterfield in January 1962. Neither left a will. Mrs Hall's son J.H. Mennell, still of 8 Stanley Street, died on 1 August 1963. Probate was granted to Philip Gerald Barber, chartered accountants, and Robert Allen Hyde, a company director.

These details imply that Mennell was secretary to Robert Hyde & Co. Ltd, the Spital ironfounding and engineering company, and that he did not leave a widow or any immediate family. He left £74,754.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21086, no. 225; RG 101/5897E/021/43; Cal. Grants 1963; internet accounts of the British Army Aid Group)

James Arthur Harrison was born on 27 December 1920, the third son and fourth child of Lamech ('Mick') Harrison (1890–1951) and his wife Dorothy (1892–1962), of 65 Cotterhill Lane, Brimington. His father was a coal miner in 1911, living with his widowed mother at 65 Cotterhill Lane, and a part-time postman in 1939.

James (known as 'Curly') won a scholarship from Brimington school to the grammar school. He left in 1938 to become a wages clerk at Sheepbridge Stokes and later joined the Home Guard. He volunteered for the RAF in January 1942 and spent part of his training in Canada, where he was able to meet relatives. He returned in October 1943 to join 17 Operational Training Unit at Silverstone (Northants.). After his training he was posted to 619 Squadron RAF as a navigator, reaching the rank of flight sergeant. Harrison was killed on 6 November 1944, aged 24, in an operation to attack the Dortmund Ems canal at its junction with the Mittelland canal at Gravenhorst. At the time of his death the squadron was flying Lancasters from RAF Strubby (Lincs.) as part of No. 5 Group, Bomber Command. Harrison is

commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. His father, then a retired coal miner, obtained probate of James's will in 1945, when he was found to have left effects worth £142. The family were still living at 65 Cotterhill Lane. Lamech Harrison died in 1951, aged 60, his widow Dorothy E. Harrison in 1962.

A man named as John Adsetts (qv) on the school memorial appears to be the Jack Adsetts who died in 1943 while also serving in 619 Squadron.

(P. Harrison, *In Memory of a Brother: Flight Sergeant James Arthur Harrison RAFVR, 'Curly', 27th December 1920–6th November 1944, Navigator with 619 Squadron RAF* (Printed for private circulation, 2012); TNA, RG 14/21104, no. 88; RG 101/5956/019/5; *Derb. Times*, 21 Sept. 1945; CWGC; *Cal. Grants*, 1946; internet accounts of 619 Squadron)

William Keith Holmes was born in 1918, the only child of Clement Frederick Holmes (1889–1968) a schoolmaster of 472 Chatsworth Road, and his wife Florrie. In 1911 Clement was a student teacher, living with his parents at 33 Vincent Crescent; his father, William Anthony Holmes, was a corn merchants' clerk. Clement married Florrie Davison in 1917.

Before the war W.K. Holmes was employed in the Chesterfield office of the Halifax Building Society. He won athletics prizes at the grammar school, was a member of Stanedge golf club and played competitive table tennis for the Chesterfield club. A private in the Sherwood Foresters, Holmes served in France before going to the Far East. He was captured at the fall of Singapore and died of malaria in Thailand on Christmas Day 1943, aged 27, while a prisoner of the Japanese. News of their son's death reached his parents on VJ Day.

Clement Holmes, still of 472 Chatsworth Road, died on 18 January 1968, leaving £3,047.

(TNA, RG 14/21099, no. 289; RG 101/58991/005/10; *Derb. Times*, 22 March, 31 May 1935, 3 April 1936, 5 May 1939, 24 Aug. 1945; *Cal. Grants*, 1968. The name is given as W.H. Holmes on the school memorial)

Kenneth George Iremonger was the elder son of George Edgar Iremonger (1884–1964) and the late Mabel Annie Iremonger (1884–1938). In 1911 the couple, then recently married, were living in Retford, where George was a Prudential Assurance agent and his wife was working in a greengrocery business. They later lived at 142 Brockwell Lane, Chesterfield, where Mrs Iremonger died in 1938, aged 54. Her husband obtained letters of administration in 1947, when his wife was found to have left effects valued at £543. He gave his occupation on that occasion as a sawyer.

Kenneth, who was born at Retford on 4 September 1911, was school captain and later graduated from Downing College, Cambridge. After leaving Cambridge he became a modern languages master at Calday Grange secondary school, West Kirby (Ches.). In the summer of 1939 he married Joan Hinchcliffe (1912–2009) and the couple initially lived at 125B Banks Road in West Kirby. Iremonger joined the Royal Engineers, was commissioned early in 1942, and was promoted captain in August that year. He was killed on 4 December 1942 serving at Headquarters, 2 Docks Group, RE, aged 31, and was buried in Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria. He left a widow but no children.

G.E. Iremonger, then of 'Roselea', Walton Back Lane, died on 11 February 1964, aged 79, leaving estate valued at £592. Kenneth's widow Joan died in 2009, aged 97, in Dorchester registration district, having never remarried.

(TNA, RG 14/20200, no. 75; RG 101/4024D/005/19; CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 15 Jan. 1943; *Cal. Grants* 1947, 1964)

Edward Alexander Henly Jobes was born at Alfreton in November 1922, the younger son of Edward Jobes (1884–1956), a miner's son born in Sunderland who in 1901 was an apprentice colliery electrical engineer, and his wife Marianne (Grimley) (1886–1979), a miner's daughter from Boldon Colliery (Co. Durham). The couple were married in 1910, when Edward was working as a mechanical engineer at Wearmouth colliery in Monkwearmouth. In 1931 Jobes, then an engine-wright at Thoresby and Clipstone collieries (Notts.), succeeded J.R. Copping as chief engineer to the Bolsover Colliery Company. In 1939 he and his wife were living at 27 Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, with one living-in servant.

Edward moved from the grammar school in 1939 to board at Sedbergh. He attracted favourable comment in the *Sedberghian* in April 1941 for completing a ten-mile crosscountry run 'nose-bleeding all the way round'. He joined the Army later that year and was serving as a lance-corporal in the East Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of York's Own) when he was killed in action on D Day (6 June 1944). Jobes was buried in Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery (Calvados). He left effects valued at £1,070. His brother Kenneth was then a captain in the Royal Artillery in India and their father remained the Bolsover Company's chief engineer.

Edward and Marianne Jobes later lived at 'Woodthorpe', Calver Road, Baslow.

Edward died on 29 January 1956 in a nursing home in Buxton. He left estate valued at £16,092. Mrs Jobes died in April 1979 in Scarborough (Yorks. NR) registration district, aged 93.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 12/4162, f. 65; RG 13/4723, f. 147; RG 13/4746, f. 10; RG 14/30222, no. 192; RG 101/5895D/002/35; *Derby Daily Telegraph*, 30 Oct. 1931; *Derb. Times*, 11 Aug. 1939; 14 July 1944 (where in both cases Jobes's parents' address is given as '27 Goldwell Hill'), 6 June 1952; *Cal. Grants* 1944, where 'Edward Jobbins' appears to be an incorrect rendering of the deceased's father's name; inf. kindly supplied by Dr Stephanie Carter, archivist, Sedbergh School)

Eric Gordon Kirkland was born in 1921, the fourth son of William Richard Kirkland (1892–1970) and his wife Florence (née Barrett) (1893–1961). The couple were married at Chesterfield parish church on 5 August 1912, when Kirkland was an engine-turner of '398 Birdholme' (presumably meaning 398 Derby Road), the son of Richard Kirkland, an engine-fitter, and his bride was living at 124 Derby Road, the daughter of Arthur William Barrett, a miner. In 1939 the Kirklands were living at 144 Hunloke Avenue, Boythorpe, where William described himself as a 'maintenance engineer for surgical dressings and lint machines' – in other words, he was working at Robinson's, as was his son Cyril, also a maintenance engineer.

Eric Kirkland volunteered for the RAF in May 1941, having previously been employed at BSN Coal Sales, York House, Chesterfield. He was reported missing in December 1943 whilst a flight-sergeant observer in 254 Squadron RAF (VR), part of RAF Coastal Command. He was later determined to have died on 23 November, aged 22. He is commemorated on the RAF

memorial at Runnymede. At the time of Kirkland's death 254 Squadron was based at RAF North Coates (Lincs.), where it formed part of the North Coates Strike Wing, flying the Bristol Beaufighter Mark X and XI in the heavy fighter, bomber and 'Torbeau' (torpedo bomber) variants, attacking enemy shipping in the North Sea.

Kirkland had two brothers serving in the Forces, one abroad in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the other in the Pioneer Corps in England, as well as a brother-in-law who was a flight engineer in the RAF. Their father, still working as a mechanic, obtained letter of administration in 1949, when Eric was found to have left effects worth £343.

W.R. Kirkland, then of 2 Hazel Drive, Wingerworth, died on 29 January 1970. He left £5,155. His wife died in 1961, aged 68.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5898F/... .. ; Derb. Times, 3 Dec. 1943; Cal. Grants, 1949, 1970; internet accounts of 254 Squadron. Kirkland appears as 'E. Kirkland' on the school memorial and is not included in the list printed in the Cestrefeldian in 1950)

Donald Maney Laycock, was born on 14 August 1922, the son of Harold Wilfred Laycock (1889–1945) and his wife Gertrude Geldard (née Maney) (1888–1965) of Dore. The couple were married at St Martin's, Potternewton (Yorks. WR), on 9 December 1918, when both were living in Leeds. He was an insurance official and she was a telephone operator. In 1939 they were living at 259 Abbeydale Road South, when his father was an insurance company branch manager.

Laycock was killed on 12 June 1944 when serving as a lieutenant in the 9th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. He was 22 and was buried at the Bayeux War Cemetery (Calvados).

H.W. Laycock died on 2 December 1945; he left estate valued at £4,585. His widow was living in the Wallasey area of Cheshire when she died in 1965.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/3583J/022/12; Cal. Grants, 1946)

John Derek Middleton was born in Chesterfield in 1917, the son of George Arthur Middleton and his wife Ellen (née Fisher), who were married in 1916. In 1911 George, aged 22, was lodging at 522 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, and working as an accountant's clerk.

He was born at Pontefract (Yorks. WR).

An obituary in The Times stated that John Middleton was educated at Rossall School and Cranwell, where he won the King's Medal at the passing out parade in 1937 and the Adby Gerrard Fellowes Memorial Prize. He was mentioned in despatches during his service with the RAF. His father, described as a 'well known newspaper caricaturist' who began his career working for the Derbyshire Times, had previously been an accountant in Chesterfield and was a member of Chesterfield Golf Club. Neither newspaper refers to his son spending part of his education at the grammar school, but Middleton appears on both the memorial and in the list in the Cestrefeldian.

Middleton died on 9 June 1940 while serving as a flight-lieutenant in 201 Squadron RAF. He is commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. At the time of his death, 201 Squadron, as part of RAF Coastal Command, was flying the Short Sunderland Mark I flying boat on anti-submarine patrols over the North Atlantic from RAF Sullom Voe in the Shetland Islands.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21101, no. 74; Derb. Times, 21 March 1941, citing The Times, 18 March; internet accounts of 201 Squadron)

Dennis Leslie Mothersole was born in 1924, the elder son of Wilfred Mothersole (1899–1985), a locomotive engine driver (presumably at Hasland shed; his own father, originally from Suffolk, was a railway goods guard), and his wife Mary Isabella (Dumelow) (1899–1985). The couple were married at St Paul's, Hasland, in August 1922, when Wilfred was a locomotive fireman living at 2 Calow Lane, and Mary, the daughter of an enginedriver, was living at 11 Park Hill, also in Hasland. The couple made their home at 50 Kent Street, Hasland.

At school Dennis was captain of Lingard house and a school vice-captain. With two other grammar school boys, Monty Manners, a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, and Sergeant-Pilot R.R. Dickinson (qv), Mothersole obtained an RAF University short course, and trained in Canada as a navigator on Mosquito aircraft. He completed his training in England as a night flying navigator and gunner only a fortnight before his death. Commissioned as a pilot officer RAF Volunteer Reserve, he was stationed at RAF Hampstead Norris (Berks.) when he was thrown from his cycle, hit his head on a 'concrete erection on the side of the road', and died instantly, aged 21. He had attended University College, Southampton, to which he intended to return to resume his studies. He was interred at Hasland cemetery following a funeral at Chesterfield parish church. Wreaths were sent by his station commander, NCOs at the station and pupils of 107 Corps, RAF. The pilot of his aircraft attended, with another officer.

Wilfred and Mary Mothersole died in February and May 1985, still living at 50 Kent Street. Wilfred left estate valued at £40,000; Mary left £59,893.

(CWGC; RG 14/21086, no. 506; RG 101/5900A/011/11 (where the closed record presumably refers to Dennis); Derb. Times, 25 May 1945; Cal. Grants, 1985)

Douglas Frank Newsham was born on 15 October 1919, the son of Frank and Bertha Newsham of Dore. In 1939 Frank was in business on his own account as a builder and his son was working as his manager. The family lived at 59 Twentywell Lane, Dore. In 1941 Douglas married, at Whitchurch (Hants.), Jessie Haxton Graham Love. He died on 9 January 1942, aged 22, while serving as a flying officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He was buried at Christ Church, Dore. His home address at the time of his death was 139 Furniss Avenue, Dore. His widow obtained letters of administration, when his effects were found to be worth £125.

(RG 101/3591J/021/8; CWGC (where the name of the squadron or other unit in which Newsham was serving is not given); Cal. Grants 1942.)

George Selwyn Oldfield was born on 1 June 1920 at Taunton (Som.), the son of George Harry Robert Oldfield (1883–1933) and his wife Marion Ellen (née Chase). George Oldfield senior was born at Puddletown (Dorset), the son of another George Oldfield, a 'steward' (perhaps meaning a land steward). His son George, an Inland Revenue valuer, and Marion were married in 1912 in Bromley registration district.

Their son died at sea on 17 January 1941, aged 20. He was a passenger in the SS Almeda Star, whilst serving in HMS Goshawk, a shore establishment at Piarco, Trinidad, as an acting leading airman RN. He is commemorated on the Royal Navy memorial at Lee on the Solent. The Almeda Star was built in 1926 for the Blue Star line and employed on the London–South

America service. She was sunk by a German submarine about 35 nautical miles north of Rockall; all 360 on board died.

G.H.R. Oldfield of Gladstone Road, Chesterfield, died on 5 July 1933, aged 50, leaving £1,052. His widow was living at 5 Gladstone Road in 1939, where she was taking lodgers. Mrs Oldfield, then of 'Hazelhurst', Hazelwood Road, Duffield, died on 26 November 1957, leaving £6,752.

(TNA, RG 14/15200, no. 10; ADM 104/135, f. 2906; CWGC; Cal. Grants, 1933, 1958; TNA, RG 101/5895G/006/10; internet accounts of SS Almeda Star and HMS Goshawk)

Malcolm Parker was born on 23 July 1918, the son of William Parker and his wife Eleanor Bessy. He died aged 22 on 12 October 1940 when the two-seater training aircraft he was flying over his home village of Holmewood crashed and burst into flames. Parker was a sergeant pilot in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, which he had joined at the outbreak of war. At the time of his death he was stationed in north-west England and had recently been awarded his wings. He was an active member of Zion Methodist church at Holmewood. In 1939 Parker, who was single, was working as a timekeeper at an ironworks; his father was a cokeoven labourer. The family lived at 38 Mornington Road, Holmewood. Parker was buried at All Saints', Heath.

(Derb. Times, 25 Oct. 1940, in which the village was not named, but see the issue of 10 March 1939; TNA, RG 101/5055H/023/38; CWGC)

Gordon Cecil Rawlinson was born on 27 February 1925, the son of George Edward and Olive Rawlinson of Chesterfield.. He died at sea on 24 July 1945, aged 20, while serving as an acting petty officer airman RN in HMS Formidable. He is commemorated on the Royal Navy memorial at Lee on the Solent. Formidable was an aircraft carrier, completed in 1940 and assigned to the British Pacific Fleet in 1945, in which she played a supporting role in the Battle of Okinawa and later attacked the Japanese Home Islands. On the day on which Rawlinson died the ship's aircraft attacked targets near Osaka and the Inland Sea, crippling the escort carrier Kaiyo. During this period Formidable carried aircraft of 848 Squadron (Grumann TBF Avenger) and 1841 Squadron (Vought F4U Corsair).

(TNA, ADM 104/136, f. 3198; CWGC; internet accounts of HMS Formidable)

Harry Bonnington Ridgeway cannot be identified in the main sources for deaths on active service during the war. A man named Harold B. Ridgeway did, however, die in Bridgend (Glam.) registration district in the first quarter of 1944, aged 30. He appears to be the Harold B. Ridgeway, a postman born on 31 March 1913, who in 1939 was lodging with a widow at 2 Cadogan Street, Nant-y-moel, a few miles north of Bridgend. He was then unmarried. There was a large Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend during the war. A birth was registered in Bridgend registration district in the first quarter of 1913 under the name Harold B. Ridgeway, whose mother's maiden name was Phillips. There is obviously no evidence for a connection with Chesterfield, but the name appears to be rare.

(TNA, RG 101/7553A/020/39; H.J. Randall, Bridgend: the story of a market town (1955), 136–7)

James Johnstone Robinson was born on 26 September 1921, the youngest son of John Bradbury Robinson, the managing director of Robinson & Son Ltd of Chesterfield, and his wife

Agnes (née Johnstone) of Green Gables, Somersall Lane. He was the brother of E.B. Robinson and C.P. Robinson and had two sisters, Mrs A.W.C. Glossop and Mrs G.W. Wallis.

Although his name does not appear on the grammar school memorial or in the list in the Cestrefeldian in 1950, according to a lengthy obituary in the Derbyshire Times, Johnstone attended the grammar school for a time before proceeding to Rydal School, Colwyn Bay. He left school in July 1939 for Cambridge, where he graduated in natural sciences in two years.

After joining the RAF he was sent to train in Rhodesia in September 1941, from where he was posted directly to North Africa. He was awarded his wings in September 1942 and commissioned as a pilot officer shortly afterwards. Robinson died on active service in North Africa on 11 January 1943, aged 21, and is buried at Khayat Beach War Cemetery, Israel. His will was proved by his father in April 1944, when he was found to have left £5,029.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5899H/019/27; Derb. Times, 15 Jan. 1943; Cal. Grants, 1944)

Charles Howard Rudge was born on 15 March 1920, the son of Charles Rudge (1892–1957) and his wife Alice May (1893–1957). Charles senior was the son of Howard Rudge, a railway guard of 21 Handley Road, New Whittington. He was in the Army when he married Alice May Revill of 65 South Street, New Whittington, the daughter of a deceased ironworker, at St Bartholomew, Whittington, on 24 April 1915. Both were 22; she was of no occupation. In 1939 the couple were living at 'Sun Ray', 271 Chesterfield Road, Staveley.

Charles was then a railway locomotive driver.

Their son Charles worked as a chemist for the Ministry of Supply and served in the 12th Battalion, Durham Home Guard (which may be a clue as to where he worked), before volunteering for the RAF in 1941. In October 1942 his mother received news from Canada that had been commissioned a pilot officer, two weeks after he graduated at Manitoba as a sergeant observer. He died in Canada on 29 October 1942, aged 22, presumably in a training accident, and was buried in the Summerside People's Cemetery in Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island).

Charles's parents, still of 271 Chesterfield Road, died within three weeks of each other in 1957, Charles on 3 and Alice on 24 May, leaving estate valued at £2,883 and £2,789 respectively.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5925C/016/38; WO 409/27/43/212; Derb. Times, 16 Oct. 1942, 10 March 1944; Cal. Grants, 1957; the name appears as 'C. Rudge' on the memorial but is given in full in the Cestrefeldian).

Thomas Arthur Sharpe MBE (known as Tim or Timothy) was born in 1913, the son of Thomas Arthur Sharpe (1889–1974) and his wife Emma Elizabeth (née Wood) (1890–1968). Thomas, aged 21, married Emma Elizabeth Wood on 12 November 1910 at St Paul's, Hasland. He was then lodging at 23 Ashfield Road, Hasland, and working as a miner, as his late father, Thomas Sharpe, had been. Emma, who was 19 and pregnant, gave her address as '1 Loscow Row, Darley' (which cannot be located in Darley Abbey, Darley Dale or anywhere else in Derbyshire), but provided no details of her parentage or her own occupation. After their marriage the couple lived at 23 Ashfield Road, the home of Frederick Nottingham, also a

miner, and his family; when the census was taken in April 1911 they had a five-month-old daughter Olive. In 1939 the couple were living at 50 Hasland Green; Thomas was then a colliery underground manager. They were of 'Hill Crest', 19 Stretton Road, Morton, at the time of their son's death.

Tim Sharpe became an officer in the Indian Civil Service and was captured by a Japanese patrol on his way from Imphal to Tamelong in the spring of 1944. At the time of his capture Sharpe, then aged 30, was an additional deputy commissioner in the Manipur state of Assam, of which Imphal was the capital. He was due to return to England on leave when he was captured. Earlier in the war, during the retreat from Burma, Sharpe led a search party sent out in response to an SOS by Gen. Stilwell, US commander of Chinese armies in Burma, who, with others and a US military mission, were lost in the jungle. With 23 horses laden with food and medical supplies, and 500 natives, Sharpe eventually found Stilwell and a 'band of exhausted men and women in the wild country of the Indo-Burmese border'. He was later offered a high ranking commission in the US Army but the Government of India would not release him. He was instead appointed MBE and promoted. Sharpe's brother was an under-manager at Bond's Main colliery, having previously worked at Morton colliery.

Tim Sharpe was declared missing by the Government of Assam on 12 April 1944; the Commonwealth War Graves Commission recorded his date of death as 9 April, at Haoching. He was evidently murdered by the Japanese shortly after his capture.

Thomas Arthur Sharpe senior, then of 3 Evershill Close, Morton, died on 24 January 1974, leaving estate valued at £3,472. His wife died at their home on Stretton Road on 14 October 1968, leaving £962.

(CWGC; British Library, India Office Records, L-AG-34-14A-17; TNA, RG 14/21086, no. 437; RG 101/5900D/021/13; *Derb. Times*, 5 May, 16 June 1944; *Cal. Grants*, 1968, 1974)

Gordon Henry Slack was born in Chesterfield on 3 June 1919, the only son of Philip Arthur Slack (1893–1956) and his wife Mabel Browne Slack (1889–1953). Philip was in turn the son of John Walter Slack (1861–1948), a dental surgeon, and his wife Mary Ann (1859–1945). In 1911 the family were living at 69 Saltergate, the easternmost house in The Terrace, the imposing row built c.1845. Philip and his brother Joseph Henry were both working as draper's assistants. In 1916 Philip married Mabel Browne Fletcher, the daughter of Gertrude Elizabeth Sales Hawkins, a widow who in 1911 was the licensee of the Three Horseshoes on Packers Row in the Shambles. The Hawkins family had owned the pub since at least the mid nineteenth century. Mabel was then an assistant at a ladies' outfitters. In 1939 Philip and Mabel were living at 81 Saltergate, when Philip gave his occupation as clerk and laboratory storekeeper; he was said in 1941 to have worked for the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. for 25 years before becoming licensee of the Elm Tree Hotel at Staveley about three months before his son was killed. The household at 81 Saltergate, the stone-built house at the western end of The Terrace, was headed by Philip's parents and also included Gordon, then aged 19, and two domestic servants.

Gordon played rugby for the grammar school, was a proficient swimmer and had gained a life-saving award. He was a member of Chesterfield Operatic Society. Before joining the RAF he was a clerk in the offices of the Staveley Coal & Iron Co., although when the National Register was compiled in September 1919 he did not state an occupation.

Slack joined the RAF as a reservist in June 1939. He died on 21 March 1941, aged 21, while serving as a sergeant in 240 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve, and was buried in Irvinestown Church of Ireland churchyard. The Derbyshire Times refers to Slack dying on active service 'in tragic circumstances' and to wreaths of daffodils sent by the people of the district and soldiers and townsfolk who formed a guard of honour at his funeral, but conspicuously omits to say where he was buried, presumably because of censorship.

Irvinestown (or Lowtherstown) is in co. Fermanagh, in the south-west of Northern Ireland.

240 Squadron was then part of No. 18 GR Group, Coastal Command and was equipped with the Consolidated Catalina sea plane, used to carry out anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic. The squadron was stationed at RAF Killadeas in co. Fermanagh.

Mabel Slack of the Elm Tree Hotel, Staveley, died on 4 August 1953. Probate was granted to her husband, a licensed victualler, when her effects were valued at £1,878. Philip, then of 1 Sycamore Lane, Hollingwood (in Staveley), died on 14 May 1956, aged 63. Probate was granted to Donald Moore, a draughtsman, and his wife Dorothy, when Slack was found to have left effects worth £1,881. The couple were buried at Spital cemetery where they are commemorated by a single headstone.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21095, no. 117; RG 14/21090, no. 263; RG 101/5895F/005/8; Chesterfield Streets and Houses, 115–16, 149; Nottingham Evening Post, 25 March 1941; Derby Times, 28 March 1941; Cal. Grants, 1946, 1948, 1953, 1956; Find a Grave website; internet accounts of 240 Squadron)

Leonard Henry Smith has not been identified for certain. The only man of this name recorded by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission died of wounds on 26 November 1942, aged 33, serving as a gunner in 280 Battery, 49 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, and is buried at Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia. He was born at Strood, near Rochester (Kent), and his home at the time of his death was Rochester. He appears to have no connection with Chesterfield.

A man named Leonard Harry Smith was born in Chesterfield registration district on 18 December 1910 and baptised at Holy Trinity, Newbold Road, on 12 January 1911. In 1939 he was registered as Leonard Smith. He was then working as a coal sales marketing clerk (to which the word 'school' has been added in his National Register entry, although why is unclear) and living at 198 Tapton View Road with his parents and older sister Edith, a dental nurse. Their parents were Thomas Henry Smith (1875–), a retired railway clerk, and Phoebe Mary Smith (1875–). Leonard was then single. He could presumably be the Leonard H. Smith who in 1945 married, in Chesterfield registration district, Marjorie Bingham, although there is no strong evidence that he was, nor that he was the Leonard H. Smith who in 1959 married Mavis Backhouse, also in Chesterfield registration district. Leonard Harry Smith's death, aged 78, was registered in Chesterfield registration district in July 1989. He did not leave a will. No

evidence has been found that he served in the Second World War, much less that he was killed.

(CWGC; records of Royal Artillery Historical Trust; TNA, RG 101/5895E/012/33)

Ralph Ramsay Smith was killed on active service on 4 April 1940 while serving as a leading aircraftman observer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He was buried at St Mary, Bolsover. A memorial notice signed by 'Mother, Father and Joan' refers to Smith as his parents' only son. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record does not supply Smith's age, the names of his parents or the unit in which he was serving, which make him difficult to identify in other sources.

(CWGC,; Derb. Times, 4 April 1941)

Thomas Rowland Smith was the son of Herbert and Fanny Smith and the husband of Kathleen Smith, all of Chesterfield. Smith joined up on 7 October 1940 and went out to Malaya in March 1941. He had previously been on the staff of Allen & Orr Ltd, the Chesterfield timber merchants. According to the testimony in 1946 of Captain G.V. Bird, Royal Engineers, Smith died of cholera aged 27 on 10 August 1943 whilst a prisoner of the Japanese. He was a private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps when he was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore. He is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. When his wife was officially informed of Smith's death in December 1945 she was living at 98 Newbold Road.

The last she had heard of him was a postcard she received on Christmas Eve 1943, five months after he died.

The family are not easy to identify for certain in other sources. A man named Herbert Smith married Fanny Henstock at Holywell Cross Primitive Methodist church in the second quarter of 1912. The previous year she was lodging with her brother and his family at 9 Shepley Street, Brampton, and working as a machinist at Robinsons's, but the only Thomas R. Smith whose birth is registered in the same district at roughly the right date (the last quarter of 1915) had a mother whose maiden name was Smedley. In 1939 a man named Herbert Smith, born on 7 February 1885, was living at 82 Newbold Road and working as a timber yard assistant foreman, but his wife's name was Clara (not Fanny), who was born on 11 May 1886. The coincidence of occupations suggests that this is T.R. Smith's father, and a man named Herbert Smith married Clara Nuttall in Chesterfield in 1936. The household at 82 Newbold Road in 1939 included Francis R. Nuttall, born in 1915, who was presumably Clara's son from her previous marriage. It has proved impossible to locate Fanny Smith's death to confirm this suggestion.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21100, no. 243; WO 361/1631/1; WO 361/1633; Derb. Times, 14 Dec. 1945; TNA, RG 101/5895D/013/26)

George Arthur Stamp DFM was said to be aged 26 when he died in 1940, but there is no birth registration for a person of this name around 1914; the closest match is the George A. Stamp born in Southwell (Notts.) registration district in the last quarter of 1911.

The grammar school pupil was the son of Arthur Stamp (1887–1964), a railway signalman, and his wife Flory (or Florrie) (1889–1976). The couple were married at Sutton parish church on 5 October 1908, when both gave their address as 159 Arkwright Town.

Arthur was then 21, the son of George Stamp, a caretaker, and was himself working as a porter-signalman on the railway, presumably at Arkwright Town station on the former Lancashire, Derbyshire & East Coast line, which had been taken over in 1907 by the Great Central Railway. Flory Stevens was 19 and was not working; her late father had been a collier. When the census was taken in April 1911 the couple were living at Railway Cottages, Edwinstowe (Notts.), also on the former LD&EC line (and in Southwell registration district), where Arthur was a signalman. A return of LNER employees at Arkwright Town station in 1939 lists Arthur as a signalman who had joined the railway on 20 September 1903. The couple were then living at of 5 Church Lane, Calow.

At the grammar school George passed matriculation, gained a first class certificate in commercial law, and was in the Cadet Corps. After school he joined the staff of the Chesterfield Tube Co., where he stayed for about six years. He joined the RAF in November 1935 and trained as a pilot. He flew conventional aeroplanes for two years before switching to seaplanes. Stamp was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in February 1940 for 'gallantry and devotion to duty during war operations'. When he was decorated he was a sergeant in 228 Squadron RAF, part of No. 15 GR Group, Coastal Command, which was stationed at RAF Pembroke Dock and was engaged in maritime reconnaissance. It later moved to RAF Alexandria and RAF Aboukir in Egypt, before transferring in September 1940 to RAF Kalafrana on Malta, with a detachment at RAF Alexandria, for similar duties. The squadron was then equipped with the Short Sunderland flying boat patrol bomber. Stamp died on 1 November 1940, aged 26, while serving as a sergeant pilot in the squadron, which that day was in action over Malta. He is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial in Egypt.

Arthur Stamp, then resident at 34 Church Lane, Calow, died on 22 April 1964, aged 76, leaving £2,288. Florrie, then of 241 Mansfield Road, Hasland, died on 22 February 1976, aged 76, when she left £4,266.

(CWGC; *Derb. Times*, 1 March 1940; internet accounts of 228 Squadron; TNA, RG 14/20700, no. 20; RG 101/5957F/018/20; RAIL 397/1; *Cal. Grants*, 1964, 1976)

A.T. Taylor. Both on the school memorial and in the Cestrefeldian this man is named thus and because the surname is common, he is difficult to identify without Christian names.

Frank Taylor was born in 1923, the younger son of Harry Taylor (b. 1899), who in 1939 was a salesman with Sir Ernest Shentall Ltd, the Chesterfield wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants, and his wife Florence (née Newton) (b. 1901). The couple, who were married in 1921, were then living at 348 Brimington Road in 1939. Harry had been a prisoner of the Germans in the First World War, having been captured at Arras in March 1918, serving with the Sherwood Foresters and the Machine Gun Corps.

Frank left the grammar school to become an aircraft apprentice in the RAF in 1939, and was posted to the Far East in December 1941. He was reported missing after the fall of Singapore in February 1942. He was then 19 and a leading aircraftman. In June 1943 his family were

advised that he had been reported (not necessarily reliably) to be a prisoner of the Japanese. He appears to have died either at the fall of Singapore or in Japanese custody.

Frank's elder brother, Ernest Norman Taylor, was a sergeant in the RAF in 1943, aged 21, who had also gone from school into the RAF as an aircraft apprentice. He had then been serving for 2½ years on Malta, and had previously been loaned to the Finnish government as a technical adviser during their early campaign against Russia. Their sister, Irene (18), who had been on the office staff at Chesterfield Tube Works, joined the WRNS the week the news concerning Frank reached the family.

(TNA, RG 101/5894G/004/34 (where the closed record may refer to Frank); *Derb. Times*, 4 June 1943. WO 361/2053, List No. JH 287 records the death in Japanese custody of a Private Frank Taylor on 13 September 1943 of a tropical ulcer, whose body was cremated: this cannot be former grammar school pupil, unless his service details had become badly confused)

Alec Towndrow was born in 1919, the elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Towndrow. He won a county council scholarship from Wigley school (in Brampton) to the grammar school and was serving as a flight-sergeant in the RAF when in January 1942 he married Edna May Boothman, born on 19 May 1920, the elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Boothman of 75 Derby Road, Draycott. She described herself as a textile worker in 1939; her father was a plasterer. Alec's parents were then living at Banksfield Farm, Draycott. After she was widowed, Edna remarried in 1948; her second husband was Kenneth H. Lewsley. She died in 1974, aged 53, leaving £1,083; she was then living at 20 St Mary's Avenue, Draycott.

Nothing has been discovered of Flt-Sgt Towndrow's RAF career or the circumstances of his death; at present the only evidence that he died during the war, other than his inclusion on the school memorial and the list in the *Cestrefeldian*, is his widow's remarriage in 1948.

On the other hand, the only death registration in England & Wales which fits Towndrow's exact Christian name and date of birth is that of Alec Towndrow of 17 Kirkston Road South, Netherton Park Estate, Litherland, Liverpool 21, who died on 23 March 1953 at Calne (Wilts.), aged 33. Administration of his estate of £60 was granted to his widow Marion, formerly Marion McVittie, whom he married in Crosby (Lancs.) registration district in 1948.

It is therefore possible that Alec and Edna divorced and both remarried.

(*Derb. Times*, 30 Jan. 1942; TNA, RG 101/5977E/004/16; *Cal. Grants*, 1954, 1974),

John Alfred Turner, the son of John George Turner (1874–1964), a master butcher, and his wife Annie (1880–1960) of 37 Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, was born on 12 March 1915. In 1939 he was a law student and solicitor's managing clerk. He died on 13 August 1944, aged 29, while serving as a flying officer with 101 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve, and was buried at Hanover War Cemetery in Germany. At the time of Turner's death 101 Squadron, part of No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, was based at RAF Ludford Magna (Lincs.) and was flying Lancasters fitted with a secret radio jamming system codenamed 'Airborne Cigar' (ABC). By transmitting during flights over Germany, these aircraft were especially vulnerable to attack and 101 Squadron had the highest casualty rate of any in the RAF. Another former pupil of the grammar school, Joseph Eric Goddard (qv), also died while serving in 101 Squadron.

John's parents were still living at 37 St Mary's Gate when his mother died on 22 January 1960, leaving estate valued at £4,788. His father, then of 128 Ashover Road, Old Tupton, died on 28 December 1964, aged 90, leaving £23,213.

(TNA, RG 101/5896A/010/9; Cal. Grants, 1960, 1964; CWGC; internet accounts of 101 Squadron and ABC)

Eric Blanchard Tuxford was born c.1905, probably in Hong Kong, the son of Alfred Stanley Tuxford (1875–1948), whose own father was a Norwich bookseller and stationer. In 1891 Alfred was a printer's apprentice, and in 1896, when he joined the Royal Navy, he gave his occupation as compositor. Alfred left the Royal Navy two years later. In 1911 he described himself as a medical student when he arrived at London from Hong Kong aboard the *Kamu Maru* of the Japan-European Line, travelling second class. At some date after 1891 Alfred married Clarissa Long (1872–1953), the daughter of an agricultural labourer of Hingham (Norf.) who that year was a pupil teacher. The couple were not married in England & Wales.

In July 1913 Clarissa arrived at London from Hong Kong on board the P&O vessel *Palawan* with her daughter Iris Doreen (12) and sons Gordon Stanley (10) and Dennis Blanchard (eight). The family's 'country of last permanent residence' was Hong Kong and the children's future country of intended permanent residence was given as England (presumably to enable them to attend school). Clarissa gave 'British possessions' as her destination, possibly meaning that she was intending to return to her husband in Hong Kong, where Eric appears to have been born. The family were travelling second class.

In 1933 Eric Tuxford, who was then single, was living at 22 Cromwell Grove, Hammersmith, and in 1935–8 at 16 Bromyard Avenue, Acton. Early in 1939 he married Margot Angela Ripley, who was born in Hampstead in 1911. In 1932–3 she was living at 54 Grove Road, Isleworth, as she was in 1937–8 when she was using the surname Dean (but appears not to have married in the interim). Immediately after their marriage (when she gave both surnames) Eric and Margot were resident at 264 Chiswick Village.

On 1 December 1937, while serving in the regiment as a private, Tuxford was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in the Artists Rifles (which did not serve abroad in the Second World War). He died on 2 February 1943 while serving as a captain in the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own), attached to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Punjab Regiment, and is buried at Taukkyan War Cemetery in Burma. The battalion served in India, Burma and the Dutch East Indies during the Second World War and received more gallantry awards than any other unit of the India Army.

When a grant of administration was made to his widow Margot on 27 January 1945 (which may have been about the time she learnt of his death) her address was 128 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. He left £195. Tuxford's parents later settled in Australia, where they both died. The family appears to have no connection with Chesterfield.

(TNA, BT 26/564; Electoral regs. per Ancestry; London Gazette, 30 Nov. 1937, p. 7519; CWGC; TNA, WO 304; Cal. Grants 1945; internet accounts of the Punjab Regiment. For Tuxford's father see TNA, RG 11/1933, ff. 67r.-v., RG 12/1528, f. 7v., ADM 188/536, no. 354744, BT 26/497; for his mother see TNA, RG 12/1534, f. 31; and for the family generally see several pedigrees on Ancestry).

Harry Nutt Unwin was born in 1918, the son of Harry Jackson Unwin (1881–1970) and his wife Sarah Elizabeth (1884–1943), who were living at ‘C Side’, Highstairs Lane, Stretton, in 1939, when Harry was a clerk with Derbyshire county council education committee. They were said to be of Ilkeston at the time of their son’s death on 3 September 1941, aged 23. He was a sergeant in 44 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve, and was buried in the Berlin 1939–1945 War Cemetery at Charlottenburg. 44 Squadron was part of No. 5 Group Bomber Command, which in 1941 was flying Hampden bombers from RAF Waddington (Lincs.). His father obtained letters of administration in August 1943, when Harry was found to have left effects worth £1,243.

Sarah Unwin, then of Highstairs Lane, Stretton, died on 20 February 1943. Letters of administration were granted to her husband; she left £848. Harry Jackson Unwin, then of 70 Station Road, Rawcliffe, Goole (Yorks. WR), died on 22 February 1970, aged 90, leaving estate valued at £83,916.

(CWGC; Find a Grave website; internet account of squadron; TNA, RG 101/5954E/015/29I Cal. Grants, 1943, 1970)

Jack Wagstaffe, whose name does not appear on the grammar school memorial (or in the Cestrefeldian list in 1950) and whose Christian name is not given in the report in the Derbyshire Times which describes him as a former pupil, was born in 1918, the son of Charles Wagstaffe (1893–1973), a colliery underground road layer, and his wife Frances (née Slater) (1886–1968) of 19 Derby Road. Charles and Frances were married in Chesterfield registration district in 1915.

Before joining up, their son worked at Markham colliery. In the summer of 1939 he married Gertrude E. Holmes. She was born on 25 June 1918, the daughter of Alfred William Holmes, who in 1939 was an ‘underground colliery corporal’ of 16 South End, Grassmoor.

When the National Register was compiled in September that year Gertrude was staying with her family and working as a daily domestic. She and Jack later made their home at 16 Redvers Buller Road. At the time of his death the couple had two young children. Wagstaffe was wounded while serving as a sergeant in the Army in North Africa in July 1943 and died in hospital from his injuries a few weeks later.

Gertrude Wagstaffe married Robert H. Bean in the spring of 1944 and died on 1 January 1960, aged 41. She was then living at 53 North Wingfield Road, Grassmoor. Charles Wagstaffe, still living at 19 Derby Road, died on 23 May 1973, leaving estate worth £2,625; his wife died intestate in 1968.

(Derb. Times, 3 Sept. 1943; TNA, RG 101/5898G/007/17, RG 101/5958A/013/13; Cal. Grants, 1973)

Samuel Henry Wetherill was born at Shirebrook on 27 May 1921, the son of Sam and Elsie Gertrude Wetherill of 6 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Langwith Junction. His father was a patrol ganger on the railway. Samuel, who passed school certificate at the grammar school in 1936, was a telegraphist in the Royal Naval Patrol Service. He was on board HMBY Minesweeper 2077 when it was mined in the Gulf of Corinth off Greece on 25 October 1944. He was 23 when he died and is commemorated on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial.

(Derb. Times, 4 Sept. 1936; TNA, RG 101/594A/012/23 (on which the closed entry is presumably for S.H. Wetherill); ADM 104/138, f. 4130; CWGC; internet accounts of the loss of the minesweeper. Wetherill's name is misspelt 'Weatherill' on the school memorial).

Charles Wharton was born in 1922, the son of Charles Wharton (1890–1956) and his wife Rhoda (née Bower) (1892–1960), who were married in 1919. Rhoda was the daughter of John Bower, a miner, and in 1911, when the family were living at 3 Bridge Street, off Hawthorne Street in Birdholme, was working as a tailoress. Charles was then working as a house painter and lodging at 62 School Board Lane, Brampton. In 1939 the Whartons were living at 32 Markham Cottages, Duckmanton. Charles was then a colliery chief enginewright.

Charles Wharton junior joined the RAF and in September 1942 sailed in the Canadian Pacific vessel SS Beaverhill for St John, New Brunswick, presumably to complete his training in Canada. He died on 20 October 1943, aged 20 while serving as a sergeant in 57 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve and was buried in the Berlin 1939–45 War Cemetery. In 1943 the squadron was part of No. 5 Group Bomber Command, flying Lancasters from RAF East Kirkby (Lincs.).

Charles Wharton senior, then of 281 Hady Hill, Chesterfield, died on 17 September 1956. Probate was granted to his widow Rhoda, when his effects were valued at £4,188. She died in 1966, still living at 281 Hady Hill, when she left £2,102.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21084, no. 181; RG 14/21097, no. 636; RG 101/5924F/002/2 (where the closed record presumably refers to Charles and Rhoda's son Charles); BT 27; Cal. Grants, 1956, 1966; internet accounts of 57 Squadron and RAF East Kirkby)

Harold Wheeldon was born in 1918, the son of Charles Wheeldon (1884–1969) and his wife Elsie Honor (née Wood) (1887–1939). The couple were married at Ashover parish church on 14 September 1909; Charles was then working as a joiner, as was his father Joseph; Elsie lived at Peasonhurst in Ashover and was the daughter of a roadman named James Wood. Two years later Charles was in business on his own account as a builder and he and his wife were living at 86 Hasland Road, Chesterfield. In September 1939, his wife having died earlier that year, Charles was a widower living at 184 Peveril Road and working as a bricklayer. He died in 1969, aged 84.

In 1940 Harold Wheeldon married Bessie Sambrook (1922–2011), a clerk in a drapery store, who lived at 94 Hunloke Avenue, Boythorpe. Wheeldon was killed on 9 October 1943, aged 25. He was a signaller in the Royal Corps of Signals and had been mentioned in despatches. He was buried in Leros War Cemetery, Greece. His home address was 94 Hunloke Avenue. When his wife obtained probate of his will in January 1944, he was found to have left effects worth £164. The following year Bessie married Donald Marsland Heath Revill (1919–2002), who in 1939 was working as an engineering draughtsman and living with his parents at 31 Avondale Road. Bessie, then of 9 Lansdowne Avenue, Chesterfield, died on 24 May 2011, aged 89.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 14/21086, no. 176; RG 101/5898E/022/17I; RG 101/5895E/005/38; RG 101/5893E/024/32; Derb. Times, 29 Oct. 1943, 20 Oct. 1944; Cal. Grants, 1944)

George Widdowson was born on 10 January 1911, the elder son of Fred and Mary Elizabeth Williamson of 45 High Street, Old Whittington. Fred was then a rolling mill assistant. Educated at New Whittington schools, the grammar school and Hymers College Hull, George joined the Territorial Army before the war, when he was on the staff of Barclays Bank at Beverley, and commanded the Beverley and Pocklington companies of the 5th (TA) Battalion of the Howards. He was commissioned in 1930. In December 1937 he married, at St John's church, Newland, Hull, Kathleen Mary Girling (1914–91), only daughter of Herbert and Mary Girling of Hull. Her father was a clerk in the Ministry of Labour. Widdowson's parents were also of Hull at the time of the wedding. In 1939 the couple were living at 2 Park Avenue, Manor Road, Beverley, with her parents.

Widdowson joined a regular battalion of the Green Howards on the outbreak of war, fought in France and Belgium, and took part in the Dunkirk evacuation. He later served in the Middle East, North Africa and Italy, and in 1943 volunteered for the Parachute Regiment.

Major Widdowson was reported missing on 25 September 1944, aged 33, when he was second in command of a battalion of the Parachute Regiment at Arnhem. In November his wife was officially informed that her husband was a prisoner of war in Germany. At the time Widdowson was reported missing, his younger brother, Lieut. Fred Widdowson (27), was in the Royal Army Service Corps, in which he had served for nine years, two of them in the Gold Coast, and his brother-in-law, Major G.N. Girling, had escaped from an Italian prisoner of war camp some time earlier. Widdowson's parents were then living at 190 Holland Road, Old Whittington and his father had returned to work on the rolling mills at Sheepbridge.

Despite his inclusion on the school memorial (and in the list published in the *Cestrefeldian*) George Widdowson survived the Second World War. When the Territorial Army was re-established in 1947 he took command of a Hull unit, when he was said to have been a former member of the 4th Parachute Brigade of the 1st Airborne Division, and (as a lieutenant-colonel) to have landed in France by parachute on D Day. He was to command an airborne unit in the TA, to be known as 299 Airborne Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Widdowson died in East Yorkshire registration district in 2002, aged 91. Kathleen Widdowson died in 1991, aged 77, when the couple were living at 23 Westfield Garth, Walkington, Beverley. She left estate valued at £125,000.

(TNA, RG 14/21109, no. 266; RG 101/3172H/008/40; *Derb. Times*, 20 Oct. 1944; *Hull Daily Mail*, 5 April 1935, 6 Dec. 1937, 7 Oct. and 2 Nov. 1944, 9 May 1947)

Ernest Haydn Wild was born in 1922, the third son of John James Wild (1895–1956) and his wife Ethel (née Dilkes) (1893–1983). The couple were married in Rotherham registration district in 1916, when John was living at 47 Doe Lea (in Ault Hucknall parish) and Ethel at Laughton Common (Yorks. WR). In 1939 the family were living at 7 Oxford Street, Bramley Vale and John Wild was a colliery surface labourer.

Ernest graduated from University College, Nottingham, with a London University degree in economics in 1941. His father was then a member of the board of management of Chesterfield Royal Hospital. He went to Nottingham aged 17 and completed two years of a four-year course before he was called up and joined the Royal Armoured Corps. He was

quickly commissioned and later promoted to lieutenant. He was later transferred to the Devonshire Regiment 12th (Airborne) Battalion, serving in Normandy, Holland, Belgium and lastly Germany, where he was reported killed in action on 24 March 1945, aged 22. Wild's battalion deployed by glider that day, successfully capturing Hamminkeln with the loss of 140 officers and men killed, wounded or missing. He was buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Germany (as was W.P. Wilson, qv). His father, who gave his occupation as a colliery storekeeper, obtained letters of administration in December the same year, when Ernest's effects were valued at £205.

His elder brother Alan, who had previously worked for the LMS Railway, served in the RAF from 1939, in France until the evacuation from Dunkirk, and later at Basra, where he was stationed at the time of Ernest's death.

John Wild died in 1956, aged 60, his widow in 1983, aged 90, in both cases in Chesterfield registration district; neither left a will.

(Derb. Times, 29 Aug. 1941, 20 April 1945; TNA 101/5944H/009/25; CWGC; Cal. Grants, 1945; internet history of battalion)

John Primrose Wilson and **William Primrose Wilson** were two of the sons of William Smith Wilson (1892–1973), the borough engineer and surveyor, and his wife Catherine Wingate (née Primrose) (1902–91) of 204 Ashgate Road. The house was named 'Threepwood', after the Scottish farm where their father was born. The family also included a sister and three other brothers.

All the boys attended the grammar school and, like their father, were outstanding athletes. John (known as Jock), born on 9 May 1922, was also an excellent school captain, who in the words of the *Cestrefeldian* (April 1942), 'had the respect and admiration of all the boys in the school ... one of the best school captains one could wish to meet'. William (known as Billy) inherited his mother's artistic talent and was an accomplished musician who once gave a solo concert at the Regal cinema.

Jock and Billy both joined the RAF. Jock first flew with an instructor on 10 December 1940, when he was 18½ years old. He flew solo for the first time on his seventeenth day of training and on his nineteenth birthday, after five months (and 76 hours of flying time), was authorised to fly the Vickers Supermarine Spitfire. He was posted to 65 (East India) Squadron based at RAF Kirton in Lindsey (Lincs.). He took part in his first operation mission on 12 August 1941, an offensive sweep over the Dutch coast at Rotterdam. Further operations followed, including acting as escorts to bomber missions, and he often flew three or four times a day. In September 1941 Jock was transferred to 222 (Natal) Squadron RAF (VR) at RAF North Weald (Essex), which was equipped with the more up-to-date Spitfire VB, which had greater firepower. He took part in 'Rhubarb' missions, flying at low level attacking opportunist targets, and escorting Blenheim bombers and fighter sweeps over France. On 27 February 1942 he set off on a 'Rhubarb' mission with another pilot. Both planes disappeared from radar over the French coast; the other pilot baled out over the North Sea and was rescued, but Jock's plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and he crashed near the town of Marck (Pas-de-Calais). He died nine weeks short of his twentieth birthday. Jock, a sergeant-pilot at the time of his death, was

initially buried at Marck but his remains were later re-interred at Pihen-lès-Guînes communal cemetery (Pas-de-Calais).

Billy Wilson was born in 1923 and after leaving school was apprenticed to Richard Hoggard, the borough transport manager. He enrolled in the Air Training Corps two weeks before his brother's death. He later joined the RAF and trained as a gunner in Bomber Command. In April 1942 he went out to Rhodesia. After a year's training, Billy was awarded his wings and took part in seventeen operational flights as a sergeant air-gunner in 7 Squadron RAF. The last of these set off from RAF Oakington (Camb.) on 16 December 1943.

His plane was shot down and crashed at Wilsum, a small town in Germany, close to the Dutch border. Two of the seven crew survived and were taken prisoner; Billy is buried at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Germany (as was E.H Wild, qv). Shortly before he was reported missing, his parents entertained the crew of the Lancaster bomber of which Billy was a member to celebrate the 21st birthday of the pilot, an Australian.

Jock and Billy Wilson are both commemorated in a window at the United Reformed Church, Rose Hill, Chesterfield.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 101/5897A/014/7; *Derb. Times*, 24 Dec. 1943; entry otherwise based largely on information assembled by Tony Hine, including material taken from Bob Wilson, *Behind the Network: my autobiography* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2003), chapter 2, which contains a much fuller account of his two oldest brothers (and of his family generally), with photographs, including one of the birthday party mentioned above.)

Frank Knighton Wright was born on 16 April 1917, the only son of Francis Wright, a master tailor, and his wife Elizabeth. Known as Tony, in 1939 he was living with his parents at 6 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chesterfield, and was working as a clerk and travelling salesman for the Staveley Coal & Iron Co., as he was the following year, when his car was stolen from behind the Station Hotel. Later in 1940 joined the Royal Army Service Corps. He was drafted to Egypt in 1944 as a captain, later moving with his company to East African Command, Nairobi, when he was promoted major. He was admitted to hospital with burns on 9 October 1945 and died the following day. He was a member of Chesterfield Golf Club, Chesterfield Badminton Club and Brookside Tennis Club. His only sister, Marjorie (Peggy) Knighton Wright, was then serving as a linguist in the WRNS in Frankfurt. She married James William Dodd at Chesterfield parish church in 1947.

(TNA, RG 101/5896G/008/39; *Derb. Times*, 16 Feb. 1940, 19 Oct. 1945)

Walter George Yeomans was born in 1917, the elder son of Walter Yeomans (1881–1941) and Elizabeth Yeomans (1885–1958). In 1904 his father established W. Yeomans (Chesterfield) Ltd, who were originally dealers in saddlery and government stores, at 1 Beetwell Street (on the corner of South Place). The business evolved first into 'Army surplus stores' and later became well known locally as retailers of camping equipment, outdoor clothing and the like until recent years. In 1908 Walter, the son of a Brimington farmer also named Walter Yeomans, married Elizabeth Pattinson, the daughter of a beerhouse keeper and farmer, at St Mary and All Saints, Checkley (Staffs.); she was born in Cheadle (Ches.). In 1911 the couple were living at 67 Valley Road, Spital and had two young daughters, Kathleen

Anne and Elizabeth Helen. Walter described himself on that occasion as a master saddler, rather than a dealer. In 1939 the family were living at 'Netherwood', 748 Chatsworth Road, Brookside, with one living-in servant, when Walter described himself as a 'dealer in clothing and boots'; unusually for a family of this status, Mrs Yeomans was not merely a 'housewife' but also 'assists husband in business'. They lived three doors away from Thomas Blackshaws (qv), another former pupil of the grammar school, who lost his life as a Royal Engineer bomb disposal officer. Walter Yeomans died on 25 May 1941, after a breakdown through overwork, leaving estate valued at £16,154. The Derbyshire Times paid a warm tribute to both his success in business and his service to the parish church, the Masons and the Rotary Club.

Walter George Yeomans joined his father's business on leaving the grammar school.

He was a member of Chesterfield Round Table (of which he became secretary in 1939), Chesterfield Caledonian Society and Chesterfield Tennis Club. He joined the 5th (Territorial) Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters Reserve and was called up at the outbreak of war, when he was gazetted 2nd lieutenant. He took part in the Dunkirk evacuation and the North Africa campaign, including the Battle of El Alamein. In 1940 he married Joan Francis of Newcastle upon Tyne, described by the Derbyshire Times in 1943 as a niece of the late Mr Keeton of Holymoorside. In October 1943 he was promoted major at the age of 26, but was then in hospital for 16 weeks as a result of an insect bite in his leg, rejoining his regiment in Italy in the rank of captain. While in Italy Yeomans met a cousin, Bombardier Basil Yeomans, the son of Mr and Mrs W.H. Yeomans of Chesterfield. Walter's younger brother, Private Arthur Thomas Yeomans (b. 1921), served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and later the Palestine police. His older sister Kathleen was then Mrs Spencer of Cheltenham.

Yeomans was killed in Italy on 3 June 1944 and was buried at the Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio. He left a widow (who obtained probate of his will in January 1945, when he was found to have left £3,945) and a three-year-old son, David G. Yeomans, born in 1941.

His mother, Mrs Elizabeth Yeomans, still of 748 Chatsworth Road, died on 18 February 1958, when she left £30,019.

(CWGC; TNA, RG 12/2764, f. 73v.; RG 13/2631, f. 142; RG 14/21087, no. 73; RG 101/5899H/014/9; Cal. Grants, 1941, 1945, 1958; Derb. Times, 21 April 1939, 14 Feb., 7 March, 30 May 1941, 22 Oct. 1943, 16 June 1944)