

Stoke Gabriel Record of Commemoration

World War 2 Servicemen & Servicewomen



INTRODUCTION

The War Memorial of Stoke Gabriel contains the names of men who died abroad during the two World Wars in armed service of their country. There are however many others who died in service at home or after the war and a group of us felt that it was important that these men and women should also be remembered in some form.

A discussion led to the creation of this Record of Commemoration, which contains relevant information about each person and their service. Those included have resided in the parish. It is difficult to be too specific about the criteria for inclusion since there is incomplete information for many of the men and women. Nonetheless, with some degree of discretion, the following guidance has been used:

Wars: The wars to be included embrace all international conflicts involving the UK commencing with WW1.

*Residency: The people to be included are those who were resident in the parish of Stoke Gabriel in the sense that the parish was their primary residential home. Residency is confined to any significant period in the 20th or 21st century either before or after their service. Residency in the 19th century does not qualify **except** in the case of those men who went directly from school into one of the armed forces and served in that capacity during WW1. Those who were merely baptised or married, or who merely had a next of kin or a relative, or who merely carried out work, in the parish without meeting the residential requirement are excluded. In contrast to baptism and marriage, a greater significance is attached to those who are buried or interred in the parish churchyard. Newspaper reports relating to residency carry little weight and are ignored unless supported by other evidence.*

Death: It matters not when they died, whether during the period of conflict or afterwards. Nor does it matter how they died, whether as a direct result of the conflict or some natural cause. Nor does it matter where they died, whether at home or abroad.

Services: The services principally include the armed services but the home service, the church army and army chaplains are also included.

The Record of Commemoration comprises three reference books - one for WW1, another for WW2, and a third for all other wars - available for consultation should more information be required, for example at or around Remembrance or Armistice Day. The servicemen who are named on the War Memorial are

identified by asterisk. Information will inevitably be incomplete, so the provision of further information is invited, whether it concerns unidentified names of servicemen and women or the nature of their service. There is fourth reference book of "potential" servicemen whose residency within the parish requires further evidence. It is of course possible that such evidence may arise in the future, in which case their name(s) should be transferred to one of the other reference books as appropriate.

The Book of Remembrance of Servicemen and Servicewomen contains key information from the Record of Commemoration and is on permanent display in the parish church. The key information comprises for each man and woman their full name, regiment, war(s), date of their death and their age, and pages are displayed month by month corresponding to the anniversaries of their death. The pages are turned on a monthly basis. While the information contained in the Book of Remembrance cannot (easily) be corrected, it is amenable to the addition of new entries as they become known.

In Memory of

DONALD ALBERT ADAMS*

Sergeant Pilot

1339868

431 (Royal Canadian Air Force) Squadron,

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

who died on

Saturday 9th October 1943, aged 20

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in 1920, he was the son of William (Bill) Joseph and Dorothy Adams of Stoke Gabriel. Bill was a landlord of the V & A Inn. In 1939 he was living in Stoke Gabriel. In 1940 Donald Adams was the school champion at King Edward VI School, Totnes. He was the brother of Ivor Morecombe Adams, both of whom are memorialised on the village cenotaph.

Commemorative Information

Donald Adams was the flight engineer in a Halifax V LK657 aircraft which took off from the military base at Tholthorpe, Yorkshire at 22:43 on 8 October 1943. During a raid on Hanover, the aircraft crashed at Kleinburgwedel, some 10 miles northeast of its target. With one exception, all the crew died including Donald Adams. He is buried in Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

In Memory of

IVOR MORECOMBE ADAMS*

Sergeant Pilot

1587575

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

who died on

Wednesday 9th February 1944, aged 19

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in 1925, he was the son of William (Bill) Joseph and Dorothy Adams of Stoke Gabriel. Bill was a landlord of the V & A Inn. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He was the brother of Donald Albert Adams, both of whom are memorialised on the village cenotaph.

Commemorative Information

Ivor Adams served in the Mediterranean and was based at Abu Sueir, Egypt. He died and is buried in Moascar War Cemetery, Ismailia, Egypt.

IVOR GEORGE ANDREWS

1st Class Stoker

Royal Navy

who died on

Sunday 29th June 1969, aged 48

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 17 January 1921, he was the first of two children of George Percival Andrews and Lydia Ruth Andrews (nee Adams) and lived at 2 Vicarage Villas, Vicarage Road. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. In October 1940, he married Cecily W Newland and had two children, Malcolm and Laura. After the war, he resumed civilian life back in Stoke Gabriel, playing football and salmon fishing. In a tragic accident, he drowned with two other men when their boat foundered returning from a cockling trip. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 28.

Commemorative Information

At the age of 19, Ivor Andrews was conscripted into the Royal Navy. By late 1941 he was serving on the Tribal Class destroyer, HMS Punjabi, which was deployed on 26 April as part of the defensive screen for the passage of Convoy PQ 15. They sailed from Hvalfjörður, west of Iceland, on 29 April. On 1 May, while steaming in formation in heavy fog, the Punjabi lookout reported what he believed to be a mine dead ahead. The captain reflexively ordered a 15-point emergency turn to port. In so doing, the Punjabi sailed directly into the path of the battleship, HMS King George V, and was sliced in two by the battleship's bow.

Over 200 of the ship's crew were rescued including Ivor Andrews but the crew left in the aft of the ship, which sank very quickly, were killed when her depth charges detonated. Forty-nine of the crew lost their lives in the accident. HMS King George V sustained serious damage to her bow, and was forced to return to the Icelandic port, Seydisfjordou, to check for damage before returning to Scapa flow with the survivors from the Punjabi.

In 1942 Ivor Andrews joined the newly built destroyer, HMS Catterick, employed to escort convoys in the south Atlantic. He also served on HMS Queen of Bermuda carrying troops across the Mediterranean, followed by six months on HMS (Plymouth) books but lent to the forts, St Angelo and Verdala, in Malta.

In March 1945 Ivor Andrews joined the destroyer, HMS Obdurate, which was involved in escorting the last of the Arctic convoys to Russia. By June 1946 he was ashore in HMS Drake and finally demobilised in August.

In Memory of

ALBERT MARSHALL BAKER

Chief Petty Officer

D/KX 84201

Royal Navy

who died on

Thursday 11th March 1999, aged 82

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 11 May 1916 and known as Marshall, he was the son of Albert Robert and Lillie Evans of Sandside, The Mill. He was the brother of Eddie Baker, who is commemorated on the village memorial, and Sydney Charles Baker. In 1942 he married Blanche Elizabeth Rowe. On retirement from the Royal Navy in 1961/62 he took over the Church House Inn. He is buried with his wife in the parish churchyard in grave 767.

Commemorative Information

Marshall Baker served 22 years from 1939 to 1961. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on 8 July 1949 while serving on HMS Illustrious. The award of this medal requires 15 years' service with war service counting as double.

In Memory of

EDDIE BAKER*

Private

5682586

6th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry

who died on

Tuesday 13th June 1944, aged 21

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 22 August 1922, he was the son of Albert Robert and Lillie Evans of Sandside, The Mill. He was the youngest brother of Albert Marshall and Sydney Charles Baker and worked for the butcher, Mr E Butland. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He is memorialised on the headstone of grave 767 in the parish churchyard.

Commemorative Information

Having first served as a member of the Home Guard, Eddie Baker saw service in the Western European Campaign. His battalion took part in the assault landings on the Normandy beaches as part of Operation Overlord. He was killed in Normandy, six days after D-Day. He is buried in Tilly-Sur-Seulles War Cemetery, Calvados, France.

In Memory of

GEORGE BENJAMIN BAKER

Aircraftman 1st Class, RAF

165077

who died on

Sunday 22nd May 1988, aged 77

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 10 April 1911, he was the son of Thomas and Eliza Baker and resided at Portbridge with nine brothers and sisters, working as a poultry farmer. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He married Olive Mabel Scadding in June 1943 and lived at Meadowleigh, now Rydon Well, Long Rydon. He is the brother of Gabriel Baker who died during WW1 and who is memorialised on the village cenotaph. George is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 63. His son, Brian Baker, is a church bell ringer.

Commemorative Information

George Baker served for at least 2 years in India, probably Kurseong, West Bengal, where he worked as a batman to a commissioned officer.

In Memory of

REGINALD VICTOR BAKER

**Private
Stoke Gabriel Patrol
WIOB 124/1
who died on
Friday 28th March 1986, aged 74**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 30 September 1911 to Edwin and Florence Baker, he married Margery Hill in 1932 and resided at Hillside, Coombe Shute. Known as Reg, he was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He was employed on a sand barge involved with sand dredging. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 46.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Reg Baker served in the Home Guard from 28 September 1941 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

ROYSTON JOHN BAKER

Home Guard

who died on

Saturday 11th January 2003, aged 82

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 29 July 1920 in Stoke Gabriel to parents, Royston and Gladys Baker. In 1939 he was living with his parents at 3, Berkeley Square, Stoke Gabriel, working as a gardener. He moved to the Church House Inn shortly after. In October 1951 he married Ena Rogers in the parish church. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 78.

Commemorative Information

The Home Guard was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment.

In Memory of

SYDNEY ROBERT BAKER*

Sergeant

616021

18 Squadron, Royal Air Force

who died on

Wednesday 7th January 1942, aged 26

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 21 August 1916, he was the husband of Olive Louisa Baker of Stoke Gabriel. He is memorialised in the parish churchyard on grave 645.

Commemorative Information

Sydney Baker was on an anti-shipping reconnaissance patrol between Malta and the Cape Bon-Kerkennah Island area off Tunisia. The patrol failed to return to RAF Luqa, Malta and he was lost without trace. He is commemorated on the Malta Memorial.

In Memory of

SYDNEY WILFRED BAKER

Craftsman

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

who died on

Sunday 29th December 1985, aged 75

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in Stoke Gabriel on 11 March 1910, he was the son of Sydney Charles Baker and Mary Ann Skedgel Hill, Town Well Farm. He married Elsie and worked in The Devon Sweet Shop, Stoke Court as a tobacconist and confectioner. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 65.

Commemorative Information

No information found.

In Memory of

JOHN BARON

Flight Lieutenant

1833884

RAF

who died on

Monday 1st August 1977, aged 76

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 12 September 1900 in Liverpool, he was boarding at school in Cheshire in 1911. He married Betty Phyllis Muriel Urry in July 1929 before they moved to Stoke Gabriel in 1960, living in Splatt Lodge. His ashes are interred with those of his wife, Betty, in the parish churchyard in grave 337A.

Commemorative Information

John Baron first joined the Home Guard, serving from 12 July 1940 to 29 January 1943. He was then called up for war service, joining the RAF as Aircraftsman 2nd Class at the No.1 Recruit Centre at the Royal Buildings Penarth, near Cardiff. [His service number falls within the range 1830001 to 1838234 which had been allocated to Penarth]. On 18 November 1943 he was commissioned as Acting Pilot Officer (159808) on probation (emergency) into the Administrative and Special Duties Branch. Men who were commissioned received new service numbers. On 13 January 1944 he was regraded to Pilot Officer and on 13 July 1944 he was promoted to Flying Officer (war substantive). On 10 February 1954 the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve relinquished his commission. He was granted permission to retain his rank of Flight Lieutenant. After the war he attended the trials in Nuremberg as he spoke German although in what capacity he attended is not known.

In Memory of

DESMOND TERENCE BIBBY

Lieutenant

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, HMS Proserpine

who died on

Saturday 29th June 1991, aged 80

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 24 June 1911, he lived at Woods House, Stoke Gabriel, a man of private means. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. On his release he returned to Stoke Gabriel with John Knight, who were welcomed back with a peal of bells from the Stoke Gabriel bell ringers. He participated in the village VE Day celebrations. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 2.

Commemorative Information

Desmond Bibby enlisted into the Royal Navy on 5 January 1940 as Temporary Sub-Lieutenant, being promoted to Temporary Lieutenant on 4 January 1941. He served on HMS Proserpine, the shore naval base at Lyness in Orkney used by Scapa Flow. In August 1942 in northern France, he was the beachmaster during Operation Jubilee (or the Dieppe Raid), an unsuccessful Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe during which he was captured. In October 1945, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In Memory of

NORAH HELENA BONSTOW

Sergeant

444381

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

who died on

Sunday 12th January 2014, aged 90

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in 1923 in Stoke Gabriel, she was the daughter of Eli Bonstow and Margaret Agar (nee Baker) and niece of Edwin Bonstow who served in WW1. Her ashes are interred in the parish churchyard in grave 765.

Commemorative Information

Norah Bonstow enlisted into the WAAF in 1940, one of the first women to join the women's services. On 1 January 1945 she was mentioned in despatches.

In Memory of

VIVIAN BLOWERS

626626

RAF

who died on

Thursday 12th January 1995, aged 75

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 4 May 1919 in Newcastle to parents, Carl Blowers and Ethel Spanton. In 1944 he married Mellany Doidge in Tavistock and in 1972 they moved to Stoke Gabriel, residing at Ashlea, Aish Road. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 533.

Commemorative Information

Vivian Blowers enlisted as an aircraftman on 14 November 1938. He served in 100, 152 and 256 Squadrons in the Mediterranean, particularly Algeria, Malta and Italy. He was a rear gunner and on one occasion was wounded in the stomach. He was discharged on 21 November 1945.

In Memory of

LESLIE BRADLEY

Warrant Officer

1049920

RAF

who died on

? May 1993, aged 69

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 23 February 1924 to parents, John Thomas Bradley and Ada Batty, in Settle, Yorkshire. In 1939 he was living in May Cottage, High Bentham, Yorkshire, working as a machinist. He subsequently moved to Stoke Gabriel, living at 7 Pound Field.

Commemorative Information

Leslie Bradley's service number is within the batch of numbers allocated in September 1939 to RAF Padgate, Warrington, a recruitment training camp. However, his training as a pilot commenced at Stanley, Nova Scotia, Canada, flying Harvards. One of the entries in his Log Books is as follows:

"Briefing - 00.30 June 6 1944, Take off 2.32, Bombs released 4.32. Operation preceding invasion. Bomb load 11500 lbs, Target French coast gun positions. Ships seen crossing channel on return flight.

As part of Operation Overlord, Leslie Bradley flew on this mission from Holme on Spalding Moor. With 76 Squadron, he was the second pilot in a Halifax Mk III bomber.

In Memory of

FRANCIS LESLIE CHUBB

Private

Stoke Gabriel Patrol

WIOB 188/4

who died on

Wednesday 28th May 1997, aged 78

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 23 August 1918 to Joseph and Florence Chubb, he resided at Mill Cottage, and then at Greenfield, Paignton Road, Stoke Gabriel, working as a farm carter and horseman. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Francis Chubb served from 23 September 1941 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

ALFRED JAMES COLLINGS

**Corporal
Stoke Gabriel Patrol
WIOB 151/1
who died on
Sunday 7th December 1980, aged 77**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 11 December 1902 to Tom and Mary Collings, he lived at 2, Rose Cottage, Berkeley Square. In 1932 he married Jessie Burgoyne and in 1936 they had a son, John Burgoyne Collings. Known as "Jimmo", he worked as a farm horseman on Whitehill Farm, the last person to have the role before tractors took over. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 68.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Jimmo Collings served from 23 September 1941 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

CYRIL FREDERICK COLLINGS

Corporal

77726

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

who died on

Sunday 25th December 1983, aged 62

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in Stoke Gabriel on the 16 December 1921, he was the son of long-term resident Frederick John Godfrey Collings, the village sub-postmaster and gardener, and Louisa Windsor. He married Joyce Winifred Barrow in Stoke on Trent in June 1943 while on leave from service. He died in Wimborne, Dorset.

Commemorative Information

Cyril Collings enlisted on 26 February 1940 into the Administrative and Special Duties Branch of the RAF.

In Memory of

FRANCIS GEORGE COLLINGS

Sergeant

2nd Battalion, Dorset Regiment

who died on

Monday 22nd September 1986, aged 75

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 1 January 1911 and known as Frank, he was the ninth child of Tom Hamlyn and Mary Collings. Mary died in 1914 and Tom married again to Eliza Frost, who already had a son, Leslie Frost. Frank lived at 1 Ivy Cottages, The Barnhay. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. He married Lavinia Basten in 1937 and they had two sons, Francis George in 1943 and Derek in 1947. Frank worked as a nurseryman at a number of private estates including Waddeton and was a propagator for Torbay Council at the time of his retirement. In later life, he was the secretary and treasurer of the 1953 Coronation Committee, a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, and organised numerous horticultural shows. He died suddenly, and his ashes are interred, together with those of his wife, Lavinia, in the parish churchyard in grave 339A, a short distance from Poachers Cottage where he was born.

Commemorative Information

Frank Collings joined the Territorial Army in the late 1930's and then became a lieutenant in the Home Guard before being called up in late 1942. He joined the Devonshire Regiment (14378093) and was sailing through the Mediterranean as part of the convoy KMF52A. On 6 November 1943, his troopship was torpedoed and sunk by the Luftwaffe although there were no casualties. Frank was charged with responsibility for the crew of the lifeboat, being the only one with rowing experience. He served in the Far East and, on arrival in India, was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Dorset Regiment and participated in the Battle of Kohima and the pursuit of the Japanese. He was promoted to Sergeant and demobilised in 1946. Having been part of the Burma Campaign, he joined the Burma Star Association in 1956. He was the recipient of the 1939-45 War Medal, the 1939-45 Star, the Defence Medal and Burma Star.

In Memory of

ROBERT JOHN COLLINGS

Chief Petty Officer

M15395

Royal Navy, HMS Drake II (Naval Barracks Devonport)

who died on

Monday 4th January 1965, aged 67

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born in Stoke Gabriel on 30 September 1897, the son of Walter and Susanna Harriet Collings. He was living with his parents in 1901, and his brother, William, was baptised in Stoke Gabriel church in 1909, but by 1911 he was resident in Kingswear, working as an errand boy.

Commemorative Information

Having previously served in WW1, Robert Collings enlisted into the Royal Navy on the 6 October 1929 and retired from service on 17 September 1945. He served on HMS Osprey and HMS Drake II (Naval barracks, Devonport).

In Memory of

STANLEY DAVID COLLINGS

142100S3

Parachute Regiment

who died on

Wednesday 5th January 2000, aged 78

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 12 September 1921 to Tom Hamlyn Collings and his second wife, Elizabeth (Liza) Frost, he lived at 5 Claypark Terrace with Hamlyn Collings and Leslie Frost, working as a bricklayer. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. After the war he married Joan Violet Venus in 1952 and lived in Barn Park with their six children. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 522.

Commemorative Information

Stanley Collings joined the Home Guard until 1942 when he was called up. He saw service in Italy and was at Monte Casino, Marseille and the Holy Land. It is believed that he was originally a member of the Parachute Regiment. He was also a member of 850 Provost company with an exemplary record as a Military Policeman.

In Memory of

RICHARD JAMES MOREY CORNISH

PLYX 100042

Royal Marines

who died on

Thursday, 22nd August 1985, aged 68

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 19 June 1917 in Princes Court, Paignton, he was the son of John Morey and Minnie Holwell and known as Jim. In June 1938 he married Doreen Burrige and in 1939 he was living at 12, Batson Gardens, Paignton with his wife, working as a motor lorry driver. In 1975 he moved to Higher Well Nurseries, Stoke Gabriel. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 26.

Commemorative Information

Richard Cornish served on the Leander-class light cruiser, HMS Orion, for most of WW2. The Royal Marine detachment on board generally manned X turret and also provided landing parties. In June 1940 the cruiser transferred to the Mediterranean becoming the flagship of the 7th Cruiser Squadron, and took part in the bombardment of Bardia and the engagement of Punto Stilo. During the rest of 1940 she escorted Malta convoys and transported troops to Greece. In the early part of 1941 she was in the Crete and Aegean areas and was also at the Battle of Cape Matapan in March 1941. On 29 May 1941, during the evacuation of Crete, German bombers badly damaged her, causing many casualties amongst the ship's company and the soldiers she was evacuating from Crete. She went to Simonstown, South Africa where she had temporary repairs and then went to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in the USA for major repairs. HMS Orion returned to the Mediterranean in 1943, joining the 15th Cruiser Squadron. She was involved in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and later took part in the Normandy Landings in June 1944.

In Memory of

JOHN CRAWLEY

Pilot

RAF

who died on

Sunday 13th November 1994, aged 71

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 11 December 1922 in Kingston, Surrey, to parents, James Crawley and Elizabeth Rumbold. In 1932 he was living in Surbiton, Surrey with his mother, working as a clerk in the accounts department. In 1948 he married Joyce Hopkinson in Surrey following which they lived at Greenwich. They moved to Stoke Gabriel, living at Chetwode, Vicarage Road. He died in Stoke Gabriel and he has a memorial plaque in the parish churchyard No 1112E.

Commemorative Information

On 31 May 1940 John Crawley joined Home Guard No 7 Company, 52nd (Surbiton) Battalion. On 26 Feb 1942 he was called up to Royal Air Force.

In Memory of

EDWARD STANLEY DODD

Staff Quarter Master Sergeant

T/130695

Royal Army Service Corps

who died on

Monday 26th April 1999, aged 82

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 5 May 1916, he resided at 1 Vicarage Villas, Vicarage Road, the only son of Mr and Mrs Edward Dodd. He was a former pupil of Edward VI Grammar School, Totnes and worked with a firm of Chartered Surveyors. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939 but died in Surrey.

Commemorative Information

Edward Dodd enlisted in 1940 and served in France until he was among those evacuated from Dunkirk. In October 1941 he was posted overseas. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of gallant conduct in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner during an air raid at Murmansk, Russia on 14 June 1942.

In Memory of

ERNEST LESLIE FROST

Royal Air Force

who died on

Tuesday 5th March 2013, aged 97

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 15 November 1915 in Lewes, Sussex, to Elizabeth (Liza) Frost, he moved to Stoke Gabriel when Liza married Thomas Hamlyn Collings, a widower with ten children. One of the children was called Ernest, so Liza's son was called Leslie. He lived first at Poacher's Cottage and then at 5, Claypark Terrace with Hamlyn William Collings and Stanley David Collings, working as a gardener. In 1944 he married the widow, Violet Maud Goard (nee Isaac), from Galmpton. They lived at No 2 Church Walk, Stoke Gabriel. In later life, he worked as a jobbing gardener in the village before joining Paignton Parks Department until retirement. He held a salmon fishing licence for boat no 15 that was kept at Stoke Pool. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 558.

Commemorative Information

In the late 1930's, Leslie Frost joined the 5th Devonshire Regiment as part of the Territorial Army before being called up to serve in the Royal Air Force early in the war. He served in West Africa alongside US forces, providing weather forecasting data. He often spoke of the greater informality of the US forces in addressing both officers and rankers by their first names.

In Memory of

CHARLES PHILIP HOLROYD GIBBON

Captain

Royal Navy

who died on

Friday 30th October 2009, aged 86

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 3 September 1923 in Aldershot to parents, Thomas Holroyd Gibbon and Elizabeth Mary Cooper. He was brought up in County Wexford and in May 1937 at the age of 13 entered the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. In July 1952 he married Elizabeth Duguid in Surrey. In 1974 he retired to Longcombe. After his death he was cremated and his ashes were scattered in southern Ireland.

Commemorative Information

Having enrolled with the Royal Navy, he passed out as Midshipman on 1 January 1941, promoted from Acting Sub-Lieutenant to Sub-Lieutenant on 1 April 1942, and promoted to Lieutenant on 16 March 1944. He was 16 when war broke out and initially served on ships but by the age of 19 he was serving on submarines. He was mentioned in despatches on 16 June 1945 "for gallantry, tenacity and undaunted devotion to duty in patrols in the Aegean area throughout one of the most dangerous periods of the war in the Mediterranean."

He transferred to the Electrical Branch on 19 September 1947 and was promoted on 16 March 1952 to Lieutenant Commander. He was transferred on 10 September 1957 from Lieutenant Commander HMS Torquay to 5th Frigate Squadron as Squadron Electrical Officer. He was promoted on 31 December 1957 to Commander and was appointed on 10 December 1959 as Squadron Electrical Officer 5th Submarine Squadron at H.M.S. Dolphin [Fort Blockhouse] [Shore], Gosport, Hampshire. On 31 December 1966 he was promoted to Captain and on 1 September 1975 he was placed on the retired list.

He was appointed Associate Member, and then Fellow, of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He was also a General List Officer of Electrical Specialisation, Qualified for Submarine Duty.

In Memory of

HUGH LASSAM GOODSON

**Temporary Sub-Lieutenant
Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (Special Branch)
who died on
Monday 4th February 1985, aged 79**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 9 July 1905 in Knutsford, Cheshire, he was the youngest son of Sir Alfred and Lady Goodson of Waddeton Court. In 1911 he was living in Torquay and in 1935 he left for Canada. He returned to England in 1937 and was living at Waddeton Court in 1939, working as the Agricultural Estate Manager. He married June Hunter in Westminster in July 1945. In the 1973 birthday honours, he received an OBE in recognition for his service as President of The Sail Training Association. He died in Brixham and is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 4.

Commemorative Information

Hugh Goodson enlisted on 31 March 1943 and served in the Sea Cadet Corps. His commission terminated on 2 February 1944.

In Memory of

WILLIAM HENRY HANNAFORD-HILL

**Gunner, No 4 Section, C Flight
29th Squadron
Royal Air Force
who died on
Tuesday 5th October 2010, aged 87**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 27 May 1923 in Totnes, he was the son of William Michael Hannaford-Hill, who served in WW1, and Beatrice Helen (Nellie) Robjohns. He was brought to Stoke Gabriel as an infant and lived at Steps Cottage and Glenhaven, working as a farm hand at Aish. He married Mavis Dale, daughter of Wilfred Charles Dale, who also served in WW1. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 575.

Commemorative Information

William Hannaford-Hill enlisted with No. 29 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, which is one of the world's oldest fighter squadrons. It began the war with Blenheims, which at the period operated as day fighters – especially on convoy protection patrols. From June 1940 it became a night fighter squadron, receiving some of the first Beaufighters in November 1940, though it was February 1941 before the squadron was fully equipped with the new fighter. From May 1943 various marks of the de Havilland Mosquito were flown by the squadron culminating in the Mosquito NF30 on offensive night intruder operations defending RAF heavy bombers.

In Memory of

WILLIAM H HARDING

Lieutenant

Battalion Weapons Training Officer, Home Guard

who died on

? April 1964 aged 79

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in Honiton on 14 February 1884, he lived there through to at least 1901. Subsequently, he moved to The Elms, Aish Road, Stoke Gabriel and worked as a gardener for Paignton District Council. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939.

Commemorative Information

The Home Guard was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment.

William Harding was also an Air Raid Warden, the main aim of which was to protect people during hostile air raids. He was awarded the Certificate of Good Service on 18 April 1944 at Stoke Gabriel.

In Memory of

CHARLES DONALD WARREN HARVEY

Pilot Officer

90692

**No. 934 (County of Devon) Balloon Squadron, Royal Air Force
who died on**

Wednesday 18th April 1973, aged 78

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in Sussex on 5 August 1894, he moved to live at Coombes, Flood Street. He was living in Stoke Gabriel and in Plympton in 1939.

Commemorative Information

An ex-serviceman of WW1, Charles Harvey was commissioned on 2 May 1939 into the General Duties Branch. On 3 September 1939 he was confirmed in his appointment, graded as Pilot Officer, and was located at Plymouth and Cornwall (5 Flights of 8 balloons). He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant (Temp) on 1 March 1942, and to Flying Officer (Balloon Branch) on 3 September 1940. He resigned his commission on 19 October 1944, retaining the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

In Memory of

FREDERICK JOHN HODGE

Private

Stoke Gabriel Patrol

WIOB 110/1

who died on

Tuesday 4th January 2005, aged 94

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 29 August 1910 in Bridgewater, he married Vera Collings in October 1933. Known as Jack, he was living at 1, Town Well in Stoke Gabriel in 1939, working as a timber hauler.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Jack Hodge served from 23 September 1941 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

THOMAS JOHN HOTTEN*

Aircraftman 2nd Class

570199

53 Squadron, Royal Air Force

who died on

Monday 12th February 1940, aged 19

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in July 1920, he was the son of John Christian and Sophia Evelyn Hotten, of Yarde Farm, Stoke Gabriel, formerly of Bickington. He worked on the farm as a cowman. He was the brother of Harry Hotten, a member of Stoke Gabriel Home Guard.

Commemorative Information

Thomas Hotten was based at Poix-De-Picardie Airfield, France where he died accidentally, having been exposed to the fumes of a paraffin heater while on guard duty in a tent. He is buried at Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France.

In Memory of

FRANK WEBB JANE

Petty Officer

J3732

Royal Navy, HMS Drake I (Naval Barracks Devonport)

who died on

Thursday 11th April 1957, aged 64

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 20 June 1892 in Quethiock, near Liskeard, Cornwall and was living there in 1901 with his family. He had moved to Portsmouth by 1911 to pursue a naval career. He married Beatrice Elizabeth Hill in 1925 at St German's, Cornwall. In 1939 he was living with his wife and family in 1 Hoyle Cottages, working as a farm labourer and horseman. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 188.

Commemorative Information

Frank Jane was a naval pensioner who had served in WW1 and was re-called to service, enlisting on 31 July 1939 on HMS Drake 1, which formed part of the Royal Naval Barracks Devonport. He was discharged from HMS Drake 1 on 31 July 1946.

In Memory of

LEONARD JOSEPH JORDAN

Private

12th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

563601

who died on

Sunday 18th March 1984, aged 70

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 13 November 1913, the son of Joseph Henry Jordan (who served in WW1) and Lydia Scadding, he lived with Samuel and Lena Scadding at Meadowleigh, now Rydon Well, Long Rydon. In 1939 he was still living there but later moved to Stokeleigh, Flood St. He married Eva Joyce Seymour in April 1942. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 123.

Commemorative Information

Leonard Jordan was a paratrooper, who served in the 6th Airborne Division (apparently known as "The Swede Bashers"). The 1st Royal Ulster Rifles and the 2nd Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry formed the experienced nucleus to which the 12th Devonshires were added to fill the post of the remaining battalion. For all units of the 6th Airborne Division the following months were ones of hard and constant training so as to ensure that it would be fully prepared for the Invasion of France. On 25 August 1944, Leonard Jordan is reported to have been wounded (North West Europe).

The 12th Devonshires saw action in Normandy, the Ardennes and Holland, and the Rhine Crossing.

In Memory of

CHARLES KIFF

Private

Stoke Gabriel Patrol

WIOB 222/1

who died on

Friday 23rd June 1967, aged 77

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 24 June 1890, the son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Kiff, he originally came from Arlington, North Devon. He married Eva Bament on 26 March 1910. He lived at The Stables, Sandridge Park and worked as a gardener. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Charles Kiff served from 28 February 1943 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

ALFRED JOHN KING

**Sergeant
Stoke Gabriel Patrol
WIOB 73/1
who died on
? January 1982, aged 80**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 22 April 1901, he was the son of Henry and Jemima King. Known as Alf, he was related by marriage to Auxilier Edwin Potham having married Leah Potham in 1926. A transport driver who lived at Applecote, Vicarage Road, Stoke Gabriel, his neighbour was Auxilier Alf Tucker. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Alf King served from 26 September 1940 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

JOHN EDWIN GEORGE KNIGHT

Lieutenant

268160

Dorsetshire Regiment

who died on

Thursday 22nd April 1965, aged 41

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 10 August 1923, he was the only son of Mr and Mrs J Knight of Elmcroft, Broadpath. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. After the war, he returned to Stoke Gabriel with Desmond Bibby, who were welcomed with a peal of bells from the Stoke Gabriel bell ringers. He participated in the village VE Day celebrations. He died in Staffordshire.

Commemorative Information

John Knight was commissioned on 20 March 1943 as 2nd Lieutenant. He was captured in July 1944 and held in the Prisoner-of-War Camp, Oflag Braunschweig. He was released by the American 9th Army on 12 April 1945.

In Memory of

PHILIP AUSTIN LANE

Signal Man

Royal Navy

who died on

Thursday 10th May 2018, aged 94

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 4th June 1923 in St Albans, Hertfordshire, he moved to Stoke Gabriel in 1990, residing at Church Walk.

Commemorative Information

At the outbreak of hostilities, Philip Lane was on board a fishing trawler out of Grimsby. He was the only man on board who could read and write. He subsequently served in the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic Sea.

In Memory of

MARTIN THOMAS LUGG

Fleet Air Arm

Royal Navy

who died on

10th August 1956, aged 47

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 26 June 1909 in Kersbrook, Budleigh Salterton to Thomas and Jane Lugg, he married Janet Irene Narracott in 1938 and lived at Mimosa, Flood St, working as a joiner. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. His father, Thomas Lugg, also served in WW2 in the Home Guard. His ashes are interred in the parish churchyard in grave 708.

Commemorative Information

Martin Lugg was based in the Taunton area, working on building projects and construction using his experience as a joiner.

In Memory of

THOMAS LUGG

Home Guard

who died on

Friday 13th May 1960, aged 77

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in Tipton St John, near Ottery St Mary, on 30 October 1883, he married Jane Baker Adams in 1909 in Stoke Gabriel. By 1913 he had moved to Stoke Gabriel. He was living at Mill House in Stoke Gabriel in 1939, working as a gardener. He is the father of Martin Thomas Lugg who also served in WW2.

Commemorative Information

The Home Guard was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment.

In Memory of

ERNEST WILLIAM GEORGE LUSCOMBE

Sapper

2132071

210 Company, Royal Engineers

who died on

Saturday 24th March 1945, aged 37

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 27 August 1907, he was the son of Ernest Luscombe and Emma Morey of Chapel Court, Stoke Gabriel. In 1911 he was living at Portbridge and in 1945 his home address was at Hillside Road, Paignton.

Commemorative Information

Ernest Luscombe enlisted in 1940. He died during bridging operations on the Rhine in March 1945. He is buried at Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

In Memory of

PHILIP ALFRED LUSCOMBE

Private

5622615

2/7th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment

who died on

Monday 5th June 1989, aged 70

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 8 April 1919 in Stoke Gabriel and husband of Mahala Ellen Mortimore, he lived and worked at Higher Yalberton Farm and then at Byter Farm, Stoke Gabriel. Philip Luscombe pre-deceased his wife, Mahala, who in later life appointed Christine and Roger Hunt as her next of kin, having been brought up in Roger's family since she was a young girl.

Commemorative Information

Philip Luscombe enlisted on 15 November 1939, served in France and was captured at Abbeville on 21 May 1940. He was held in the Prisoner-of-War camp, Stalag XXA Thorn and Stalag XXB Marienburg, at which camps he put his farming skills to good use for the benefit not only of the Germans but also the prisoners. In his release certificate, his military conduct was described as exemplary. He was transferred to the Reserves on 21 June 1946.

In Memory of

REGINALD SYDNEY JOHN LUSCOMBE

Leading Aircraftsman

RAF

who died on

Thursday 4th February 1982, aged 70

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on the 6 October 1911 in Stoke Gabriel, he was the only son of Sydney Walter Luscombe and Alice Louisa Ryder, the former having been killed in action during WW1 and memorialised on the village war memorial. He was living at 2 Berkeley Square in Stoke Gabriel in 1939, working as a motorcycle mechanic. He married Doris Gertrude Jeffery in May 1942.

Commemorative Information

No information found.

In Memory of

DEREK THOMAS REVINGTON MARTIN

**Lieutenant Commander
Royal Navy
who died on
Saturday 14th July 2012, aged 92**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 20 June 1920 in Newton Ferrers to parents, Thomas Martin and Gladys Revington. In March 1946 he married Margaret Mary Pitts in Newton Ferrers. In 2004 he was living with his wife at Hunter's Moon, Stoke Gabriel. Their ashes are interred together in the parish churchyard in grave 443A.

Commemorative Information

Derek Martin was accepted by the Admiralty Board for pilot training in 1938 and arrived at the Naval College at Greenwich in early May 1939 and was awarded his 'Wings' in November 1939. In April 1940 he was appointed to his first operational squadron of Skuas at Donibristle (Firth of Forth); from there he flew to HMS Ark Royal before participating in operations off Norway. However, en route his aircraft suffered total engine failure and he crash landed (safely) into a ploughed field at Troon. He subsequently flew another Skua aircraft to join HMS Ark Royal and 800 Squadron before making their way to Norway.

Early in June 1940, the Norwegian campaign was abandoned and with evacuation complete, the fleet, with HMS Ark Royal and HMS Glorious, sailed for Scapa convoying the merchant ships with recovered troops. HMS Glorious with two destroyers became detached and sailed independently for Scapa. Having no air patrols, she was sighted by two German battleships and all three ships were sunk with the loss of 1520 men. Subsequently, 15 Skuas from 800 & 803 Squadrons from HMS Ark Royal attacked the German naval forces in Trondheirn on 13th June at 0100 in daylight. They encountered very heavy flak and many Messerschmidt 109s and 110s. Eight aircraft were destroyed, seven aircrew killed and nine captured. Derek Martin was among those captured and remained a POW until May 1945. He was in at least seven different POW camps, the last one being Stalag Luft 111 (north camp). He was finally released in Lubeck, arriving back in England on VE day. He resigned the Royal Navy as a ND (dagger) in June 1966.

In Memory of

RAYMOND EDWARD PERRY-HOOK*

Lieutenant

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, HMS Bramble

who died on

Thursday 31st December 1942, aged 32

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born in 1910, he was the son of Thomas and Esther Perry-Hook, and husband of Ethna Ruby Perry-Hook (nee Buxton). In 1911 he was living in Paignton with his family. In 1939 he was living in Buckfastleigh, working as a municipal engineer. At some time, he also lived at Hillmount, Hillside, Stoke Gabriel.

Commemorative Information

A Halcyon-class minesweeper, HMS Bramble had been part of a convoy when she became detached, searching for stragglers. While returning to the convoy, she encountered Admiral Hipper and three destroyers. Gun fire was exchanged and HMS Bramble was overwhelmed and sunk during the Battle of the Barents Sea. All hands including Raymond Perry-Hook died.

In Memory of

ARTHUR FRANK POTHAM

Lance Corporal

14574156

Royal Artillery (Anti-Tank)

who died on

Tuesday 26th December 1995, aged 79

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: The youngest brother of Edwin Prince and Sydney Thomas Potham, he was born on 6 September 1916 and worked on a farm. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939 at 7 The Hays and working as a cowman. He was thrilled to be the Standard Bearer for the Stoke Gabriel branch of the RBL in the early 1990's. He died the day before he was due to be presented with a certificate in appreciation of 50 year's work as a member of the branch. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 240.

Commemorative Information

Arthur Potham enlisted on 1 April 1943 and served in Monte Cassino as part of the resistance to the German advance in Italy. A Sergeant was due to recommend that he should be mentioned in dispatches but stepped on a landmine before he could write anything down!

In Memory of

EDWIN PRINCE POTHAM

Private

Stoke Gabriel Patrol

WFVU 82/1

who died on

Tuesday 16th August 1977, aged 65

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 10 February 1912 to Charles and Mary Potham, he married Violet M Randle in 1938. A farm worker, he resided at 10 The Greebys, Paignton and later at Whitehill Cottages, Stoke Road. His ashes are interred in Torquay.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Edwin Potham served from 28 September 1941 to 3 December 1944.

In Memory of

SYDNEY THOMAS POTHAM

Home Guard

who died on

Monday 16th January 1995, aged 81

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 14 April 1913 in Stoke Gabriel, he was a farm worker. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939 and married Muriel Evans in December 1944. He is the father of Ian Potham. His ashes are interred in the parish churchyard grave 287A.

Commemorative Information

The Home Guard was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment.

In Memory of

ARTHUR ALEC POTTER

Flight Sergeant

533811

Royal Air Force

who died on

Wednesday 21st February 1945, aged 26

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 9 August 1918 in Reading, he was the son of Reuben and Jane Potter, and foster son of Mrs M A Collings of Gate House, Stoke Gabriel.

Commemorative Information

Arthur Potter was captured on 8 March 1942 in Java. He subsequently died of malaria in the Prisoner-of-War camp at Sandakan, Borneo. He is buried/memorialised in Singapore Memorial Cemetery.

In Memory of

LORNA JOAN ROBINSON

Petty Officer

13338844

WRNS

who died on

Friday 5th January 2013, aged 90

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: She was born in Nancegollan, Cornwall on 6 June 1922. She married Frederick Martin Westcott Rowe, who also served in WW2, in January 1949, following a meeting on a yacht on the River Dart. She died in Torbay Hospital and her ashes are interred in Torquay Cemetery.

Commemorative Information

Lorna Robinson served from 1940 to 1945.

In Memory of

JOHN CHRISTOPHER WARD ROGERS

who died on

Monday 28th January 1974, aged 83

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born in Aveton Gifford on 23 November 1890 to parents, John Rogers and Elizabeth Grace Ward. In April 1927 he married Elizabeth Ellen Tuckett. In 1939 he was working as a farmer at Stoke Farm. He is buried with his wife in the parish churchyard in grave 121.

Commemorative Information

John Rogers was an Air Raid Warden, the main aim of which was to protect local civilians during hostile air raids.

In Memory of

FREDERICK MARTIN WESTCOTT ROWE

Lance Corporal

13063878

Corps of Military Police

who died on

Friday 6th March 1987, aged 76

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 18 February 1911 to parents, Ernest George Rowe, who served in WW1, and Sarah Louisa Gagg. In 1939 he was living in 1, Berkeley Square, Stoke Gabriel, working as a builder's foreman, carpenter and joiner. In January 1949, following a meeting on a yacht on the River Dart, he married Lorna Joan Robinson who also served in WW2. His ashes are interred in the parish churchyard in grave 387A. He is the father of Tony Rowe.

Commemorative Information

Frederick Rowe enlisted into the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps on 15 August 1940, following which in November, the same year, the unit was renamed the Pioneer Corps. On 1 February 1941 he transferred to the Corps of Military Police. He was discharged on 4 March 1946.

In Memory of

JAMES ALAN SANDEMAN-ALLEN

Warrant Officer

914507

RAF

who died on

Wednesday 21st May 2003, aged 83

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 15 November 1919 in Bromley, Kent, he was the son of Leonard Sandeman-Allen and Marjorie Gullick and known as both Jim and Sandy. In 1939, he was living in Guildford, Surrey and in July 1944 he married Joan Burton in Middlesex. In 1952 he was living in Marldon but by 1980 had moved to Stoke Gabriel, living at Dingley Dell, Rydon Acres. He was a member of the Guinea Pig Club, an association that was formed in July 1941 to support aircrew undergoing reconstructive plastic surgery after receiving burn injuries. He was appointed MBE for his charity work.

Commemorative Information

In early 1942, James Sandeman-Allen served in No. 232 Squadron in the East Indies. He was the top-scoring fighter pilot over Malaya and Singapore as they fell to the Japanese, destroying seven enemy aircraft. On one occasion he destroyed two fighters and one bomber within a few minutes, and on another occasion, he destroyed two fighters over an aerodrome in Java. He was among the last of surviving Hurricane fighter pilots to get out of Singapore in time.

Having reached Sumatra, he strafed landing barges and advancing Japanese troops. In a final engagement, his Hurricane was riddled with cannon shells and bullets, wounding him in the head and in one leg and forcing him to land. He was evacuated to Australia in a KLM airliner before returning to Britain. On 14 August 1942 he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Following his return home, James Sandeman-Allen had a short spell as a flight sergeant in No 56, a Typhoon fighter-bomber squadron, before moving to No 182 Squadron on his promotion to Warrant Officer. On 30 June 1943, he was attacking an enemy flak (anti-aircraft) train at Yvetot Junction in France at low level when a Bofors shell exploded on the right side of his cockpit, shattering his leg and his right arm. Contriving to fly with his left arm, while setting the rudder against his useless leg, he turned for home and successfully landed at Tangmere. Six months later, although still on crutches, he resumed operations with his squadron.

On 11 May 1945 he relinquished his Commission as a Flying Officer.

In Memory of

CHRISTOPHER CHARLES LEWIS SHEPHERD*

Able Seaman

D/JX267361

HMS President III, Royal Navy

who died on

Thursday 23rd September 1943, aged 35

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 13 May 1908 in Plymouth, he was the son of Christopher and Agnes Shepherd, and the husband of Ethel Collings of Stoke Gabriel. He was the brother of Howard Lewis Shepherd who also served in WW2, and the brother-in-law to Francis Ernest Collings who was killed in action during WW1. He was living in Beverley, Broadpath in 1939, working as a labourer. He died suddenly from a war-related illness and is buried in the parish churchyard in CWGC grave 217.

Commemorative Information

Christopher Shepherd's service number indicates that he was a long service seaman from Devonport Port Division.

HMS President III was a Royal Navy shore establishment during the war. From 28 August 1939, it operated in Bristol training Defensive Equipped Merchant Ships (DEMS) gunners.

In Memory of

HOWARD LEWIS SHEPHERD

Private

4130475

Royal Artillery

who died on

Monday 28th October 1985, aged 66

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 16 October 1919, he was the son of Christopher and Agnes Shepherd of Stoke Gabriel. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939, working as a horseman on a farm. He was the brother to Christopher Charles Lewis Shepherd.

Commemorative Information

Howard Shepherd enlisted on 11 March 1940 into the 87th Anti-Tank Regiment which was converted into the 7th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. On 7 November 1942 he was posted to 56 (King's Own) Anti-Tank Regiment in India, subsequently transferring first to the 8 Field Regiment and then to the 60 Field Regiment. On the 8 December 1944, he transferred to the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. He transferred to the Reserves on 1 September 1946.

In Memory of

SYDNEY JOHN COSE SQUIRES

164th Light AA Battery Royal Artillery (Territorial)

who died on

Monday 31st January 2017, aged 98

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 10 July 1918, he was a grocery roundsman who lived at No.2 Stokeleigh, Flood St. He married his wife, Rosina Cantelo, in Stoke Gabriel in 1939 where they lived at the time but later moved to South Brent where he died.

Commemorative Information

Sydney Squires enlisted into the 55th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which joined the British Expeditionary Force in France. In April 1940 the regiment was diverted to the Allied expedition against Narvik in Norway. After evacuation 55th (Devon) LAA Regiment landed in the UK on 13 June and was sent to Troon to re-equip with Bofors guns and then supplement AA Command's defences. In early 1941 it joined the 45th AA Brigade covering South Wales in 9th AA Division. Simultaneously the regiment was part of the War Office Reserve, available for service overseas.

In Memory of

FREDERICK JAMES WILLIAM STEELE

Warrant Officer

561898

214 Squadron, Royal Air Force

who died on

Thursday 19th April 1945, aged 32

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 9 January 1912, he was the son of James William and Ada Steele of Stoke Gabriel. His service record gives Stoke Gabriel as his place of residence.

Commemorative Information

Frederick Steele enlisted in 1930. He was delivering a Wellington to North Africa on 7 December 1940 when it hit a barrage balloon over France. The crew bailed out in error and were captured, becoming Prisoners-of-War. While he was in a column of prisoners being force marched west, ahead of the Russian advance, it was shot up by RAF Tornados. Over 50 were killed including Frederick Steele. He is buried/memorialised at Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery.

In Memory of

ALFRED CHARLES TUCKER

**Sergeant
Stoke Gabriel Patrol
WIOB 79/1
who died on
Wednesday 5th January 1972, aged 62**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 8 July 1909 and known as Alf, he married Susie Kathleen Collings in 1933. A farmer and carpenter, he resided at Fairwain, Vicarage Road. He was also a boat builder, working in Totnes. He lived next door to Alfred John King. He was living in Stoke Gabriel in 1939. His daughter, Lucy, is Norman the Verger's cousin. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 27.

Commemorative Information

Alf Tucker came to Stoke Gabriel as a Billeting Officer for the evacuees from the cities.

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Alf Tucker served from 23 September 1941 to 12 March 1943, on which day he transferred to the 10th Battalion (Torbay) Home Guard.

In Memory of

THOMAS EDWARD WAKEHAM

Lance Sergeant

7885551

'B' Squadron, 3rd (The King's Own) Hussars

who died on

? June 1995, aged 80

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 14 November 1914 to parents, Thomas Albe and Daisy Eveline Wakeham. In 1939 he was married to Pearl Una Basten and they were living at 1, Ivy Cottage, Berkeley Square, Stoke Gabriel.

Commemorative Information

Thomas Wakeham served with the 3rd King's Own Hussars who were brigaded with the 4th Hussars in the 1st Armoured Brigade in 1939. After the fall of France, they shipped to North Africa and were assigned to the 7th Armoured Brigade. The regiment served in the North African campaign. In 1941, B Squadron was sent to Singapore as reinforcements but with the fall of Singapore was diverted to Java. After a brief fight, the regiment was ordered to surrender and the men spent the rest of the war as Prisoners-of-War of the Japanese army. 54 of the prisoners died in the camp. The few survivors returned to the regiment in 1945 after the war had ended. The remainder of the regiment fought as part of the 9th Armoured Brigade in the Battle of El Alamein. After the campaign in North Africa, the 3rd King's Own Hussars next saw action in the Italian campaign, serving through 1944 and 1945. He was Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

In Memory of

CHARLES NEVILLE WATSON

**Private
Stoke Gabriel Patrol
WGFZ 2/1
who died on
Tuesday 14th June 1964, aged 66**

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: Born on 27 September 1897, he lived at the Gentleman's Club, Roundham, Paignton. In 1939 he was the hotel manager of the Victoria Hotel, Torquay.

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.

Charles Watson served from 25 October 1941 to 10 October 1942. He was also the ARP Warden.

In Memory of

DAVID WILLIAMS

Admiral

who died on

Monday 16th July 2012, aged 90

Connection to Stoke Gabriel: He was born on 22 October 1921 in Ashford, Kent and educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He married Phillipa Stevens in 1947. He was knighted as KCB in 1975 and GCB in 1977. In October 1982 he became the Governor of Gibraltar, a position which he held until November 1985. He retired to Stoke Gabriel in 1996. He is buried in the parish churchyard in grave 586.

Commemorative Information

David Williams began his training at sea as a midshipman in the late 1930s, coinciding with the outbreak of war. Apart from four months of sub-lieutenant's courses at Portsmouth, he was continuously at sea for the next six years. By the end of the war he had seen service in five ships on the Northern Patrol, in the blockade of Germany, Arctic convoys, the bombardment of Oran, Churchill's return from the Quebec conference, the landings in North Africa, carrier aircraft attacks on Japanese installations at Sabang and Surabaya, and the last attacks on the Japanese mainland before VJ-day.

After the war he specialised in gunnery, served in the Mediterranean as flotilla gunnery officer, and in the early 1950s took part in the Navy's guided missile trials. In 1959 he commanded the navigational training ship Jewel, then attached to Dartmouth, before graduating from the US Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

David Williams was promoted to captain and served as naval assistant to Admiral Sir Caspar John, the First Sea Lord, from 1961 to 1964. Then, he commanded the guided missile destroyer, HMS Devonshire, until 1966 before returning to Dartmouth as Captain of the College (1968-70). Promoted to rear-admiral, he was Flag Officer, second-in-command Far East Fleet (1970-72). As a vice-admiral he was director-general naval manpower and training (1972-74); and as a full admiral he was Second Sea Lord and chief of naval personnel (1974-77).

In Memory of
STOKE GABRIEL HOME GUARD



Back Row (L to R): *Bob Lewis, Alf Tucker, Erne Knapman, Arthur Potham, Eddie Baker, Royston Baker, Ivor Adams;*

Cyril Collings, Syd Potham, Stan Collings, Mr William Warren, Squib Hill, Mr Chubb, Mr Owen, Mr Mcray, Len Derges, Shed Jordan, J Knight, Bill Goodchild, Wally Maddock;

Reg Baker, Martin Lugg, Tom Lugg, Jack Knight, Mr Sunderland, Charles Watson, Frank Harvey, Gordon Herod, Arthur Seymour;

Front Row (L to R): *EOH Hill (Sam Dyer), Bob Jones, Les Frost, Joe Jordan, Harry Hotten, Alf King, Jimmo Collings, Fred John Hodge, Boylo (Edwin) Potham.*

Commemorative Information

The Home Guard was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment.

In Memory of
STOKE GABRIEL PATROL



Members of Stoke Gabriel Patrol included Reginald Victor Baker, Francis Leslie Chubb, Alfred James Collings, Frederick John Hodge, Charles Kiff, Alfred John King, Edwin Prince Potham, Alfred Charles Tucker, and Charles Neville Watson. The photograph shows Devon Group 4 Auxiliars and Commanders of Brixham, Marldon and Stoke Gabriel Patrols. Members of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol shown in the photograph include in the back row (L to R): *Reginald Victor Baker, Edwin Prince Potham, 3, 4, 5, Francis Leslie Chubb, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Alfred James Collings and Charles Kiff*; in the middle row (L to R): *1, 2, Alfred John King, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.*

Commemorative Information

Stoke Gabriel Patrol was an Auxiliary Unit within the Home Guard. It was a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers, drawn from those who could live off the land, such as farmers, gardeners, gamekeepers and poachers. Having witnessed the rapid fall of several Continental European nations, Britain was the only country during the war that was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion. The Home Guard was thus prepared to be Britain's last-ditch line of defence during World War 2. East of the church lychgate within the parish orchard was a hut which was used by the Home Guard to store their military equipment. The Operational Base of the Stoke Gabriel Patrol unit was on the edge of East Wood, below Sandridge Barton on the east bank of the River Dart, downriver from the village.