

# **CANNINGTON**

## **WAR MEMORIALS**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THOSE WHO  
FOUGHT AND DIED FROM OUR VILLAGE**

**1914 - 1918**

**1939 - 1945**

**ROBIN CHILD**



Delivered free to each household in CANNINGTON  
in order that those who gave their lives  
will not be forgotten.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The First World War between Great Britain and Germany commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1914 as a result of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand which had occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914 in Sarajevo in the Balkans. Prior to this declaration Germany had declared war on a number of other countries including France and Belgium. It was on the 4<sup>th</sup> August that Germany invaded Belgium causing Great Britain to go to her aid. In the ensuing four years, until the final ceasefire took effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November 1918, twenty young men of Cannington would die alongside the millions from both sides who paid the ultimate price in the service of their countries. An uneasy peace descended on Europe.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, following months of negotiations which had failed to resolve differences, Great Britain, Australia, Canada and France again declared war on Germany and subsequently Italy and Japan. Before final peace was declared on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1945 Russia, China and the United States of America would become involved. During the course of this conflict a further seven men from the village would die. Another two men were to be buried in our cemetery although they did not live within the village.

It will be noted that under some entries Chads Hill has been spelt Ched's Hill, this is the spelling used in official documents of the time and in connection with those entries I have used that spelling.

This booklet has been published in order that those people who are named on our War Memorial, or who are buried in our cemetery, as a result of the conflicts will not be forgotten.

*'Oh, it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,  
an' Tommy go away'  
But it's "Thank you Mr. Atkins"  
when the band begins to play.*

*Rudyard Kipling.*

**WE WILL NOT FORGET THEM.**

## **Acknowledgements.**

Many people have helped me to compile the personal histories but I must offer special thanks to Gregg Harrison of Grangetown, Cardiff, the historian for 100 Squadron, Royal Air Force for many of the details regarding Air Force personnel and their flying histories in WW2. Also to the Royal Air Force Air Historical Branch at RAF Northolt for their help. I must also thank Lady Sally Wade-Gery for extensive details relating to Captain R.H. Wade-Gery in World War One and Les Quartly of Cannington for the personal details of the Bushell/Lye histories in World War Two. Photographs of the memorials in the Parish Church of St. Mary are reproduced by kind permission of the Rector, the Revd. Prebendary Peter Martin. Also invaluable help was given by the Somerset Heritage Centre staff.

This publication could not have been produced without the assistance of Sedgemoor District Council Community Grants Committee and Cannington Parish Council.

My grateful thanks are extended to the above and all who helped in any way.

## **Corrections and Additions.**

The compiling of this booklet has been hampered due to the lack of local documents relating to a) the provision of the Memorial in the early 1920's and b) the lack of any local personal details of the persons named on that Memorial. The contents of this publication have therefore had to be obtained from many sources. If you believe any of the facts to be incorrect, or have knowledge of further details concerning any of the named persons, please contact Robin Child on 01278 653269.

**Cannington Website:** [www.cannington.org.uk](http://www.cannington.org.uk). The village website contains details of the events in the village, persons buried in the cemetery and also Cannington's War dead.

*Printed by: Sarum Graphics, Salisbury. 01722 324733*

**IMPORTANT DATES – WORLD WAR  
TWO IN EUROPE/AFRICA**

**1944**

First quarter	Field Marshal Erwin Rommel appointed to oversee defence of French coast.
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Allied Forces land at Anzio, Italy.
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Allied bombers attack German position on Monte Casino.
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Monte Casino falls to Allied Forces.
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Hitler at Rastenburg, East Prussia, by Count Staffenberg.
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Battle of Arnhem. Allied losses 2000 troops killed, 7000 missing. German losses 1300 killed. 2000 missing (estimated).
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Start of the Battle of the Bulge. German losses at end 100.000 men and 1000 aircraft.

**1945**

23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	British Forces cross the River Rhine.
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Mussolini is hung from a lamppost by Italian Partisans.
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Hitler commits suicide in the Fuhrer Bunker in Berlin.
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	German Forces in Italy surrender to Allies.
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Unconditional surrender of all German Forces.
8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day in United Kingdom.

**1945**

**FAR EAST THEATRE**

6 <sup>th</sup> August	First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	General MacArthur accepts surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay.

*Note: The important dates listed are only a representative collection of events from the two World Wars. The WWII list does not show the majority of the Far East Theatre dates, only the conclusion from VE Day to VJ Day.*

**THE HISTORY OF THE CANNINGTON WAR MEMORIAL**

On February 19<sup>th</sup> 1919 a parish meeting was held in the village school to discuss the question of a War Memorial. At this meeting the Revd Mallett, the local vicar, proposed the erection of a village wayside cross in front of the Cottage Home and also, that if enough money was raised, a tablet be erected in the Parish Church with the names of all who fought in the Great War. He also said that we should have a cross to '*remind our men of France where they saw so many crosses*'. This proposal was carried and a committee was formed. In 1920 Mr Henry Hales Pleydell Bouverie of Brymore House donated to the parish council the land the cross was erected on. The trustees at that time being the Vicar, the Churchwardens and the Chairman of the parish council. The cross was dedicated in 1920. The tablet was also erected in the Church that year. The total cost was £252.7s.9d (£252.38p).

In July 1922 the parish council acquired a 6" howitzer shell to be displayed alongside the War Memorial. Again Mr. Bouverie donated the land for the display of the shell. At this time the current grass area at the junction of Rodway was a garden area surrounded by metal railings. The shell and railings were to be taken as scrap during World War Two in one of the scrap drives common at that time.

Following World War Two a further six names were added to the plaque on the Memorial, with a further name be added subsequently.

During the building of Hinkley Point 'A' station the War Memorial was moved eight feet closer to the junction in 1957. Fortunately the new site was still within the original donated land.

In 2008, as a result of complaints regarding advertising being placed on the triangle, enquiries were made to confirm ownership of the site by the parish council. It was found that no registration had ever been submitted to the Land Registry Office. Ownership was immediately registered and subsequently, following application, the memorial was granted a Grade II listing by English Heritage. This should ensure that the War Memorial remains a central focal point within the village for the future.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

A total of 27 men from the two World Wars are remembered on the Village War Memorial, with a further two deceased from World War Two being buried in Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) marked graves in Cannington Cemetery who are not named on the Memorial.

### WORLD WAR ONE

**ALLEN. Frederick James** His parents lived in Rodway, Cannington where his father was a police sergeant. He emigrated to Canada and served as Private 22876, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Central Ontario Regiment, Canadian Army. Pvt. Allen was killed in action on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917, aged 24 years. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. There are a total of 11,168 names on the Memorial who have no known grave.

**BARRETT. Benjamin** His parents lived at Lime Kilns, Cheds Hill, Cannington. He served as Private 16876, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and was killed in action on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1915, aged 35 years, on the Ypres front. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Panel 21. The Memorial records a total of 54,896 names. .

**CHALKER. Edwin George** His parents lived in Gurney Street, Cannington. He served as Private 100332 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Pvt. Chalker died on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1916, aged 19 years and is buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France, Grave 15, plot B, Row 26.

**CHEDGEY. Harry Charles** The son of Charles and Maria Chedgey, High Street, Cannington. A married man who lived in Stonehouse, Plymouth, he served as a Lance-Corporal in the Royal Marines Light Infantry and was killed in action on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1915, aged 32 years. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey. This is one of 20,885 Allied names on the Memorial.

**CHEDGEY. Tom George** Emigrated to Canada (1911?). the son of Charles and Maria Chedgey. He served as Private 22976 in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Manitoba Regiment and the 56<sup>th</sup> Scottish Regiment, Canadian Army. He was killed in action, aged 27 years, on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais. France.

## IMPORTANT DATES – WORLD WAR TWO IN EUROPE/AFRICA

### 1939

1<sup>st</sup> September German Forces invade Poland.  
3<sup>rd</sup> September Britain declares war on Germany in support of Poland.  
16<sup>th</sup> October First German air raid on Britain.

### 1940

15<sup>th</sup> April British Forces land near Narvik, Norway. Forced to withdraw.  
10<sup>th</sup> May Chamberlain resigns and Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain.  
German Forces invade Belgium and Holland.  
27<sup>th</sup> May Allied Forces evacuate Dunkirk. 338.000 troops rescued.  
10<sup>th</sup> June Italy declares war on Britain.  
11<sup>th</sup> June Battle for Malta commences.  
25<sup>th</sup> June Final surrender of France to German Forces.  
30<sup>th</sup> June German Forces invade and occupy Channel Islands.  
10<sup>th</sup> July Battle of Britain commences.  
25<sup>th</sup> August Royal Air Force bomb Berlin.  
7<sup>th</sup> September Start of the London Blitz.  
12<sup>th</sup> October Battle of Britain ceases.

### 1941

12<sup>th</sup> February F/Marshall Rommel arrives in Tripoli. Start of desert war.  
10<sup>th</sup> April German siege of Tobruk commences.  
10<sup>th</sup> December Siege of Tobruk lifted  
11<sup>th</sup> December United States of America declares war on Japan, Germany & Italy.

### 1942

27<sup>th</sup> March British Commando raid on St. Nazaire docks France.  
16<sup>th</sup> April Malta awarded George Cross by King George VI.  
13<sup>th</sup> April General Montgomery takes command of British Desert Forces.  
14<sup>th</sup> August Unsuccessful Dieppe, France, raid by Canadian Forces  
23<sup>rd</sup> October Battle of El Alamein.

### 1943

11<sup>th</sup> May Axis Forces surrender in the desert to the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army  
16<sup>th</sup> May RAF 617 Squadron bomb Mohne and Eder dams in Germany  
10<sup>th</sup> July Allied invasion of Sicily.  
25<sup>th</sup> July Mussolini, Italian dictator, overthrown.

## IMPORTANT DATES – WORLD WAR ONE

### 1914

- 4<sup>th</sup> August Great Britain declares war on Germany.  
5<sup>th</sup> August British Expeditionary Force [BEF] prepares to sail to France.  
1<sup>st</sup> October First Battle of Arras, France.  
15<sup>th</sup> October First Battle of Ypres, Belgium.

### 1915

- 25<sup>th</sup> April Allies land at Gallipoli, Turkey.  
31<sup>st</sup> May First Zeppelin airship raid on London.

### 1916

- 9<sup>th</sup> February Great Britain introduces conscription.  
21<sup>st</sup> February German attack on Verdun  
31<sup>st</sup> May Naval Battle of Jutland  
1<sup>st</sup> July Somme offensive commences

### 1917

- 6<sup>th</sup> April USA declares war on Germany  
9<sup>th</sup> April Allies commence second Battle of Arras  
12<sup>th</sup> April Canadian Forces capture Vimy Ridge near Arras.  
7<sup>th</sup> June Flanders offensive – Allies capture Messine  
13<sup>th</sup> June First German Gotha aircraft bomber raid on London.  
6<sup>th</sup> November Allied Forces capture Passchendale, Ypres Front.

### 1918

- 1<sup>st</sup> April Formation of the Royal Air Force.  
23<sup>rd</sup> April British naval raid on Zeebrugge, Belgium  
8<sup>th</sup> August Start of Allied attack on Amiens. German 2<sup>nd</sup> Army collapses.  
8<sup>th</sup> October Allies attack on Cambrai, France  
11<sup>th</sup> November Armistice declared on all active fronts.  
21<sup>st</sup> November German High Seas Fleet surrenders at Rosyth, Scotland.

### 1919

- 21<sup>st</sup> June German High Seas Fleet scuttled in Scapa Flow, Scotland.

**CROCKER. Archibald George** Is shown on the 1911 census as living in Church Street, Cannington. Served as Private 10119 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards and was killed in action on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1914, aged 21 years. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Panel 11. His family had originally lived in Chads Lane, Cannington. (1901 census).

**ELWORTHY. Fred** Originally lived in Tiverton, his mother subsequently moved to work for Dr. Collins at The Priory, Cannington. He served in the Machine Gun Corps as Private 17742. He died of Influenza during an epidemic and was buried at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, India on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918, aged 33 years. It is believed that the original grave has not been maintained, but he is remembered on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, Face 11.

**FLOWER. Charles** His parents lived at Horn Hill, Cannington. He was a married regular soldier who served as Sergeant 4389 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. He was medically discharged in 1915 and died on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1916, aged 37 years. He is buried at the Holy Trinity Church, Frome, Somerset.

**FOX. Andrew Michael** A married man living in Frog [East] Street, Cannington. He was the father of Andrew Moyse Fox (See below). He served as Sergeant 7837 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. His cause of death is not known but he died on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1915 at home and is buried in Cannington Cemetery, Grave 534. Mrs Fox subsequently moved to the High Street and then to London. His grave is marked with a CWGC headstone.

**FOX. Andrew Moyse** Son of Andrew Michael Fox. The son's name should not have been included on the War Memorial as he was medically discharged from the Army as 'Discharged as permanently unfit' on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1914, prior to the start of the war. He had served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Lancashire Regiment as Private 9012 and died of meningitis on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1915, aged 21 years, 9 days after his father. He is buried in Cannington Cemetery, alongside his father, in Grave 541. The grave is marked with an unofficial copy of a CWGC headstone.

**GARDNER. Anthony Charles James** (Also spelt as Gardener) He is known to have worked in the Blue Anchor Inn, Brook Street, Cannington, prior to the war, otherwise his background is not known. He served as Private 23146 with the Somerset Light Infantry before transferring to the Tank Corps (69440). He died in the UK and is buried in Cannington Cemetery (Grave 529). The grave is marked with a CWGC headstone.

**GIBBS. Harry John** Born in 1893, the son of Francis and Bessie Gibbs of Blackmore Lane, Cannington, Harry served as Sergeant 9331 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. He was killed in action on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915 near Ypres, Belgium. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Ypres Memorial at the Menin Gate, on Panel 21.

**KNIGHT. Clement** The son of James and Caroline Knight of Gurney Street, Cannington. He was born at Over Stowey and served as Private 16960 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. He died, aged 32 years, on the Somme on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916. His grave is in Daours Communal Cemetery, near Amiens, France, Plot 11, Row A, Grave 8.

**LOVERIDGE Elias Walter** The son of John and Elizabeth Loveridge of 'Belle Vue', High Street, Cannington. He was married in 1915. Born in Cannington, he served as Private 54273 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. He was killed in action on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1917 near Ypres, Belgium, aged 22 years. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Ypres Memorial at the Menin Gate on Panel 36 – 38.

**MARTIN. William Charles** The son of Thomas and Elizabeth Martin of Myrtle House, Cannington, he emigrated to Canada and lived with his wife in Strathcona, Alberta. A surveyor by occupation he enlisted in 'D' company of the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Alberta Regiment, in July 1915, serving as Private 466617. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1917 he was killed in action near Ypres, Belgium. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Ypres Memorial at the Menin Gate, on Panel 24-28-30. There is a brass plaque in remembrance of William Martin in St. Mary's Church, Cannington.

## **WHEN THE AMERICAN ARMY CAME TO CANNINGTON.**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1944 a train stopped in Bridgwater and discharged members of the 535<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Artillery Battalion United States Army who were to go on and set up their camp at Brymore House, Cannington, prior to their taking part in the D-Day Normandy landings on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

A tented camp was set up in the grounds adjacent to the house and very quickly the house was being guarded by armed sentries. A club was started in the High Street but the majority of the troops spent their off-duty time in Bridgwater.

The arrival of these troops was to affect the village in a number of ways. Both sides found the mannerisms of the other to be strange, but rapidly both settled down to accept the other.

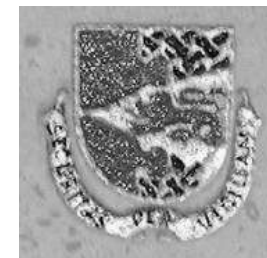
In April 1944 the 535<sup>th</sup> took part in Exercise Tiger off Slapton Sands, Devon, and one of the landing craft containing members of the 535<sup>th</sup> had the unnerving experience of seeing torpedoes launched by German E-boats pass the craft, one to the front and one to the rear.

The troops left Brymore during May and travelled to their embarkation area, Dartmouth, where they embarked on LST's. They were to travel to Utah beach to provide anti-aircraft cover for the landing troops and were to remain involved in the fighting until the surrender of the German army in May 1945.

In 2004 a memorial to the 535<sup>th</sup> was dedicated in Cannington Parish Church.

In 2014 there are still residents who are in contact with survivors of the battalion.

**The US Army troops are gone but will not be forgotten**



**535<sup>th</sup> AAA Emblem**

**WHITE. Wallace John** A Leading Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force, 926115 White was a member of 2924 Squadron RAF Regiment and stationed in Cyprus. He was a member of the RAF Volunteer Reserve. LAC White was married and his parents, Frederick and Annie White lived at 7 Southbrook, Cannington. He was 23 years of age at the time of his death and is buried in the Nicosia War Cemetery, Grave I.C.12. He is also remembered on a plaque in St. Mary's Church, Cannington.

**WILLIAMS. Edward** A driver with the Royal Artillery, 1103265 Williams, the son of Edward and Emily Williams he served in Burma where he was to lose his life, aged 28 years, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1944. His remains were not recovered and he is remembered on the Rangoon Memorial, Burma, Face three.

### **FALKLANDS ISLANDS WAR 1982**

**BARR. ANDREW** Able Seaman (Sonar) D171207C Barr, aged 20 years, lost his life when his ship, HMS Ardent\*, sank on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1982 following being bombed in Grantham Sound and off North West Island. His remains were not recovered. Although a resident of Bridgwater he had previously been a member of the Cannington Army Cadet Force and is remembered on a plaque at the premises.

### **STRANGE BUT TRUE**

#### **1. Best of Friends**

Flight Sergeant Lye, in his will, arranged that should his friend Sergeant, later promoted to Flying Officer, Peter Bushell, be killed during the war that he should be buried in the adjacent plot to his in Cannington Cemetery. Peter was killed in a car accident in Weston super Mare in April 1945 and he was buried in the next plot. Peter had spent all his leave periods with Mervyn and his parents in Chads Hill.

#### **2. Unwelcome News.**

Able-Seaman Kenneth W. MacGregor-Reid finished his trade training as a Bofors gunner and was due to go on leave prior to his posting. At the last minute he was posted to the SS Corinia, a collier, sailing out of Blyth bound for Cowes, Isle of Wight. His mother, on being told that a telegram had arrived at her home at Speedwell Cottage Combwich and, believing it was to tell her when Kenneth would be arriving home on leave, rushed home only to find it was to inform her that he had been killed in action.

(\*Apology - In the original print of this booklet HMS Ardent was wrongly named as HMS Argent.)

**NAPPER. Reginald Charles** The son of Charles and Ellen Napper of Cheds Hill, Cannington He served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment as Private 45943. He was unmarried and died, aged 18 years, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918 of wounds received and is buried in Grave 5, Plot 1, Row D of the Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Northern France.

**NURTON. John Stanley (Jack)** The son of Frederick and Caroline Nurton of Stradlings Hill, Cannington. He served as Private 19716 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. He died on the 13th March 1918 aged 23 years and is buried in the Ham British Cemetery, Muille-Villette, Northern France, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9.

**TUCKER. William** The son of James and Angelina Tucker of East Street, Cannington. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Coldstream Guards as Private 10364. He died of wounds received on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918 aged 22 years and is buried in the Bac du Sud British Cemetery, Bailleulval, Pas de Calais, France, Plot 111, Row A, Grave 24.

**WADE-GERY. Robert Hugh** Born in Bedfordshire he was the son of Arthur Staughton and Mary Elizabeth Wade-Gery who moved to Belvedere House, Rodway, Cannington. He was married and a regular soldier, a Captain, serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Having originally taken the first anti-aircraft gun to France, he was 32 years old when he was killed in action near Poziers, France, on the 18 July 1916 whilst directing fire during the Battle of the Somme. He had previously been awarded the Military Cross and special recommendation when, under fire during the Battle of Loos in February 1916, he took over command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery (6" howitzers). He is buried in Norfolk Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, France, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 93. His parents are buried in Cannington Cemetery.

**WINSBORROW. Leslie William** Is entered on the 1911 census as living at Winsborrow's shop, High Street, Cannington. The entry however is crossed out. He is believed to have been born in 1900 in London. He served as Private 161692, 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. He is believed to have been married and died in Belgium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1919. He is buried in Belgrade Cemetery, Namur, Belgium, Plot IV, Row A, Grave 10.

## WORLD WAR TWO

**BARRETT Leonard Joseph** He served as Lance Corporal with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and was killed in action on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1943 during the battle for Salerno, Italy, aged 23 years. He is buried in the Salerno War Cemetery, Plot 11, Row C, Grave 45. No other details are known at this time.

**BRAINE Henry Edward** Having served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment in WWI, he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Regiment at the start of WWII. On the night of the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> June 1943 aged 46 years, Captain Braine was in charge of a party of RAF personnel crossing the Mediterranean Sea en-route to Africa on the troopship RMS 'Highland Chieftain'. Enquiries show that a number of men were lost at sea during this crossing, of whom Captain Braine was one. No information is available as to the circumstances. His family, at the time, lived at Green Doors, High Street, Cannington.

**BUNFIELD Harold Bernard** Private 5575949 Bunfield was born in Williton and lived at the Cottage Home, Rodway, Cannington. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment. On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1944 he died somewhere on the Indian Sub-Continent (Burma?). He was 22 years old when he died and is buried in the Kirklees War Cemetery, Plot 8, Row E, Grave 12.

**BUSHELL Peter Douglas Makinas** Flying Officer (Air Gunner) 54204 Bushell Royal Air Force first flew with 463 Squadron and then transferred to 83 (Pathfinder) Squadron stationed at RAF Conningsby, Lincolnshire flying Lancaster bombers. On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1945, aged 25 years, whilst on leave he was killed in Weston-super-Mare when the three wheeler car he was driving overturned. F/O Bushell was born in Barnet, London, but spent his Air Force leave periods with the family of his friend Mervyn Lye in Cannington. F/O Bushell is buried in Cannington Cemetery, Grave 1249. The grave is marked with a CWGC headstone. On the night of his death his squadron flew the last strategic bombing raid of the war on Tonsberg Oil Refinery, Norway. Although buried in the village cemetery he lived outside the village and therefore his name does not appear on the War Memorial. He is still remembered by some of the residents.

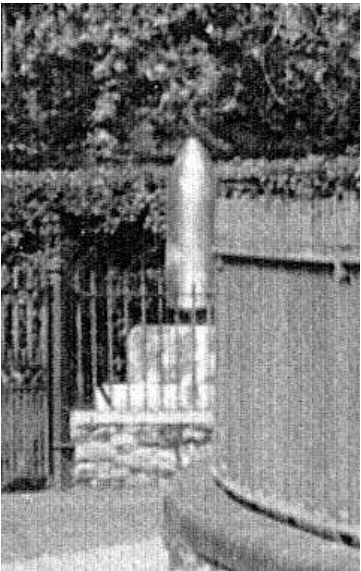
## World War Two (contd.)

**LOOK. John Edward** Royal Air Force Sergeant (Air Gunner) 1865658 Look was married. His parents, Henry and Ellen lived in Blackmore Lane and his wife Vera also lived in Cannington. He qualified at Number 5 Lancaster Finishing School on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1944 and was posted to 50 Squadron based at RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire. He had completed six operations over Germany when he was killed in action on a raid to Karlsruhe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1945. He is buried in Durnbach Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Bayern, Germany, Plot 8, Row G, Grave 18. Three German night-fighter crews claimed shooting down aircraft in the area on that night. This was the last major raid of WWII and the RAF lost 14 Lancaster bombers that night. (98 aircrew).

**LYE. Mervyn Courtney** Royal Air Force Sergeant (Air Gunner) 649159 Lye lived with his parents at Primrose Cottage, Chads Hill, Cannington. On completing his training he was posted to 100 Squadron flying Lancaster bombers from RAF Waltham near Grimsby. His aircraft was returning from his 22<sup>nd</sup> operation, against Kassel, Germany, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1943, when bad weather forced his aircraft to circle the airfield prior to landing. In so doing, and in poor visibility, the aircraft crashed into the side of a hill at North Elkington, near Louth, Lincolnshire. Three of the crew, including Sergeant Lye who was then 21 years of age, were killed in the crash. He is buried in Cannington Cemetery, Grave 1242, alongside his friend F/O Peter Bushell.

**MACGREGOR-REID. Kenneth George Watson** An Able-Seaman in the Royal Navy, serial D/JX223718 he was attached to HMS President III. At the time he was killed he was serving as a Bofors gunner on a collier, SS Corinia (870 G.R.T.) crossing the Straits of Dover en-route from Blyth to the Isle of Wight when his ship hit a mine. The ship was one of three to be sunk by mines at that time. Aged 42 at the time of his death, he had run away to sea from school and, by the time he was 21, he had circumnavigated the world four times. He then served on tankers prior to joining the Royal Navy and this was his first posting after training. His father having predeceased him, his mother and grandmother, Mrs M. Stone, lived at Speedwell Cottage, Combwich. He is buried in Cannington Cemetery, Grave 1226 which is marked with a CWGC headstone. Although buried in the village cemetery he lived outside the village and therefore his name does not appear on the War Memorial. He is still remembered.





Howitzer shell erected in 1922 alongside the War Memorial. The shell, together with the railings, were removed during World War Two.



Old postcard showing original location of War Memorial and adjacent railed garden. The memorial was moved forward during the construction of Hinkley Point 'A' power station.

**MEMORIALS IN CANNINGTON PARISH CHURCH**



Tablet showing the names of all who fought in World War One



Village War Memorial Names Plaque



Memorials to those killed in the two World Wars and the Memorial to members of the United States Army 535<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Artillery Battalion.



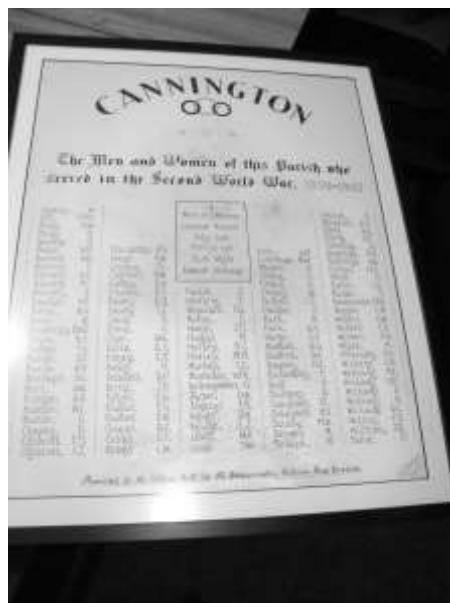
Memorial to former Somerset Farm Institute students who fell in World War Two. This Memorial still hangs in the main building of the Bridgwater College, Cannington Campus.



Capt. R.H. Wade-Gery, MC, R.G.A. Photo: Courtesy Lady Sally Wade-Gery



F/O (then Sgt) Peter Bushell and Sgt. Mervyn Lye, RAF, Photo taken at Sgt Lye's home in Chads Hill. Photo: Courtesy of Les Quartly, Cannington.



Framed Roll of Honour showing people from the village who went to fight in WWII. This list hangs in the upper hall of the Village Hall.



Pvt. Pete McLoughlin stands Guard at Brymore House, 535<sup>th</sup> AAA Battalion, 1944 US Army HQ, 1944 Photo: Ted Andreyka 535<sup>th</sup> AAA



Tents housing troops on the lawns of Brymore House. Photo: Thomas P. Elliott 535<sup>th</sup> AAA