

**Information on those listed on  
Borough Green War Memorial for WW2 and  
the Malayan Emergency  
(as published in the Voice magazine  
– all articles written by Suzanne Young)**



## World War 2 (1939 -1945)

Name	Regiment/Service	Rank	Service No.	Died	Age	Memorial/Cemetery
Ronald A Bramley	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Sergeant	1150208	8 Nov 1941	26	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey
George W Durling	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment	Private	6347586	24 May 1940	21	Dunkirk Memorial, France
Thomas G Foord	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment	Corporal	6347003	10 Jan 1944	24	Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar (Burma)
Sidney Francis	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	Lance Corporal	5389467	2 Mar 1944	32	Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy
Edgar H Green	Royal Artillery - 1st Medium Regiment	Gunner	14599918	21 Aug 1944	36	Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery, Kolkata, India
George F Hollman	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Leading Aircraftman	1440226	21 Jun 1943	34	St Peter's Church, Ightham, Kent
Ronald C W Powell	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Leading Aircraftman	1466045	9 Mar 1945	24	Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery, South Africa
Albert J Selman	Royal Navy	Petty Officer	C/J106752	25 Dec 1941	36	Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent
Frank Styance	Royal Armoured Corps - 43rd Reconnaissance Corps	Corporal	6345252	30 Apr 1945	28	Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany
David J Summers	Royal Marines	Marine	CH/X 112514	12 Feb 1945	21	Wissenkerke General Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

## Malayan Emergency (1948 - 1960)

Name	Regiment/Service	Rank	Service No.	Died	Age	Memorial/Cemetery
Leonard G Hollebon	Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment	Private	22413906	22 Aug 1951	19	Cheras Road Christian Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Sergeant Ronald Arthur Bramley (1915 – 1941)



Ronald Bramley was born on 15 September 1915 in the Malling area. He is the son of Sydney Arthur and Sarah Minnie Bramley (née Taylor) who were married in the spring of 1914. Currently there are no census records available showing Ronald with his family but the 1911 census shows his father, Sydney Arthur Bramley (22), living with his parents at 3 Hayes Cottages, Offham and working as a carpenter and joiner in the building industry. His mother, Sarah Minnie Taylor (25), was living with her parents at 2 Essex Villas, Borough Green and assisting with household duties.

The 1939 Register shows Sydney and Minnie Bramley living at 2 Essex Villas, Borough Green with Minnie's mother, Emily Taylor, and three children, Ronald Arthur Bramley (24) an invoice clerk at a paper mill, Kenneth C Bramley (22) a clerk in a commercial office and Millicent B Bramley (19) a clerk in the Council Offices. There are two more people listed, but these are officially closed. Sydney Arthur Bramley was a branch manager for the Ministry of Labour.

(Note: 1939 Register - An individual's record remains closed for 100 years from their date of birth (100 year rule). Records will remain closed for people born less than 100 years ago until proof of death is verified. These records will become available over time as a result of the 100 year rule.)

Ronald Arthur Bramley (Service No:1150208) was a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and was in the 150 Squadron. I understand that Ronald was a navigator on board a Vickers 271 Wellington bomber which took off from RAF Snaith (Yorkshire) at 18:20 on 7 November 1941, their mission was Mannheim, Germany. Unfortunately, the Wellington crashed off the Dutch coast (Lisselmeer, East of Medebilk) at 00:41 on 8 November 1941. His body was never found. Ronald Arthur Bramley died at the age of 26 and is listed on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

On 7 November 1941, RAF Bomber Command conducted night time raids on Berlin, Cologne and Mannheim with approximately 300 bombers. They lost 37 aircraft with poor weather conditions being attributed as the main cause for the heavy loss.

(Note: The Runnymede Memorial commemorates over 20,000 airman who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe, and who have no known graves.)

Ronald Arthur Bramley is also listed on a small memorial of two men from the congregation of Borough Green Baptist Chapel who died during the Second World War.

## George William Durling

George William Durling was born early in 1918 and is the son of Oliver Joshua and Lily Durling (née Crowhurst) who were married at St George's Church, Wrotham on 7 June 1911.

Prior to George's parents getting married, the 1911 census lists Oliver Durling as living at Trices, Ightham, with his mother Eliza Durling (widow) and his sister, Kate Eliza Durling, postmistress. Oliver was a farmer and a collector of rates and taxes. George's mother, Lily Crowhurst, was living at Whiffens Farm, Borough Green with her mother Blanche (widow), a farmer, Kate (sister), a dairy worker on farm, and George (brother), a farmer's son working on farm. Lily is listed as domestic farmer's daughter.

By 1939, Lily Durling was widowed and living at Sycamore Cottage, Ightham, with two of her children, Hubert Durling, a garage proprietor, and Eric Durling, a farmer, assisting an uncle. (**Note:** George does not appear to be listed on the 1939 Register and this may be that he has already joined the armed forces. The 1939 Register does not include service personnel in military, naval and air force establishments nor members of the armed forces billeted in private homes, including their own homes unless they are on leave!).

George William Durling (Service No: 6347586) was a Private in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (6th Battalion) and died on 24 May 1940 of wounds at Reavesdon Emergency Hospital, Watford, Hertfordshire, at the age of 21. He is remembered on the Dunkirk Memorial, France. George may have been wounded at Doullens, mentioned above and was sent back to England, before the start of the Battle of Dunkirk, where he died in the Reavesdon Emergency Hospital in Hertfordshire on 24 May 1940.

Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment during WW2 – France

In 1939, the 6th Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was attached to the 36th Infantry Brigade. On 19 April 1940 the Battalion was sent to France and became part of the 12th (Eastern) Division and part of the British

Expeditionary Force (BEF), where the Battalion performed labour duties. Then on 17 May 1940 the 6th Battalion were given orders to be ready to move at half an hour's notice - destination Doullens. At Doullens they took over road blocks which they defended for 8 hours, however the Germans launched a strong attack, supported by tanks, and the German pressure became overwhelming. All survivors, except 20 or so, were taken prisoner. Having passed through Doullens the Germans reached the English Channel and by 24 May, Dunkirk was the only port available to the British. The division suffered very heavy casualties in the Battle of Dunkirk (26 May to 4 June 1940), mainly due to most of the men being poorly trained and equipped and with little in the way of supporting units.

George William Durling is also listed on a small memorial of two men from the congregation of Borough Green Baptist Chapel who died during the Second World War.

### **Thomas George Foord**

Thomas George Foord was born on 20 October 1918 in Borough Green and is the son of John Thomas and Florence Maude Foord (née Judge) who were married on 23 April 1904 at Sutton Valance. The 1911 census shows Thomas' parents, John and Florence, living in New Hythe, Maidstone, Kent with five children - Gertrude (9), Grace (6), John (4), Florence (2) and Alice (3 months). John's occupation is listed as traction engine driver. By 1913, the family had moved to Borough Green where their daughters, Alice and Lily May, were baptised at St George's, Wrotham on 23 November 1913. Their address is listed as Station Road, Borough Green and John's occupation is listed as engine driver and then, by 1915, the family had moved again to 16 Rock Road, Borough Green.

The 1939 Register, taken on 29 September 1939, shows Thomas Foord living at 16 Rock Road, Borough Green with his parents. His father, John, has unfortunately had a stroke and is now listed as incapacitated. Thomas is listed as a general labourer at a brickworks.

Thomas George Foord (Service No: 6347003) was a Corporal in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (4th Battalion) and was part of the British Expeditionary Force in Burma when he was killed in action on 10 January 1944 at the age of 25. He is remembered on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar.

#### **Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment during WW2 - Burma Early 1944**

In December 1942 the 4th Battalion was sent to Burma and was transferred to the 161st Indian Infantry Brigade (alongside 1/1st Punjab Regiment and 4/7th Rajput Regiment), part of the 5th Indian Infantry Division. They fought in the 1944 Burma Campaign, where the 5th Indian Division captured the small port of Maungdaw on 9 January 1944 which was part of the Second Battle of Arakan. The Corps then prepared to capture two railway tunnels linking Maungdaw with the Kalapanzin valley, but the Japanese struck first. The Japanese held these tunnels very stubbornly and several attempts failed. During one of these attacks the 4th suffered over 60 casualties from "friendly" artillery fire. The 4th Battalion stayed with the 161st Indian Infantry Brigade throughout the war.

### **Sidney Francis**

Sidney Francis was born on 31 October 1912 and baptised in St George's Church, Wrotham, on 22 March 1914. Sidney Francis was the son of Horace and Emily Francis (née Allchin) who were married on 19 October 1901 in St Peter's Church, Ightham. At the time of Sidney's baptism, the family were living in Quarry Hill, Borough Green, and Horace was employed as a quarryman.

When the 1939 Register was taken, Horace and Emily Francis were living at 3 Jasmine Cottages in Quarry Hill, Borough Green, with two sons, Sidney (26), a general labourer in the building trade and George R (17), a loco driver at a roadstone quarry. Early in 1940 Sidney married Ellen A Hollands who was living at 2 Old Cottages, Western Road, Borough Green, in 1939.

Sidney Francis (Service No: 5389467) was a Lance Corporal in the 7th Battalion of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was part of the Expeditionary Force in Italy and was killed in action on 2 March 1944 at the age of 32. Lance Corporal Sidney Francis is buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery at Anzio in Italy. The site of the cemetery originally lay close to a casualty clearing station. Burials were made direct from the battlefield after the landings at Anzio and later after the Army had moved forward.

The 7th Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry took part in the landings at Salerno in September 1943 and then the Anzio landing in February 1944. They sustained heavy casualties in both landings and were under command of the US Fifth Army, led by Lieutenant General Mark Wayne Clark. The Battle of Anzio was a battle of the Italian Campaign which started on 22 January 1944 with the Allied amphibious landing known as Operation Shingle, and ended on 5 June 1944 with the capture of Rome. The fighting in March and April 1944 was restricted to local skirmishes, mortar and artillery duels, and night time patrolling in no-man's land. In many ways it was a repetition of the fighting on the Western Front during the First World War. Artillery caused the majority of infantry casualties. The sodden conditions in trenches and dugouts caused

many cases of trench foot. Malaria and other diseases were also a hazard in the mosquito-infested marshes. After the fighting at Anzio, the Battalion were reduced to a mere 60 men, out a strength of 1,000, testimony to the severe fighting in the beach head.

#### Landing Ships Unloading Supplies in Anzio Harbour 19-24 February

Stores are unloaded from LSTs (Landing Ship Tank) in Anzio harbour, 20 February 1944. The shallow slope of the invasion beaches made off-loading ships difficult, so the supply operation was quickly shifted to Anzio itself. Each day, six LSTs left Naples bringing 1,500 tons of fuel, ammunition and rations in 50 trucks.



### Edgar Harry Green



Edgar Harry Green was born on 8 November 1907 in Borough Green and is the son of Harry Miller and Bertha Green (née Weeks) who were married towards the end of 1905.

The 1911 census shows Harry and Bertha living at 1 Brook Cottage, Western Road, Borough Green with their son Edgar, Bertha's father Jesse and a boarder. Harry was a railway signalman working for the South East and Southern Railway, Bertha was a laundress and Edgar was three years old.

On 22 April 1935 Edgar married Phyllis Kitty Baldwin at Platt and they had two sons, Michael Alfred Green born in 1936 and Peter Anthony Edgar Green born in 1939.

The 1939 Register lists Edgar and Phyllis living at 1 Brook Cottage, Western Road (also known as 45 Western Road - next door to what is now Welham Jones Funeral Directors, it used to be Moye's Shoe Shop) and Edgar's parents, Harry and Bertha Green, living at 2 Brook Cottage, Western Road. Edgar was a plumber before being called up for service and his father became a signalman at Borough Green Signal Box by the station.

#### Information from Edgar Green's Service Record (Courtesy of Colin Green - Grandson of Edgar Harry Green):

The service record informs us that Gunner Edgar Green (No: 14599918) enlisted into the Territorial Army on 6 May 1943 and was posted to the General Service Corps.

He completed his primary training at Victoria Barracks in Maidstone before being transferred to the Royal Artillery - 9th Field Regiment on 17 June 1943. Then on 24 August 1943 he was transferred to the 180th Field Regiment. He remained in England until 13 January 1944 when the 180th Field Regiment was sent to the Deolali Depot in India.

On 28 March 1944 he was transferred to the 1st Medium Regiment and remained in India until his death at the age of 36 on 21 August 1944 (3rd Burma Campaign) having served 1 year and 109 days. He died of malaria and is buried in Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery, Kolkata, India. He received the 1939 -1945 War Medal and the Burma Star.

There is also a memorial to Edgar Green on a gravestone at Borough Green Baptist Chapel

(Note for Information: Deolali is located 100 miles north-east of Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Deolali was a transit camp for soldiers from the days of the British Raj until after the Second World War, acting as both a training camp for newly arrived soldiers and a point of embarkation for those returning home. During the Second World War, it was known as the British Base Reinforcement Camp and supplied reinforcements to the Fourteenth Army area.

The slang word, 'doolally' or 'doolal' is used to describe someone who is, 'out of one's mind' or 'crazy'. It is a derivation of, 'doolali-tap' and originates from the latter part of the nineteenth century. The first part of this phrase is derived from the name of a small military town in the Indian state of Maharashtra called Deolali. The second part is a Hindustani word for fever, often ascribed to malaria, although in Sanskrit, 'tapa' means simply heat or torment. Taken literally, it is best translated as 'camp fever' and by the time of the Second World War, the term had been shortened to 'doolally'.)



## **George Frederick Hollman**

George Frederick Hollman was born on 26 April 1909 and baptised on 25 July at St George's, Wrotham. He was the son of Ernest and Emily Jane Hollman (née Crouch) who were married on 21 October 1899 and were living in Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green.

The 1911 census shows Ernest and Emily living at 25 Chapel Street, Borough Green, with their family, Florence Emily (11), Ivy Ethel (9), Hurbert Ernest (4) and George Frederick (1). Ernest was employed as a delver in a stone quarry. In the autumn of 1935, George married Eva May Bance and they had one daughter, Angela S Hollman, who was born in the spring of 1936.

The 1939 Register lists George and Eva living at 8 Rock Road, Borough Green, with their daughter Angela, George's sister Ivy and her son Ernest H Mitchell. George was employed as a grocer's assistant and is also listed as being in the Reserve Corps of the Kent Special Constabulary.

George Frederick Hollman was a Leading Aircraftman in the RAF (Service No: 1440226) and was assigned to the 2739 Squadron of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. The 2739 Squadron moved to RAF Predannack on 16 June 1943: this is an aerodrome near Mullion on The Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall. George died on 21 June 1943 at the age of 34 in Cornwall and is buried in St Peter's Churchyard, Ightham.

## **Ronald Charles W Powell**

Ronald Charles W Powell was born in the spring of 1921 in the Brentford area. He is the son of Charles Henry and Nellie Rose Powell (née Norris) who were married on 2 August 1919 at All Saints Church, South Acton, Middlesex.

Unfortunately, I have very little information on Ronald Charles Powell (Service No: 1466045) however I do know that he was a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Ronald was stationed in Johannesburg when he died on 9 March 1945 at the age of 24. He is buried in the Johannesburg (West Park) Cemetery, Gauteng, South Africa. His father's First World War service record states a change of address dated May 1922 to Redcliffe, Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission also have Ronald's parents listed as Borough Green, Kent.

## **Albert James Selman**

Albert James Selman was born on 29 June 1906 at Oldbury Farm, Ightham. He is the son of James and Bessie Elizabeth Selman (née Chalklin) who were married in the spring of 1906 in the Malling area. The 1911 Census shows James and Bessie living in Forge Lane, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks. James and Bessie are working as farm labourers and have three children, Albert (4yrs 9mths), Mary (2yrs 10mths) and John (10mths). Albert's place of birth is listed as Oldbury Farm, Ightham.

Towards the end of 1931, Albert married Bertha Mitchell in the Malling area and they had a daughter Brenda J Selman who was born in 1932 in Medway. The 1939 Register lists Bertha Selman living at The Dene, Western Road, Borough Green and Albert's parents were living at 5 Quarry Hill, Borough Green.

Unfortunately, Second World War Service Records are not yet available to the public, however we do know that Albert J Selman (Service No: C/J106752) joined the Royal Navy. I believe he may have joined when he was about 18 as he was awarded the Royal Navy's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on 21 April 1939, at this time his rank was Able Seaman. He was promoted during the war and, when he died, on 25 December 1941 at the age of 36, he was a Petty Officer on HMS Tamar. The British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials Register has his place of death as Hong Kong and cause of death as "Missing – Death on War Service Presumed" and is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial and on the War Memorial in Ightham.

**For Information:** HMS Tamar was the name for the Royal Navy's base in Hong Kong from 1897 to 1997. It took its name from HMS Tamar, a ship that was used as the base until replaced by buildings ashore. Albert James Selman may have been involved in the Battle of Hong Kong (8–25 December 1941), also known as the Fall of Hong Kong.

## Corporal Frank Styance (1916 – 1945)



Frank Styance was born in 1916 and is the son of Thomas and Dorothy Styance (née Maynard) who were married in 1920 in the Malling area. In 1911, before Frank's parents were married, Thomas was boarding at Calverden Villa, Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green and his mother, Dorothy was living in Station Road, Borough Green. Thomas was employed as a bricklayer's labourer.

In 1939, Frank married Lillian O M Cornwell/Cornell and the 1939 Register shows Lillian living with her mother at Bassetts Cottages in St Mary's Platt (between Holly Mount and the brickyard).

Frank Styance (Service No: 6345252) was a Private in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and from casualty records I do know that he was wounded in May 1940. However, when he was killed in action on 30 April 1945 he was a Corporal serving in the Royal Armoured Corps, 43rd Reconnaissance Corps (2/5th Btn, Gloucestershire Regiment). He was one of six men killed when two cars passed over a 500kg bomb that exploded. He was 28 years old and is buried in the Becklingen War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.



All photographs courtesy of Alan Styance (Nephew of Frank Styance)

## David John Summers

David John Summers was born on 24 September 1924 and is the son of Frederick Charles and Mabel Summers (née Russell) who were married in 1923.

In 1939 David Summers was living with his parents, Charles and Mabel, at 25 Spencer's Cottages, Station Road, Borough Green. David was a general agricultural worker working with horses and his father is also listed as a general agricultural worker. David's father is also listed as being part of a demolition and rescue team, part of the preparations for WW2.

Unfortunately, I am unable to find much information on David John Summers (CH/X 112514) but I do know that he was a Royal Marine on LCS (M) 902 (Landing Craft Support). He died on 12 February 1945 at the age of 21 and is buried in the Wissenkerke General Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands.



A Landing Craft Support (Medium) in South West Holland

The Landing Craft Support was used to provide heavy machine gun firepower close in. The Landing Craft Support (Medium) (LCS (M)), Mark 2 and Mark 3 were used by the British forces at Normandy. The crew was Royal Navy, with Royal Marines to operate the weapons: two 0.5 inch Vickers machine guns and a 4-inch mortar to fire smoke shells.

## Leonard George Hollebon (Malayan Emergency 1948 - 1960)



Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery

Leonard George Hollebon was born in January 1932 in St Mary's Platt. He is the son of Arthur George and Vera Waghorn Hollebon (née West) who were married in 1930. Leonard lived in Platt and attended Platt School and in 1939 the family were living at 3 Church Road, Platt. Leonard's father was employed as a bricklayer. In about 1943/44, the family moved to Borough Green where he lived with his parents at Tollgate.

Private Leonard George Hollebon (Service No: 22413906) served in the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment and he was probably completing his National Service (in 1947, peacetime conscription was introduced for all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 30). The Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment served in the Malayan Emergency between 1951 and 1954 and many of these soldiers were conscripted National Servicemen.

In June 1948 a state of emergency was declared in the British colony of Malaya (now Malaysia). The Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) - the armed wing of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) - began attacking rubber plantations, mines and police stations, derailing trains and burning workers' houses. The insurgency was described as an 'emergency' because insurers would not have compensated plantation and mine owners if it had been labelled a 'war'. The initial British reaction to the crisis was to introduce emergency legislation, allowing suspects to be detained without trial. Curfews and movement restrictions were also imposed.

Newly arrived troops had to be taught how to live and fight in the tropical forests. Training occurred at a Jungle Warfare School, which also worked out the best tactics based on experience gained in the field.

A book written by Joe P Plant (Malaya 1948 – 1960. Emergency!! Never, Just a Forgotten War) reports that on 22 August 1951, Private Leonard G Hollebon died from wounds received in an ambush. He continued firing, while other troops quickly dropped from the lorry to engage the CTs (Communist Terrorists). Leonard was the last to jump down and was killed, he was aged 19.

Private Leonard G Hollebon is buried in Cheras Road Christian Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was awarded the General Service Medal 1918 – 1962 (E.II.R), with one bar Malaya.

