

# Research into the 15 who died in active service in The Second World War from the Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead 14 names were recorded on the original Remembrance List at All Saints Church

'We will remember them'

The information has been researched by Mrs Elizabeth Grace Bryson using

<u>www.forces-war-records.co.uk</u> <u>cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx</u>

All Saints, Boyne Hill Parish Magazines 1939 – 1945
Visiting the Churchyard at All Saints, Boyne Hill
Visiting the War Memorial at Maidenhead Town Hall
Visiting the Air Forces Memorial at Runneymede
Visiting the All Saints Cemetery known as Maidenhead Cemetery

to compile an A4 information sheet about each of the 15



# Names of the 15 who died in active service in The Second World War I from the Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead Recorded on the Remembrance Board at All Saints Church 'We will remember them'

Lance Bombardier Kenneth Astbury Royal Artillery

Leading Stoker Leslie Thomas Hill Bennett Royal Navy HM Submarine Odin
Lieutenant Archibald Graham Botsford Royal Engineers
Flight Sergeant Kenneth Charles James Botsford Royal Air Force, 106 Squadron
Private William Edward Brandon Royal Hampshire Regiment
Sergeant Douglas Eric Briggs Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 113 Squadron
Boy 1st Class Jack Brown Royal Navy HMS Royal Oak
Stoker 2nd Class Victor Gordon Croker Royal Navy HMS Ajax
Captain Walter Edward Norkett Royal Army Service Corps
Sergeant Frederick John Pitcher Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 104 Squadron
Lieutenant Ronald Skelton Royal Navy HMS Illustrious, Fleet Air Arm
Lance Corporal Arthur Quartermaine Smith Royal Tank Regiment
Lance Corporal Thomas P. Smith Royal Hampshire Regiment
Gunner Herbert Charles Stamp Royal Artillery

All of these fallen 14 have their names recorded at the Town Hall War Memorial in Maidenhead. Those who do not have recorded details of a connection to the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill were therefore Maidonians, because they were recorded on the Maidenhead Town Hall War Memorial as well as at The Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill.

The three fallen men who served in the RAF have known graves, which are recorded on their A4 sheet below. Their names are not recorded at the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede, because that lists the 20,455 who have no known grave.

Nurse in charge **Ruby Annie Marsh** 7<sup>th</sup> St John's Ambulance

# Kenneth Astbury R.A.

First Name:	Kenneth William
Initials:	κw
Surname:	Astbury
DOB:	Circa 1921
Age:	21
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Berkshire.
Date of Death:	17/10/1942 in the United Kingdom
Cemetery:	Grave Reference: Sec. C. Row K.K. Grave 71. MAIDENHEAD CEMETERY (CWGC)
Information:	SON OF GEORGE AND ALICE MARY ASTBURY, OF MAIDENHEAD.
Rank:	Lance Bombardier
Service Number:	903663
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army Archive Reference: WO 304/3
Regiment:	Royal Artillery  The Royal Artillery Prayer  O Lord Jesus Christ, Who dost everywhere lead thy people in the way of righteousness,  Vouchsafe so as to lead the Royal Regiment of Artillery,  That wherever we serve, on land or sea or in the air, We may win the glory of doing thy will. Amen
Battalion:	272 Bty., 90 H.A.A. Regt.
Commemorated:	Britain at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

Here is Lance Bombardier Kenneth Astbury's grave in All Saints Cemetery known as Maidenhead Cemetery:



#### Leslie Thomas Hill Bennett R.N.

First Name:	Leslie Thomas Hill
Initials:	LTH
Surname:	Bennett
DOB:	Circa 1907
Age:	33
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	27/06/1940
Memorial:	PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL Panel Reference: Panel 41, Column 3. (CWGC)
Information:	SON OF THOMAS AND ANNE BENNETT; HUSBAND OF MARJORIE ELLEN BENNETT, OF WEASENHAM, NORFOLK.
Rank:	Leading Stoker
Service Number:	P/KX 75836
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939- 1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	Royal Navy
Ship:	HM Submarine Odin
Commemorated:	Britain at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

# Archibald Graham Botsford (Royal Engineers)

First Name:	Archibald Graham
Initials:	A G
Surname:	Botsford
Birth County:	Dorset.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Berkshire.
Date of Death:	20/03/1941 in the United Kingdom
Rank:	Lieutenant
Service Number:	76585
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945  1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Royal Engineers  The state of t
Archive Reference:	WO 304/18
Commemorated:	Britain at All Saints, Boyne Hill Church Board and at Maidenhead Town Hall Memorial
	Grave Reference: Grave 821.Cemetery: <u>HIGHWORTH CEMETERY</u> , Wiltshire (CWGC)

#### Kenneth Charles James Botsford RAF

First Name:	KCJ
Surname:	Botsford
Nationality:	British
Fate:	Killed
Incident Details:	Crashed near 'Hertogensbosch, Holland
Incident Date:	07-08/07/1941
Rank:	Flight Sergeant
Duty Location:	Monchengladbach
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star  Air Crew Europe Star
Service:	Royal Air Force
Station:	Raf Coningsby
Squadron:	106 Squadron
Crew:	FSgt K C J Botsford
Command:	Bomber Command
Aircraft:	Aircraft Mark: 1, Aircraft Code: ZN-R, Aircraft Type: Hampden, Aircraft Serial: AD735
Commemorated:	Grave Reference: Coll. grave 4. A. 4-5. <u>UDEN WAR CEMETERY</u> (CWGC)  All Saints, Boyne Hill Church Board and at Maidenhead Town Hall Memorial

#### William Edward Brandon (Hants Rect)

First Name:	William Edward
Surname:	Brandon
DOB:	Circa 1923
Age:	20
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Berkshire.
Date of Death:	04/04/1943
Information:	SON OF WILLIAM EDWARD AND DAISY BRANDON, OF MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE.
Rank:	Private
Service Number:	5392752
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army
Regiment: Battalion:	Royal Hampshire Regiment  2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
Commemorated:	Grave Reference: 2. L. 6. Cemetery: <u>BEJA WAR CEMETERY</u> Tunisia  The Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

# Douglas Eric Briggs RAF

First Name:	Douglas Eric
Initials:	DE
Surname:	Briggs
DOB:	Circa 1920
Age:	22
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	24/01/1942
Information:	SON OF ARTHUR LEONARD AND SARAH ELLEN JANE BRIGGS, OF MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE.
Rank:	Sergeant
Service Number:	759056
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Regiment:	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Regiment: Battalion:	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve  113 Squadron
Battalion:	113 Squadron
Battalion:	113 Squadron  Grave Reference: Coll. grave 10. M. 10-12.

#### Jack Brown R.N.

First Name:	Jack
Initials:	J.
Surname:	Brown
DOB:	Circa 1920
Age:	19
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	14/10/1939 The Parish Magazine of November 1939 announced the sad news that: 'The first name to be put on the Roll of Parishioners who have given their lives in the Service of their country is that of Jack Brown, aged 19, who perished with many of his mess-mates in the sinking of HMS <i>Royal Oak</i> .' The 'Royal Oak' is a recognised war grave.
Information:	Jack lived in the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill. Jack Brown was a choirboy at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead from the late 1920s until he joined the Royal Navy in 1936. He also enjoyed being a member of the Scouts. Jack's mother was a widow.
Rank:	Boy 1st Class
Service Number:	
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945
Service:	Royal Navy
Ship:	HMS Royal Oak
Commemorated:	Britain at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

#### Victor Gordon Croker R.N.

First Name:	Victor Gordon
Initials:	V G
Surname:	Croker
DOB:	Circa 1920  Panel Reference: 48, 1. Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL (CWGC)
Age:	21
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	01/03/1941
Information:	SON OF EDWARD AND LOTTIE CROKER; HUSBAND OF VIOLET NELLIE CROKER, OF BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE.
Rank:	Stoker 2nd Class
Service Number:	C/KX 105493
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	Royal Navy
Ship:	HMS Ajax
Commemorated:	Britain at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

#### **Walter Edward Norkett RASC**

First Name:	Walter Edward
Initials:	W E
Surname:	Norkett
DOB:	Circa 1913
Age:	27
Birth County:	Berkshire. Parents: Edward and Amy Norkett, of Maidenhead, Berkshire
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	31/05/1940 - 04/06/1940 France and Belgium Campaign, 1939/40
Information:	Husband of Isabel S. Norkett, of Maidenhead.
Rank:	Captain
Service Number:	73734
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-  1945  1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army Archive Reference: WO 304/20
Regiment:	Royal Army Service Corps  Royal Army Service Corps
Commemorated:	Britain at The Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.  Grave Reference: Plot 2 Row 20 Grave 11.   DUNKIRK TOWN CEMETERY (CWGC)

#### Frederick John Pitcher RAF

First Name:	Frederick John
Initials:	FJ
Surname:	Pitcher
DOB:	Circa 1915
Age:	27
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	15/07/1942
Information:	SON OF GEORGE EDWARD AND ELIZA CLARA PITCHER, OF MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE.
Rank:	Sergeant
Service Number:	925049
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Regiment:	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Battalion:	104 Squadron
Commemorated:	Egypt and at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.  Panel Reference: Column 262. Memorial: ALAMEIN MEMORIAL (CWGC)

# Ronald George Skelton R.N.

First Name:	Ronald George
Initials:	R
Surname:	Skelton
Nationality:	British
Date of Death:	11/01/1941
Rank:	Lieutenant
Campaign Medals:	1939-45 Star
Service:	Royal Navy
Ship:	HMS Illustrious
Fleet Air Arm:	F.A.A.
Commemorated:	Panel Reference: Bay 1, Panel 7. <u>LEE-ON-SOLENT MEMORIAL</u> Hampshire (CWGC)
	Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

#### Arthur Quartermaine Smith (RTC)

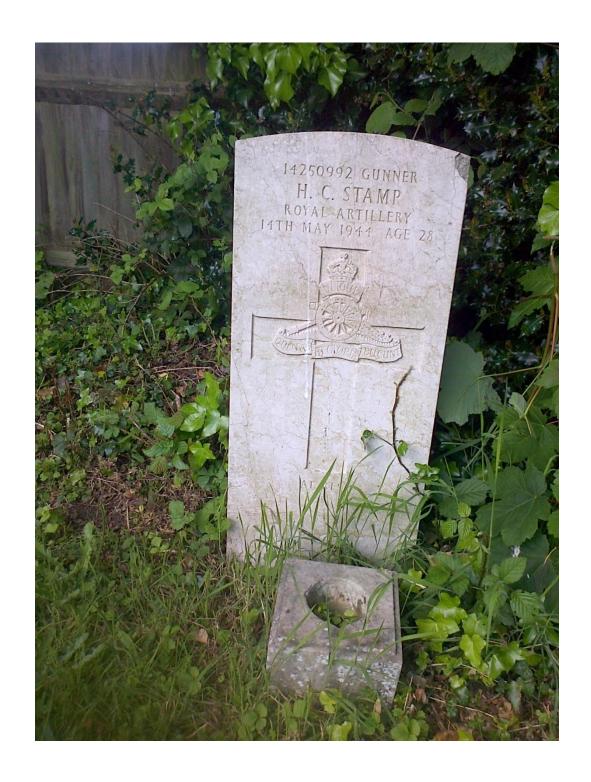
First Name:	Arthur Quartermaine
Initials:	A Q
Surname:	Smith
DOB:	Circa 1909
Age:	33
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Warwickshire.
Date of Death:	27/10/1942 in the Middle East
Information:	Parents: Arthur and Emily Smith; husband of Margaret Ethel Smith, of Warwick.
Rank:	Lance Corporal
Service Number:	7931462
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Royal Tank Regiment Royal Tank Corps
Battalion:	50th
Archive Ref:	WO 304/3
Commemorated:	Britain at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.
	Grave Reference: IV, D, 1. Cemetery: <u>CASERTA WAR CEMETERY</u> (CWGC)

#### Thomas P. Smith (Hants Rect)

First Name:	Thomas Peter
Initials:	TP
Surname:	Smith
DOB:	Circa 1918
Age:	25
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Berkshire.
Date of Death:	22/04/1943 in North Africa. Commemorated in Tunisia and at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill
Information:	SON OF ALBERT AND ALICE SMITH, OF MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE.
Rank:	Lance Corporal
Service Number:	5504587
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945 1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Royal Hampshire Regiment  .
Battalion:	1/4th Bn.
Archive Ref:	WO 304/13
Commemorated:	Grave Reference: 5. G. 13. Cemetery: MEDJEZ-EL-BAB WAR CEMETERY (CWGC)  Parish Church of All saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at Maidenhead Town Hall.

#### **Herbert Charles Stamp**

First Name:	Herbert Charles
Surname:	Stamp
DOB:	Circa 1916
Age:	28
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Resided County:	Berkshire.
Date of Death:	14/05/1944 in the United Kingdom. He is buried in <b>Grave Reference</b> Grave A.1.  Cemetery: BOYNE HILL (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD (CWGC)
Information:	Son of Alfred and Emily Stamp of Cox Green. Husband of Iris Theresa Stamp of Cox Green.
Rank:	Gunner
Service Number:	14250992
Campaign Medals:	War Medal 1939-1945  1939-45 Star
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Royal Artillery
Battalion:	116 Field Regt.
Commemorated:	Britain at Maidenhead Town Hall and he will be added to the new Board at the Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, because he lived in the Parish and is buried in the Churchyard.



Herbert Charles Stamp's grave in the Churchyard at All Saints Boyne Hill. His grave is a CWGC grave and is on the right when you walk through the lower gate into the Churchyard

#### **Ruby Annie Marsh**

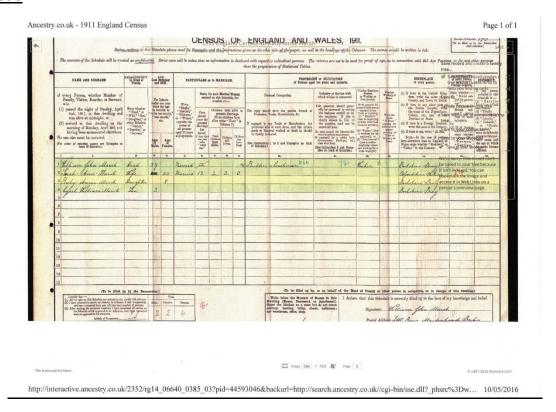
First Name:	Ruby
Initials:	R. A.
Surname:	Marsh
DOB:	1903
Age:	39
Birth County:	Berkshire.
Nationality:	British
Address:	Ye Gables, Tittle Row, Altwood Road Maidenhead Berkshire.
Date of Death:	12 <sup>th</sup> August 1942 at home in Maidenhead
Cemetery:	All Saints Cemetery Grave Reference D5X MAIDENHEAD CEMETERY
Information:	Daughter of William John and Sarah Anne Marsh. Her younger brother was Cyril William Marsh.
Rank:	Nurse in Charge at the Great Western Railway Casualty Clearing Station at Paddington.
Medals:	She was holder of the 15 year Gold Medal and 20 year Gold Efficiency Bar  Service Medal of the Order of St. John front and reverse views
Service:	A Serving Sister of the order St John of Jerusalem. She devoted all her spare time to First Aid.

Parish Church of All Saints, Boyne Hill Remembrance Board

Commemorated:

#### **Ruby Annie Marsh 1903 – 1942**

#### **1911 Census**



# Miss Ruby Marsh Sister in Charge at Paddington C.C.S

The death occurred suddenly on Wednesday last week of Miss Ruby Marsh of Ye Gables Altwood Road Maidenhead aged 39.

Miss Marsh was a member of the Maidenhead Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, was Nurse in Charge at the Great Western Railway Casualty Clearing Station at Paddington.

She was holder of the 15 year Gold Medal and 20 year Gold Efficiency Bar and was a Serving Sister of the order St John of Jerusalem. She devoted all her spare time to First Aid.

After a memorial service at All Saints Church she was interred at Maidenhead Cemetery on Monday. A guard of honour was formed of the nurses of the Paddington staff and the Maidenhead Nursing Division together with members of the male Casualty Staff. The Great Western Railway was represented by Mr K.W.C. Grand, Assistant General Manager, and by Dr Cavendish Fuller, Miss Harnach represented the Paddington Division of the British Red Cross, Miss C. A. Ault the Great Western Ambulance Centre, and Mr R.F. Borrough represented the Great Western A.R.P. Headquarters.

Wreaths were sent from the A.R.P. Headquarters (GWR) the G.W.R. Ambulance Centre Paddington Ambulance Class, No 1 Refreshment Room, The Guild of St Michael, and the Paddington Division of the Red Cross.

Extract Maidenhead Advertiser Wednesday 19th August

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH	GIVEN AT THE GENERAL RE Application Number 7367362-1	EGISTER OFFICE
REGISTRATION DISTRICT	MAIDENHEAD	
1942 DEATH in the Sub-district of Maidenhead	in the County of Berks	
Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5		9
o. When and Name and surname Sex Age Occupi where died		ture of strar
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ERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of tiven at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office  OVE 021460  CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES REL	Deaths in the District above mentioned.  e. the 12th day of May 2016  Deaths in the District above mentioned.	

Cause of death; Angina with pericarditis and sclerosis of coronary arteries

Death Certificate

#### Maidenhead Advertiser August 1942

**Deaths Marsh:** - On August 12th, 1942, suddenly at Ye Gables, Tittle Row, Ruby Annie Marsh, dearly loved sister and niece of Mr Cyril and Miss Margaret Marsh; age 39 years.

Extract Wednesday 26th August

#### **Boyne Hill Parish Magazine, September 1942**

A Great Loss The very sudden death of Miss Ruby Anne Marsh is a very great loss to this parish and came as a great shock to her friends here and at Paddington Station, where she had been long employed. She had always been an enthusiastic member of St John Ambulance Society and the outbreak of the War gave her her opportunity. She was immediately put in charge of the Casualty Clearing Station at Paddington Station, where she worked devotedly and tirelessly through all the raids on London until the day of her death. Until her extra work there prevented it, she had been a keen and efficient teacher in our Sunday School. Not content with all that she was doing, she gave some of her scanty leisure to the work of Secretary of our Parochial Church Council. She had also been a most devoted helper to her father in his long-term illness, and his death, eight months ago, was a great shock to her. All who knew of all her activities are convinced that she died of sheer overwork. Her gallant heart proved unequal to the strain which she put upon it. Quite certainly, she died on "active service," and we are proud to put her name upon our Roll of Honour. There was a large attendance of parishioners and fellow-workers at her funeral on August 17<sup>th</sup>. After Services at All Saints' Church her body was laid to rest in the Cemetery. R.I.P.

Here is the place where Ruby Annie Marsh was buried. The headstone on the grave has gone but this is where she is buried in All Saints Cemetery known as Maidenhead Cemetery:







#### Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Derek Smith for finding Ruby A. Marsh on 'Ancestry', the 1911 Census information, her death certificate and for searching for and typing the information from The Maidenhead Advertiser in August 1942.