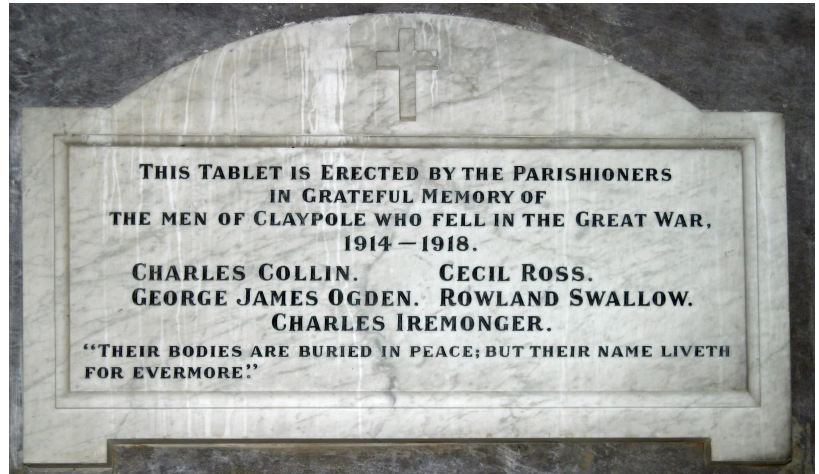


# St Peters Church, Claypole

## Remembrance Notes

### First World War 1914-1918



#### **Charles Collin**

Private 27176. 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Killed in action 14th August 1917. Enlisted Newark, Notts and resident Claypole, Lincs. Commemorated POELCAPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY.

#### **George James Ogden**

Private 43198. 2/6th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment. Died 27th September 1918, aged 22 years. Son of William and Emily Ogden of Main Street, Claypole, Lincs. Born Claypole, Lincs, enlisted Newark, Notts and resident Claypole, Lincs. Commemorated MONS COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

#### **Cecil Ross**

Private 9549. 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Killed in action 24th August 1914, aged 23 years. Son of John Dexter and Emma Ross of Claypole, Lincs. Born Grantham, Lincs, enlisted Newark, Notts and resident Claypole, Lincs. Commemorated LA FERTE-SOUS-JOUARRE MEMORIAL.

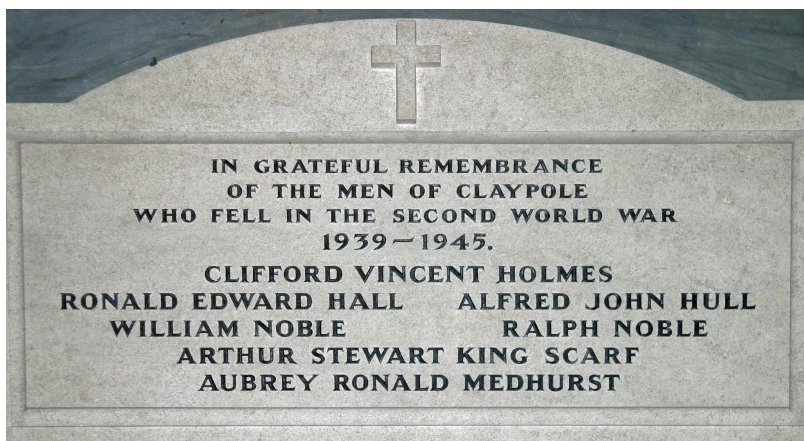
#### **Rowland Swallow**

Private 128544. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), formerly 4000 Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). Killed in action 23rd August 1918, aged 19 years. Son of Richard William and Emma Swallow of Claypole, Lincs. Enlisted Newark, Notts. Commemorated LEBUCQUIRE COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

#### **Charles Ironmonger**

Private 52161. 6th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, formerly 51138 Lincolnshire Regiment. Died of wounds 1st November 1918, aged 20 years. Son of C.W and M.J Iremonger of Scamblesby, Lincs. Enlisted Grantham, Lincs and resident Newark, Notts. Commemorated TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETERY,

## Second World War 1939-1945



### Clifford Vincent Holmes

Son of George Edward and Kate Holmes of Claypole, Lincs

In 1932, aged 13 and living in Church St in Long Bennington, Clifford Holmes saved local 7 year old Denis Hall from drowning in the River Witham. This became national news when he was presented with silver watch from the Carnegie Fund Trust

He was an Engine Room Artificer on the RN Navy Frigate HMS Itchen went it was sunk by a German U-Boat U-666 on 23rd September 1943, aged 25 years. Only two crew survived.



### Ronald Edward Hall

Ronald Edward Hall was born in Claypole about 1908, the 3rd son of Mark and Ethel Hall. His father was a domestic gardener and the family had just moved from Pembrokeshire. He attended Claypole primary school and was a member of the church choir. After leaving Magnus School in Newark aged 15 he entered the RAF training school for boys and remained in the RAF, including 5 years overseas. He married Elise Caroline Patmore of Hitchin in 1939, by which time his parents had moved from Claypole to High Kelling in Norfolk.

In 1940 he was Mentioned in Dispatches. In the late morning of 13th Sept 1941 (age 33) he was a Flight Sergeant and part of the crew of Bristol Blenheim V5463 of 21 Sqn RAF on a sortie from RAF Watton, Norfolk. Shortly after take off the aircraft stalled and crashed into a hangar where it burst into flames, killing the crew and two airmen who were working in the hanger. Ronald was buried with military honours in Hitchin cemetery.

### Alfred John Hull

Alfred John Hull was born in Nottingham 1906. His parents, Charles Percy and Mary Hull, lived in Claypole before moving to Church House, Sneinton. Alfred became an RAF air gunner and in March 1940 he married Muriel Annie Hoyes, the elder daughter of (the late) Samuel and Susan Hoyes of Seaton Cottages, Claypole. Muriel was the village postlady for many years. The reception was held at The Five Bells and Muriel stayed at Seaton Cottages after the wedding.

Three months later, on 15th Jun 1940 Cpl Hull was killed over Norway (age 34). He was flying on a bombing raid in a Lockheed Hudson of 224 Sqn. They took off at 06.25 from RAF Leuchars (near St Andrews) to bomb an ammunition dump but were shot down by flak off Stavanger at 0900.

His body was washed up in Norway the next day. No identification was found but the German authorities sent photographs of the body and details of personal items, including a signet ring marked 'AJH'. Muriel was able to confirm that the personal items were his and his Sqn identified him from the photographs. The pilot's body was also found and they were both buried in Sola Churchyard.

### William Noble

The William Noble on the Claypole war memorial **may** be Ralph's elder brother, William Gershom Noble. William was born in Darfield on 17 Jul 1914. He enlisted in the RAF in Jan 1931 to train as an instrument maker at RAF Cranwell. He wife Marjorie Joyce Noble lived at Maltby, so the only connection with Claypole may be his brother Ralph.

William was commissioned and trained as a bomber pilot. On the night of Monday 20th October 1941 he was flying an Avro Manchester Mk1 of 97 Sqn. They took off from RAF Coningsby at 18.30 to bomb the railway yards in Bremen. They reported bombing the target but on the way back (at 00.30 Tuesday morning) they called to say they had trouble with the wireless equipment. Nothing more was heard until the bodies of 2 of the crew were washed up on the Norfolk coast. William was 27; his body was not found and he is recorded on the Runnymede Memorial.

## **Ralph Noble**

Ralph Noble was born 29 Nov 1917 in Darfield, near Barnsley. He was the youngest son and only 3 months old when his father\* was called up to fight in WW1.

In the late 1930s Ralph lived at Gordon Villa, Claypole and was employed by the Cooperative Society, first at Newark and then in Lincoln. He was a member of the Claypole church choir and the Newark Operatic Society. He enlisted in the Territorial Army during the 1938 Munich crisis.

He served in 60th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, probably in 237 Battery at the Old Barracks in Lincoln (now the Museum of Lincolnshire Life). The unit was mobilized on 1st September 1939, the day Hitler invaded Poland. The Regiment moved to Bordon, Hampshire then left for France on 1 Jan 1940, where they were initially based at Bois Grenier, near Armentieres. In May they moved into Belgium when the Germans invaded. 237 Battery went into action along the canal leading from Ypres to Comines. Along with most of the Regiment, Ralph was evacuated from Dunkirk. During the Battle of Britain they defended part of the South coast with rifles as their 18-pounder guns had been destroyed. Ralph was last home at Christmas 1940.

The Regiment were re-equipped with 18/25 pounder guns and left for the Middle East in Jan 1941, arriving in Egypt in April after sailing around the Cape.

They went into action in Iraq almost immediately. A small force of less than 2000 men was assembled, supported by 300 Bedouin tribesmen of the Arab Legion and an assortment of obsolete RAF aircraft. Eight guns from 237 Battery took part in the capture of Fallujah. Eventually the Iraqi rebels asked for an armistice, the pro-German Prime Minister fled and the pro-British Regent was restored.

At the time Syria was under the control of the Vichy French and was supposed to be neutral, but German and Italian aircraft had been using airfields there to attack Iraq. So after the Iraq campaign, the British and Arab force turned to Syria. It was hoped that the French would only offer token resistance as the force advanced towards Palmyra, but attacks on an outlying fort gave them warning and the Vichy air force attacked on 21st June. The British had no air cover and the few Bofors guns they possessed had been left behind. 237 Battery was under constant air attack. Ralph was amongst those who died that day, he was 22

## **Arthur Stewart King Scarf VC**

Scarf was 28 years old, and a squadron leader in 62 Squadron, Royal Air Force during the Second World War when he was awarded the VC.

On 9 December 1941 in Malaya, near the Siam border, all available aircraft had been ordered to make a daylight raid on Singora (where the Japanese Army was invading), in Siam. Squadron Leader Scarf, as leader of the raid, had just taken off from the base at Butterworth when enemy aircraft swept in destroying or disabling all the rest of the aircraft. Scarf decided nevertheless to fly alone to Singora. Despite attacks from roving fighters he completed his bombing run and was on his way back when his aircraft became riddled with bullets and he was severely wounded, his left arm had been shattered, he had a large hole in his back and was drifting in and out of consciousness. He managed to crash-land the Blenheim at Alor Star, without causing any injury to his crew, and was rushed to hospital where he died two hours later. At the time of his death he was about to become a father for the first time. His pregnant wife was a nurse based at the Alor Star hospital, but had just been evacuated south.

## **Aubrey Ronald Medhurst**

Aubrey Ronald Medhurst was born in Sidcup (Kent) in 1909. In 1933 he married Elsie Florence Greenslade in London. In 1936 they were living in Lewisham. Her family was originally from Deptford, though she'd been born in Balderton (Smith St).

During the 2nd World War Aubrey was a Craftsman (Private) in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He died in Cheshire 15th March 1943 (aged 33) but was buried in Camberwell, Kent. Elsie was living at Ideal Cottages, Claypole (site of the Workhouse, now Gretton Close)