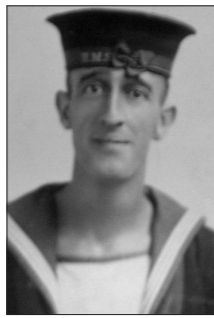


The Men on the Monument World War Two



Isaac Bennett



Herbert Dumbleton



Thomas Jenkinson



James Watson Walkden and family

E. D. Edwards, RN

Launched in 1934, HMS Electra was a British E-Class destroyer, which had mostly been deployed in the North Atlantic, where it had been involved in the battle of the Denmark Strait, which ended in the sinking of the Bismarck.



HMS Electra c1939 (IWC collection)

In October 1941 Electra was assigned to "Force Z", a naval squadron that had been put together with the aim of deterring the Japanese from invading Malaya and Singapore. It comprised the battlecruiser, HMS Repulse, and the battleship, HMS Prince of Wales, plus four destroyers, but perhaps crucially, no aircraft carrier. On 10 December 1941, Force Z was attacked by Japanese aircraft and the Repulse and Prince of Wales were both sunk thus leaving Malaya open to invasion. The surviving destroyer escort had no option but to retreat back to Singapore.

On 27 February 1942, HMS Electra sailed as part of multi-national fleet trying to intercept the Japanese invasion fleet heading for Java. The subsequent engagement became known as the battle of the Java Sea and resulted in an overwhelming Japanese victory. HMS Electra engaged the much larger Japanese light cruiser, Jintsu, and three other ships, in an attempt to provide cover whilst others retreated. After taking several direct hits, Electra keeled over and sank with 119 men.

Her wreck was discovered in 2003, but when it was re-surveyed in 2016, it was found to have been heavily damaged by illegal salvage. Pre-atomic bomb steel is a valuable commodity with many uses and the main source is from ships sunk in WW1 and 2. Whilst there are some legitimate sources, notably the fleet scuttled by the Imperial German Navy in 1919 in Scapa Flow, much of it comes from these wrecks and their long term survival as war graves is under severe threat.

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Ordnance Survey map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

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R. B. Bagguley, RAF

Robert Bagguley was educated at Carnforth C of E school and Lancaster Technical College, from where he joined the RAF aged 16. In 1938 he married Brenda Andrews in Daventry, Northamptonshire.

At the start of the war 139 Sqdn had been equipped with Bristol Blenheims, which were lost when the French airfield where the Squadron was based was overrun by the advancing German Army in June 1940. Following re-equipment with Lockheed Hudsons, 139 Squadron was sent to Burma. In June 1942 the Squadron returned to Britain and was stationed at RAF Horsham St Faith (now Norwich airport). In September of the same year it was re-equipped with Mosquito fighter-bombers. Robert was now the pilot of Mosquito DZ469, and flew with navigator, Flight Lieutenant, Charles Kenneth Hayden.

One of 139 Squadron's most celebrated actions was the raid on the heavily defended molybdenum mine at Knaben in Norway in 1943. This involved a low-level flight along a fjord, using the Mosquito's speed and agility to evade the anti aircraft guns based around the site. This raid severely disrupted Germany's molybdenum supplies, thus hampering its production of hardened steel, which requires molybdenum.



A Mark VI Mosquito, similar to the type flown by Robert Bagguley

According to the Squadron diary, at 17.10 on 9 March 1943, ten Mosquitos took off to raid the Renault factory at Le Mans. By 21.05 only nine had returned and DZ469 was listed as missing. According to Luftwaffe records, DZ469 had been shot down over the English Channel some 40km north of Bayeux by Leutnant Karl von Lieres und Wilkau of JG27, who himself was killed in action three months later.

The bodies of Bagguley and Hayden were never recovered. On the 27 March Robert Bagguley was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, for his actions during the Knaben raid.



Photograph of Knaben Raid (from IWC Archive)

A. S Jackson, US Army

Born on 18 July 1925, Anthony Siddall Jackson was the son of Dr Edward Siddall and Mrs Ruth Jackson of Robin Hill, the site of which is now Redmayne Court, 24 Market St, Carnforth. His father was the fourth generation of Jackson family doctors to be based in the area, the line beginning with Edward's great grandfather who was an army surgeon at the battle of Waterloo.

On 2 June 1923, Anthony's father married Ruth Wheeler, an American citizen, in Delaware, Pennsylvania, but both Anthony and his brother, Raymond were born in Carnforth.

At the outbreak of WW2 Anthony was a pupil at Sedbergh School. On 19 July 1940, Anthony sailed from Liverpool with his brother and mother, on the Duchess of Atholl, bound for Montreal. On 18 October 1942 he was confirmed into the Episcopal church in Philadelphia.

In 1943, when he turned 18, he became eligible for conscription into the US armed forces, as his mother was an American citizen. According to his draft card, he was living on his own in Elkins Park, Montgomery, Pennsylvania, working for a local plumbing company. He was described as 5ft 9ins, 145lbs with blue eyes and blond hair and his father was listed as next of kin. Due to a fire at the US Army Records Office in 1973, there are no further surviving details of his military service.

According to his obituary in the *Lancaster Guardian* of 16 March 1945, he was killed in the early stages of the battle of Luzon in the Philippines on 13 February 1944. He was 19 years old.



General McArthur wades ashore at Luzon

T. C. Garth, British Army

At the end of World War I the Middle Eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire were divided between France and Britain. France assumed responsibility for Lebanon and Syria and Britain assumed administrative control of Palestine (now Israel), Transjordan (now Jordan) and Iraq. This division of territory would sow the seeds of Operation Exporter.

Following the surrender of France in 1940, Germany suddenly gained access to ports and military bases in Lebanon and Syria, from where they could potentially launch an invasion of Palestine. This would have resulted in the British 8th Army facing the daunting prospect of having to fight on two fronts from its base in Egypt. Initially the Axis powers (Germany and Italy) did not take advantage of this situation, but by early 1941 it became obvious that an enemy military build up was underway necessitating a British attack on the French territories. The attack, codenamed Operation Exporter, was launched on 8 June 1941. It was a relatively short but hard fought campaign, with the bulk of Allied forces being drawn from Australia and India, fighting against the forces of Vichy France who were supported from the air by the German Luftwaffe. The French forces surrendered on 14 July.

Amongst the ten recognised battles from this campaign was the battle of Merdjayoun, lasting from 19 to 24 June, and it was here that Thomas Garth was killed.

Thomas Colin Garth is one of a small number of British soldiers to have fought in this campaign, and his presence is something of a mystery as 2nd Battalion had been transferred to Egypt a year earlier. Further information is hard to come by as news of this campaign was heavily censored due to the fact that Britain was fighting against troops of its former ally, France. The government was worried about revenge attacks on the Free French Servicemen then based in Britain. Given that the public were barely aware of it at the time, it is unsurprising that this campaign is all but forgotten now.




The Cheshire Yeomanry on patrol at Merdjayoun. (IWC collection)





Carnforth War Memorial, unveiled 9 November 1924


This leaflet is the second in our "Men on the Monument" series and follows on from our World War One Poppy Trail leaflet. Although there are fewer names on Carnforth's War Memorial from World War Two, the impact of the loss of these servicemen on their families, friends and the community as a whole, was no less great. As you, the reader, will see, the 1939-1945 conflict was truly a world war as evidenced by the far-flung locations in which many of these men gave their lives. Information about each of them varies but we have chosen to tell the stories of four of them in more detail. However, we should never forget that they all made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their King and Country. We honour the memory of them all.


The Men on the Monument World War Two


 Sgt 1622045 **Jack Astley** of 70 Sqdn, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He lived at 7 Highfield Terrace with his parents, John and Sarah. In 1938 he married Kathleen Leach, and moved to 10 Ashton Grove, Rochdale. 70 Sqdn was part of the Balkan Airforce, a branch of RAF Bomber Command that was based in Italy and tasked with attacking German supply lines across the Balkans. From 1943 until the end of the war, 70 Sqdn was based at Foggia in Italy and was equipped with Wellington bombers. Jack was killed in action on Sunday, 19 November 1944, and is buried in Belgrade War Cemetery. Ref: 9A. C. 8. He was 29 years old.


 Sapper 2155425 **Edward Bagguley** of 282 Field Company, Royal Engineers. He lived at 126 Hewthwaite Terrace with his parents, William and Ethel. He died at home of influenza on Sunday 10 February 1946, whilst on leave from his posting in Germany. He is buried in Carnforth Cemetery. He was 23 years old. He was the nephew of Robert Beck Bagguley below.


 Squadron Leader 44775 **Robert Beck Bagguley**, DFC of 139 Squadron, RAF. He lived at 21 King St with his parents, Robert Nicholson and Mary Ellen (nee Beck). He was killed in action over France on Tuesday, 9 March 1943. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. He was 27 years old.

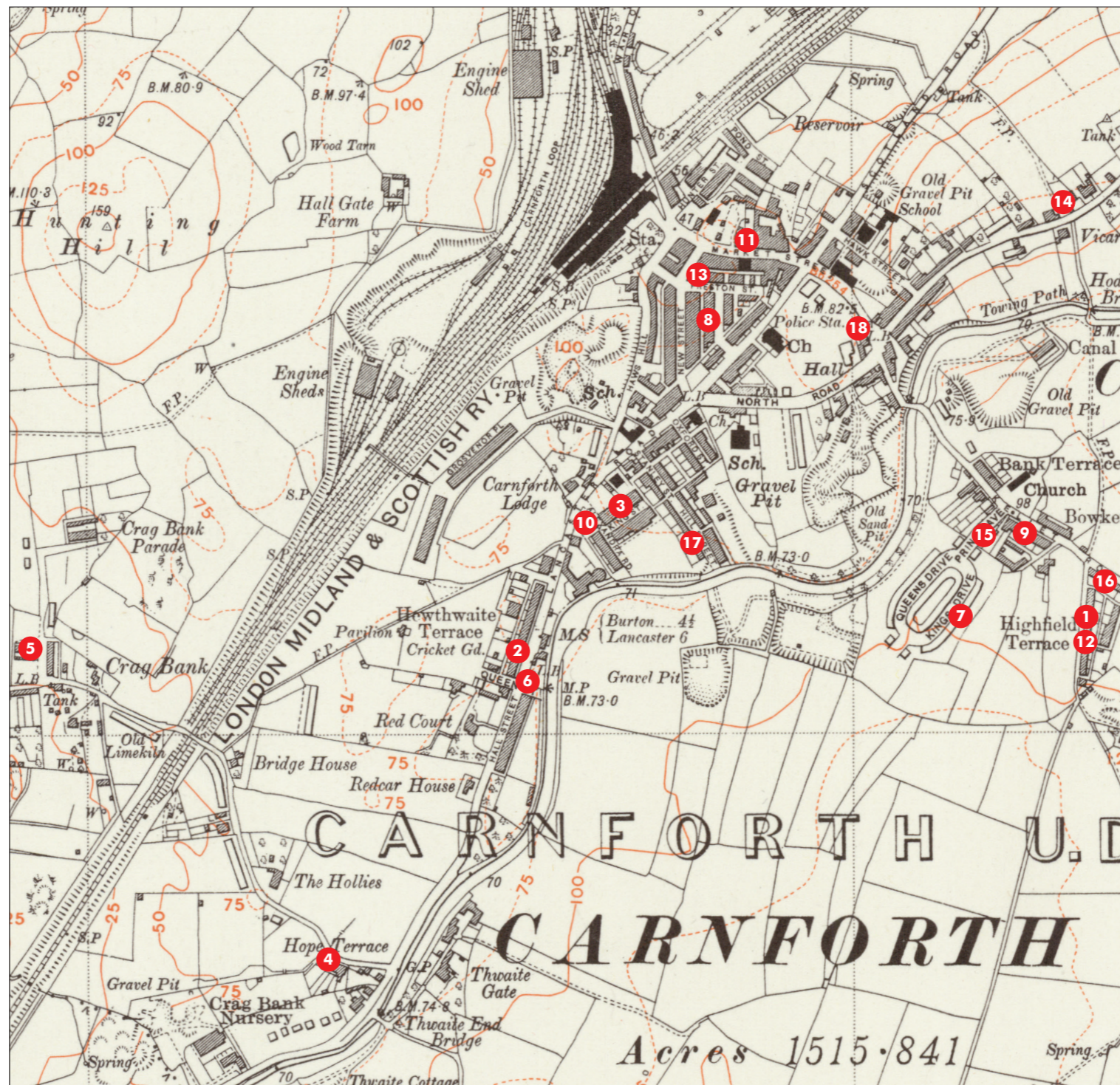
 Private 7642755 **Richard Sydney Battersby** of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He lived at 4 Hope Terrace, Crag Bank with his parents Richard and Edith. According to his death certificate, he died on 29 June 1941 at Leicester General Hospital. The cause of death was given as rheumatic carditis. He is buried in Carnforth Cemetery. He was 21 years old. *Hope Terrace has since been renumbered, with no. 4 now being number 13 Crag Bank Rd.*

 Private 942801 **Clarence Isaac Bennett** of the Army Catering Corps (attached to the Royal Artillery). He lived at 10 The Drive, Crag Bank with his parents, Thomas and Isabella. He was killed in action on 24 February 1944, during the battle of Anzio in Italy. He is buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio. Ref: V. A. 2. He was 25 years old. *Numbers 6-10 of The Drive appear to have been demolished to allow for further development of The Grove, which runs off The Drive.*

 Sergeant 1915045 **Robert Dawson** of the Royal Engineers (attached to Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers & Miners). He lived at 32 Hill St, with his parents, Thomas and Alice. In 1935 he married Mabel Ellen Law of Hill Top Farm, Over Kellet and moved to 95 Lancaster Rd, where they had two children. In 1940 he volunteered for service, and later that year was evacuated from Dunkirk. Shortly afterwards, Mabel died of natural causes. As a widower with young children, it was highly unusual for him to have remained in uniform let alone to have been posted overseas. On 5 December 1942, he died in India. He is buried in Madras War Cemetery, Chennai. Ref: 9. F. 7. He was 36 years old. *95 Lancaster Rd has since been demolished and a garage now stands on the site.*

 Stoker 1st Class D/KX1 12272 **Herbert Dumbleton** of the Royal Navy. Born in June 1915 at 22 Gerrard St, Lancaster, he was educated at Ripley Hospital School, Lancaster. By 1939 he was living in Leeds, where he married Laura Dunkley in 1943. Prior to moving to Leeds he was almost certainly living at 11 Kings Drive, Carnforth, with his mother, Mary. He was killed in action on 1 March 1944 when HMS Gould, a British Captain class frigate, was torpedoed in the North Atlantic by the German submarine, U-358. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Ref: Panel 89, Column 3. He was 28 years old.

 Seaman C/JX 193991 **Edwin Daniel Edwards** of the Royal Navy. He lived at 7 Edward St with his parents, George and Jane. Before the war he worked as a railway porter. On enlisting he joined the Royal Navy. He was killed in action on 27 February 1942, during the sinking of HMS Electra in the battle of the Java Sea. He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Ref: Number 53, 3. He was 22 years old.




Carnforth, 1939-45





HMS Gould. (see Herbert Dumbleton)





Wellington bombers over Italy. (see Jack Astley)

 2nd Lieutenant 124707 **Thomas Colin Garth** of 2nd Bn, Kings Own Royal Regiment. He lived at Towlyn, Annas Bank (now 96 Kellet Rd) with his parents, Christopher and Sarah. He was killed in action on 24 June 1941 in Syria. He is buried in the Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery. Ref: O 28.


 Lieutenant 302873 **Harold Edmund Helm** of the Lancashire Fusiliers. He lived at 3 Alexandra Rd, with his wife, Margaret and his son. He was killed in action on 27 February 1945. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. Ref: 48. F. 13. He was 24 years old.


 Infantryman 33832493 **Anthony Siddall Jackson** of the US 6th Army. He lived at 24 Market St, with his parents, Dr Edward and Ruth Jackson. He was killed in action on 13 February 1944 during the US invasion of the Philippines. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery, Virginia, USA.


 Lance Bombardier 1073904 **Thomas Jenkinson** of 3 Bty. 6th H.A.A. Regt, Royal Artillery. He lived at 9 Highfield Terrace with his wife, Mary, and son, Keith. He was killed in action against the Japanese on 14 February 1942. He is buried at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. Ref: 34 E. 9-16.


 Lance Corporal 1784024 **Eric Stanley Lawson** of the East Yorkshire Regiment. He lived at "Whinmarsh", 4 Preston St., the son of Mr W Lawson. He was killed in action in Burma (now Myanmar) on 29 May 1945. He is buried at Rangoon War Cemetery. Ref: 2.E.7. He was 24 years old.


 Flight Sergeant 1040315 Nav. **John James Martin** of 83 Sqdn, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He lived at 127 North Rd (Weymouth Croft) with his parents, Arthur and Emily. He was shot down and killed on 29 January 1944 while returning from a raid on Berlin. At the time of his death, 83 Sqdn was equipped with Lancaster bombers and was part of RAF Bomber Command's elite Pathfinder Force. He is buried at Abenra Cemetery, Denmark. Ref: Mil, Pot, Row 4, 22. He was 22 years old.

 Gunner 1091966 **John Alfred Proudlove** of 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He lived at 1 Prince Ave, with his parents, William and Ada. He died in the Western Desert on 6 June 1942, aged 21. He is buried at Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Ref: 11. C. 11.

 Gunner 938110 **Edward Hargreaves Stott** of 137 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He lived at 132 Kellet Rd with his parents, James and Mary. After his marriage to Olive, he moved to Kirkham. He died in Burma on 30 May 1942. He is buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar. Ref: B4. O. 9. He was 24 years old.

 Lance Corporal 3710098 **James Watson Walkden** of 141st Regiment, (7th Buffs), Royal Armoured Corps. He lived at 26 Hill St with his wife, Mary, and three young sons. He died of his wounds in France on 18 September 1944. He is buried at Calais Canadian War Cemetery, Leubringen, Pas de Calais, France. Ref: 3. E. 11. He was 29 years old. He was the son of James Walkden whose name appears on the Carnforth Monument from the First World War.

 Flying Officer 151300 **Harry Walker** was a flying instructor in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He lived at 79 Market St with his parents, George and Mary Anne. He was killed, along with his pupil, Robert Barr, in a flying accident, caused by a faulty compass on 18 November 1943. He was based at RAF Ternhill near Market Drayton. He is buried in Carnforth Cemetery. He was 20 years old.

 Private 3710669 **Henry Carpenter** of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. According to his death notice in the *Lancaster Guardian* of 4 April 1941, at the time of his death he was living at 92 Aberdeen Rd in Lancaster, and is described as "late of Carnforth" with no further details of an address. He was killed on 22 March 1941 in Egypt. He is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery. Ref: P204. He was 26 years old.

*** "there is no location for Private Harry Carpenter shown on the map as he was not a resident of Carnforth at the time of his death and there is presently no record of a previous Carnforth address for him."