# Effingham Servicemen who died in the Second World War

At least fifteen servicemen from Effingham died in the Second World War and are commemorated on a plaque in St Lawrence Church.

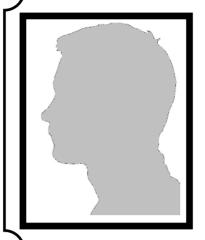




**Francis Biles** Able Seaman, Royal Navy

Born in Effingham; parents lived at 2 Victory Cottages, Effingham Died aged 23, presumed drowned when the R.N. H.M.Tug Wo Kwang, part of the Sunda Straits Auxiliary Patrol to hinder Japanese invasion of Sumatra, was sunk by enemy action in the Java area on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1942

> Also commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial



#### Wilfred James Blaber

Private, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), 1st **Battalion** 

Born in Croydon, parents lived at 1 Red Gables, Dunley Hill, Ranmore Common Killed aged 22, in action in Burma on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1944 No known grave

> Also commemorated on Rangoon Memorial



#### **Fedor George Bunge** Captain, 52<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment,

Royal Artillery

Born in New York, parents lived at Fore Down (now Laureldene), Beech Avenue, Effingham Killed aged 32, in action on 28th May 1940 Grave: Voormezele, Arrondissement leper, West Flanders (West-

Vlaanderen), Belgium



#### **Donald Ernest Chatfield** Yeoman of Signals, Royal Navy

Born in Great Bookham; parents livedat 2 Old Post Office Cottages, The Street, Effingham Died on R.N. H.M.S. Fidelity, aged 24, as a result of a German U-boat attack on 1st January 1943. Died at sea.

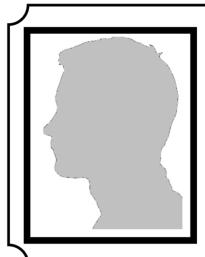
> Also commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial



#### **Allan Eddowes Curry** Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina; mother seems to have briefly lived in Effingham possibly with son Peter at Pilgrims, Guildford Road, Effingham Died aged 22, at sea on 8th July 1944 on R.N.V.R H.M.S. Pylades during Normandy landings at Juno Beach

> Also commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial

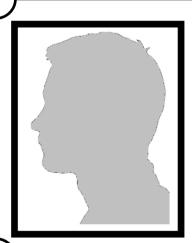


#### **Charles Thomas Dench** Serjeant, Royal Artillery

Born in Effingham; parents lived at 8 Victory Cottages, Guildford Road, Effingham

Died aged 33, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1941 on the North Africa campaign No known grave

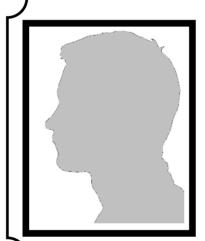
> Also commemorated on Alamein Memorial, Egypt



#### John Albert Charles Hunns Marine, Royal Marines

Born in Paddington, London; parents lived at Newcombe, Strathcona Avenue, Effingham Died aged 20, on 24th May 1941 when H.M.S. Hood was sunk by the German ships The Bismark and Prinz Eugen with the loss of 1,415 lives. Died at sea.

> Also commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial



## John d'Estreville Lenfestey

Sergeant (Observer), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 20 Squadron

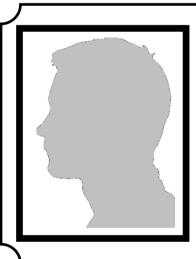
Born in England; parents lived at Brynhir, Beech Avenue, Effingham (now called Ranmore) Died aged 25, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1941 at Ghizri, near Karachi in air training accident Grave: Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan



#### **Jack Longhurst** Stoker 1st Class, Royal Navy

Born in Great Bookham; parents lived at Old Westmore Cottage, Orestan Lane, Effingham Died aged 22, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1942 off Algiers in air attack that sank H.M.S. *Ibis* which was escorting the North Africa Landings Died at sea

> Also commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial



#### **Andrew Whitworth McGowan**

Captain, Royal India Army Service Corps

Born in Weybridge; parents lived at Beconridge, Beech Avenue, Effingham Died aged 30, on 18th April 1943 in a hospital in Bombay. Grave: Kirkee War Cemetery, India

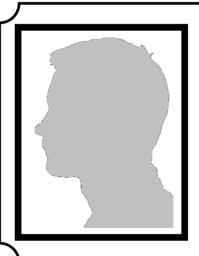


#### **Peter James Patrick Nicholls**

Private, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Born in Effingham; parents lived at Westmoor Cottage, Effingham Died aged 22, on 5th December 1941 whilst being stretchered to Alexandria having lost a leg and an arm in a machine-gun attack, when steamer Chakdina sank after attack by Italian torpedo bombers

> Also commemorated on Alamein Memorial, Egypt

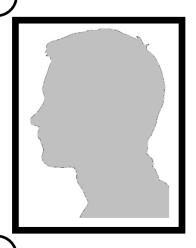


#### **Leslie Charles Payne**

Trooper, Royal Armoured Corps Royal Tank Regiment

Born in Tooting, London; parents lived at Effingham Lodge, Dirtham Lane, East Horsley Died aged 22, on 6th September 1944 in Italy No known grave

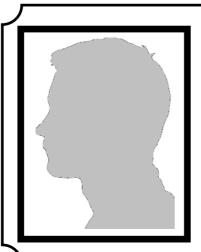
> Also commemorated on Cassino Memorial, Italy



#### **Kenneth Leslie Poland** Sapper, Royal Engineers 857

Quarrying Company

Born in Effingham; parents lived at 2 Church Street, Effingham Died aged 24, on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1944 in Italy, three months after younger brother Ronald James died of war wounds Grave: Cesena War Cemetery, Italy



#### **Ronald James Poland** Trooper, Royal Armoured Corps Nottingham Yeomanry

Born in Effingham; parents lived at 2 Church Street, Effingham. Attended Effingham Village School where his "conduct was exemplary". Reading at his funeral by his headmaster, Mr J Stewart Adams. Died aged 21, on 18th September 1944 in Middlesex Hospital after being invalided home from Normandy landings

Grave:St Lawrence Churchyard



### **Bernard John Worsfold**

Sergeant, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 148 Squadron

Born in Croydon; parents lived at Maryland, Orestan Lane, Effingham Died aged 26, on 8th July 1942 near Shallufa, Egypt when acting as rear gunner following mission attacking Tobruk Harbour in North Africa Campaign. Grave: Fayid War Cemetery, Egypt