

The Men from East Farndon who Lost their Lives During World War 2
1939-1945

★ TO THE GLORY OF GOD ★
IN MEMORY OF THOSE
WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

1939 — — 1945

SIDNEY CHAPMAN	HORACE HILL
DENNIS SANDERS	MICHAEL WEST

Sidney James Chapman



Sidney was born on 11th July 1907 to Clara and Thomas Chapman in Market Harborough. He married Kathleen Isobel West on 20th December 1936 and they lived at The Coppice, East Farndon.

He joined the 9 Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps early in the war and became a Corporal. His service number was 7939481.

He was killed on 26th June 1944, aged 36, and buried at Saint-Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, near Caen, Normandy.



Horace George Hill



Horace was born in Foxton in 1912. His parents were William Herbert Hill (1888 – 1976) and Ethel Jane King (1889 – 1959). William and Ethel lived at Wren Cottage, East Farndon and had 16 children. 6 of their sons fought in World War 2: Horace, Ernie, Herbert, Len, Dick and Gordon. They were all wounded, but only Horace lost his life.

Horace lived at 191 Welland Park Road with his wife Elizabeth. He served with the 1st Battalion Dorset Regiment (service number 5890230). He died in action on 8th September 1943, aged 30, and is buried at the Salerno War Cemetery, Campania, Italy.

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side. Allied objectives were to draw German troops from the Russian front and more particularly from France, where an offensive was planned for the following year. Commonwealth and American forces landed near Salerno on 8-9 September 1943 and there was fierce fighting for some days in the bridgehead that they established. The site for the cemetery was chosen in November 1943 and it contains many burials resulting from the landings and the fighting that followed, but graves were also brought in later from a wide area of south-western Italy. The 59th General Hospital was in the vicinity of Salerno at the end of 1943 and early in 1944. Salerno War Cemetery contains 1,846 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 107 of them unidentified.

Denis Charles William Sanders (spelled Dennis on the memorial)

Denis Sanders was born in Lubenham on 1st July 1894. His father was Dr William Gordon Woodrow Sanders and his mother was Georgina Frances Sanders (nee Darnell).

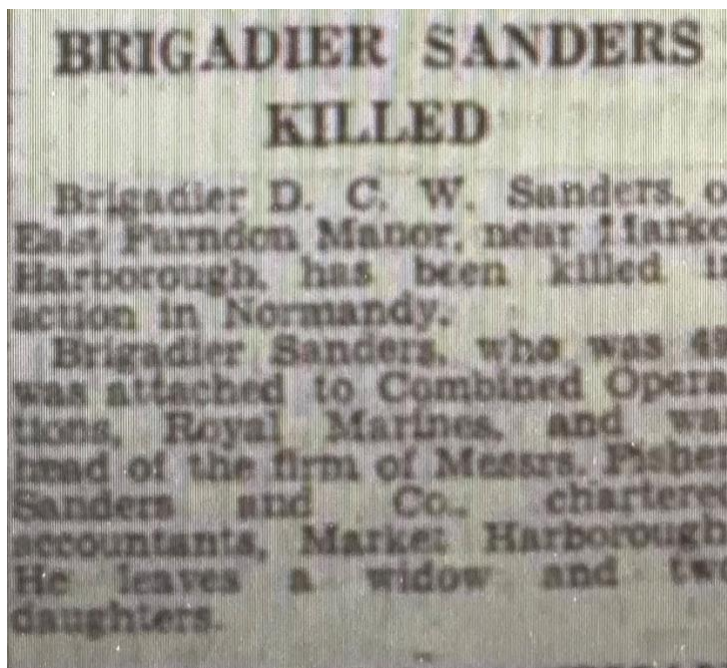
He served in the Royal Field Artillery (16 Squadron) during World War 1, when he was 18.

He married Nancy Agnes Mary Gordon Sanders (nee Berry, born 01/12/1898) on 23rd July 1919. They had 2 daughters.

During World War 2, he served in the 153 (The Leicestershire Yeomanry) Field Regiment (number 7426) and the Royal Field Artillery. He was part of the Combined Operations, attached to the Royal Marines, and died on 20th June 1944 during the Western Europe Campaign.

On 30th June 1944 the Northampton Mercury reported the death of Brigadier D.C.W. Sanders of East Farndon Manor (the old house on the opposite side from the Hall). He was aged 49 and was the head of Fisher Sanders in Market Harborough (now Fisher German). He was a JP, and had been awarded an OBE, AFC (Air Force Cross) and TD (Territorial Efficiency Decoration). He was a Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution and a Fellow of the Land Agents' Society.

He fell at Haute-Normandie and is buried at Ranville War Cemetery, Ranville, Departement du Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France.





Michael James West



Michael was born in 1919. His birth was registered in Market Harborough in Jan/Feb/Mar. His parents were William E West (1888 - 1964) and Mabel (Constance) West (1885 - 1964). On the 1939 register they were living in East Farndon with their daughter Monica (born 1923). William was working as a provender merchant/grist miller. They had 3 children: Michael, David and Monica.

Michael attended Oakham school between 1928 and 1935. This is their account of his death:

Michael James WEST

Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force. RAFVR no. 88015

He died on 31 March 1941. He was 22

He was the son of William E and Mabel C West of East Farndon

He is buried in Compt 7 Grave 1, St Nicholas Churchyard

Extension, Cottesmore

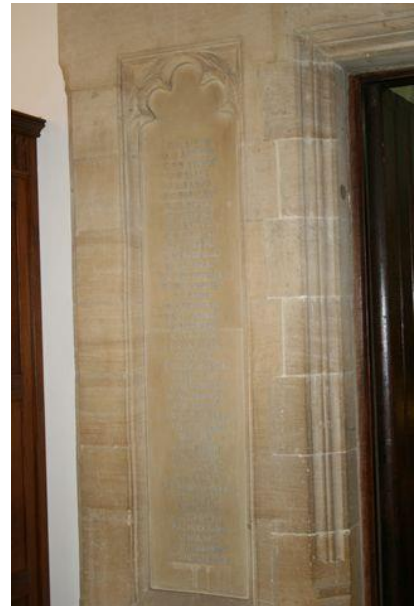
Additional information

Oakham 1928-1935, School House

On 31 March 1941 Handley Page Hampden I, P2062 of 14 OTU (Operational Training Unit) took off from RAF Woolfox Lodge for night flying practice. At 04.20 hours this aeroplane, piloted by Sergeant K E Holder while on approach to land went out of control and crashed close to the airfield. The crew who died were:

Sergeant Kenneth E Holder, Pilot Officer Michael J West, Pilot Officer John E Richmond and Sergeant Fred S Jessop

At this time RAF Woolfox Lodge was a satellite airfield for RAF Cottesmore.



Oakham School War Memorial Chapel and the War Memorial Plaque in the Chapel

Written by Judy Hodgetts – January 2021 – Updated October 2021