



THEY ALSO SERVED

Commemorating Civilians in the World Wars



Edited by
Andrew Morris, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA





Trail 1 is estimated to take you **45 minutes** and will roughly be **2,600 steps** (0.92 miles)



Trail 2 is estimated to take you **20 minutes** and will roughly be **1,200 steps** (0.42 miles)

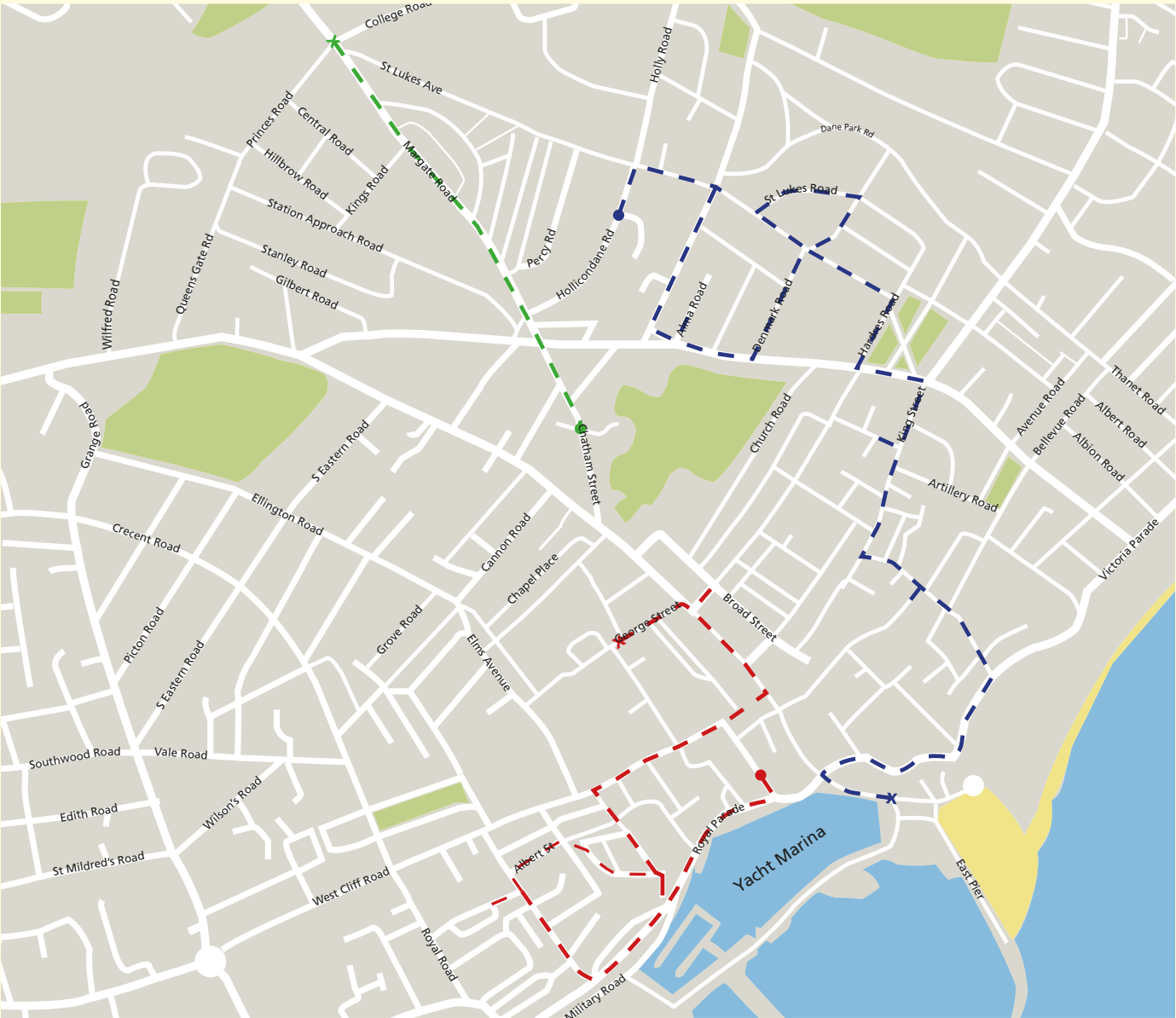


Trail 3 is estimated to take you **55 minutes** and will roughly be **3,700 steps** (1.31 miles)



 **START**

 **END**





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without the support of **Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust** none of this would be possible.

We would also like to thank **Ramsgate Town Council** who have also helped fund the printing of these booklets. Both of these organisations look to promote and support awareness of the rich history Ramsgate has to offer, and this booklet is a result of their generosity. Further organisations who were instrumental in this booklet include:

Aldi, for taking a plaque

Central Cars, Ramsgate, for taking a plaque

Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School, for taking a plaque

Home Front Tea Room, for taking a plaque

Nice Things, Ramsgate, for taking a plaque

Ralph Hoult, OBE, for permission to use his extensive photo library

Sherley's Pet Stores, for taking a plaque

The Avenue and Kent County Council, for taking a plaque

The Residents of John Nicholas House, for taking a plaque

This booklet was created in a collaborative effort between
Thomas Maakestad, Heritage Officer (writing and research) and
Andrew Morris, Heritage Manager (writing, research, and editing).

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

The main map you will use is at the start of this booklet, and on it three trails are shown. Each have a respective colour that can be found on the corner of the pages they are found on. These three trails are as follows:

Trail 1, Ramsgate Harbour Historical Walk; journey through the World Wars. Starts on York Street by the harbour and moves to Military Road to explore a deadly Zeppelin bomb explosion that killed five people. The trail moves up along Royal Parade and through several streets to highlight the different German bombing methods during World War II. The trail will then finish on High Street near Poundland, exploring several World War I & II bombing sites.

Trail 2, Ramsgate Under Attack; walk through the World Wars. Starts at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School on Chatham Street and explains the school's role as a Canadian Military Hospital during World War I. The trail continues upwards and walks the length of Margate Road, where there is a detailed look at the bombing raid of 24/08/1940, known as the 'Murder Raids'.

Trail 3, Ramsgate's World War Walk; the events that changed a generation. This trail starts at St. Luke's Church to commemorate the large loss of life there from a Zeppelin attack during World War I. The trail moves round nearby houses to explore World War II raids, then to Aldi, through some of the town and onto Victoria Parade for a great view of Ramsgate's beaches. The trail ends back at the harbour at Royal Parade.

The rest of the booklet contains sections that enhance the story of the trails and the history of Ramsgate. The Blue Plaque Encyclopaedia gives a description of all the plaques that have been placed, whom they commemorate and where they can be located. The Our Pets on the Home Front tells of the stories of animals great and small who were also affected by the war. The Heroes on the Home Front Roll of Honour gives the information of everyone that died here in Ramsgate as a result of the World Wars. The Statistics Section breaks down the information into charts and data to give a clearer picture of the effect the Wars had on Ramsgate. The List of Important People gives background to both the recognisable and unsung heroes. Finally, Thanet Trust: A History provides a look at the charity whose idea it was for this trail and booklet to be created and raised the funds to make it possible. They dedicated many hundreds of hours to this project in the hope that their work would help to ensure that these local heroes would never be forgotten.

FOREWORD

Ramsgate is a town with a rich and fascinating history. Its position alongside the English Channel means that for hundreds of years its history has been directly affected by what happened in mainland Europe from Caesar to Napoleon, but no more so than in the twentieth century.

Making this trail was a difficult yet rewarding process. It came from work carried out for our previous blue plaque walk, **Ramsgate Military & Heritage Trail**, which showed the difficulty in finding information about civilian fatalities during the World Wars. Countless hours went into finding the casualties and all their personal details such as age and occupation, as well as where and how they died. These people are the heart of this booklet, and that is why you can find all these details fully explained in our 'Heroes on the Home Front Roll of Honour' section towards the end of the booklet. Once these details were finalised and fact-checked, the challenge of creating a coherent and feasible set of trails presented itself. Through days of walking and contacting various locations and people, the 3 trail routes were set to provide the best walking experience for anyone who wanted to take part. Although there are hills, there are no steps on the trail routes so they are all wheelchair accessible.

We hope we have been able to do the history of Ramsgate and its people justice. This is why the booklet was created, to provide a free and easy to use tool that would explore Ramsgate's vibrant wartime history in a way that is more interactive than a standard book. It is important for the people of Ramsgate to be commemorated. It wasn't just the soldiers fighting abroad who made a difference, it was the civilians who contributed at home as well. The men, women, children and even the animals all played a fundamental role in shaping Ramsgate and the country during these dark periods. That is why there are several blue plaques placed around different parts of Ramsgate to commemorate these groups. While battles were fought around the world to win the wars, the people left at home did everything they could to support their country, and this is why we must remember, **They Also Served**.

Throughout 2020 and 2021 the British people have had to overcome another global catastrophe: the coronavirus pandemic. Although it pales in comparison to the constant bombardment and fear of invasion that the Ramsgate population would have endured during the World Wars, living through the lockdowns and the significant changes in our way of life gives us some small insight into the realities of a World War.

Andrew Morris, Heritage Manager on behalf of TCDT



OVERVIEW OF THE TRAILS

This booklet has been split into three distinct trails, each offering a unique part of Ramsgate history for people of different abilities and interests.

TRAIL 1

**Harbour and Town Walk
(Ramsgate Harbor Historical Walk; journey
through the World Wars):**

This trail starts on York Street by the harbour and moves to Military Road to explore a deadly Zeppelin bomb explosion that killed five people. The trail moves up along Royal Parade and through several streets to highlight the different German bombing methods during World War II. The trail will then finish on High Street near Poundland, exploring several World War I & II bombing sites. The trail is estimated to take you 45 minutes and will roughly be 2,600 steps (0.92 miles).

TRAIL 2

**Chatham Street/Margate Road Walk
(‘Ramsgate Under Attack; walk through
the World Wars):**

This trail starts at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School on Chatham Street and explains the school’s role as a Canadian Military Hospital during World War I. The trail continues upwards and walks the length of Margate Road, where there is a detailed look at the bombing raid of 24/08/1940, known as the ‘Murder Raids’. The trail is estimated to take you 20 minutes and will roughly be 1,200 steps (0.42 miles).

TRAIL 3

**St. Luke’s Church back to the Harbour
(Ramsgate’s World War Walk; the events
that changed a generation):**

This trail starts at St. Luke’s Church to commemorate the large loss of life there from a Zeppelin attack during World War I. The trail moves round nearby houses to explore World War II raids, then to Aldi, through some of the town and onto Victoria Parade for a great view of Ramsgate’s beaches. The trail ends back at the harbour at Royal Parade. The trail is estimated to take you 55 minutes and will roughly be 3,700 steps (1.31 miles).

Read on to discover how each of these photographs helps explain a piece of Ramsgate's history.

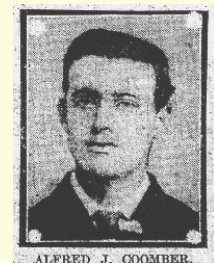
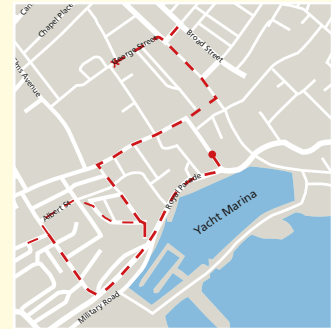




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TRAIL 1

RAMSGATE HARBOUR HISTORICAL WALK: JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD WARS



Start this trail on **York Street**, the part that leads to the harbour. Here is where **Alfred John Coomber** died on 22/08/1917, aged 55. The autopsy showed that **Alfred's** body was found with only a few superficial scratches and so his death was attributed to shock. However, what wasn't really known at the time was that bombs release immense pressure when exploding that can easily kill through internal means, leaving few physical marks on the body.

This, rather than shock, could have caused **Alfred's** death.

Another part of **York Street** also has a strong historical connection, **Central Cars**. Originally a police station, pictured to your right is a photo of the building receiving German Prisoners of War (PoWs). Towards the end of World War I, despite the devastation on the Home Front, the war was turning in Great Britain's favour and PoWs appeared as more land was gained on the Western Front. As it was once a police station, **The Heroes of the Home Front plaque** is displayed here to honour all those who fought in the civilian services during the World Wars.



German PoWs at Ramsgate Police Station. 1917

From here, cross the road and make a right onto **Military Road** where you will see a number of arches. Please walk to **Ship Shape Cafe** on your right. Six people died in or near one of these arched storerooms (records do not specify which) from a single German bomb. The cause of their deaths may be partially explained by what was reported regarding **Walter Melhuish's** death. He was found at the far end of the store with only a small wound in the right side of his chest, leading **Walter's** cause of death to be reported from "shock and general fright, deceased not being a strong man". Given the possibility of extreme air pressure in the arch from the bomb blast, **Walter** and the others listed here could have been killed by the pressure as much as the explosion itself.

The Police Station was seriously damaged on 04/01/1941. The Chief Constable of Ramsgate, S.F. Butler was among those injured in the wreckage, and he was unable to return to active duty for a month.

1. **Walter Charles Melhuish**. 22/08/1917, aged 45.

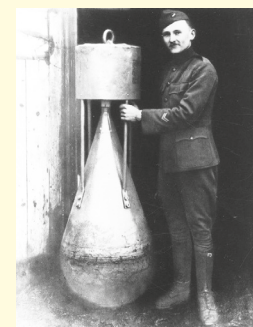
2. **George Baker**. 22/08/1917, aged 71. Died due to severe injuries to his head and neck as well as a very badly smashed right thigh, equally fractured right arm, laceration of left shoulder. The death therefore was most likely due to haemorrhage and shock.

3. **Walter Clarence Spain**. 22/08/1917, aged 57. He was unemployed for some time but found a new job. On his first day, he was killed in an air raid. Shrapnel pierced his lung and most likely his heart as well.

4. **Henry Hope Minter**. 22/08/1917, aged 63. Thought to have been blown into the gutter by the bomb. Suffered compound fracture of the spine at the back of the neck, causing instant death.

5. **John Alfred Debling**. 22/08/1917, aged 44. Compound skull fracture, with shrapnel lacerating his brain.

6. **Nellie Alice Atrail Fox**. 28/08/1917, aged 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, died a week later from the injuries.



Size of a Zeppelin bomb

As you can see, **Nellie** was by far the youngest of all those who lost their lives. Buried at Ramsgate Cemetery just two days after her death, she left behind her parents **Kate Bertha Fox** and **Pte. R.E. Fox** of the Grenadier Guards. The explosion happened as her mum ran into the store while a man was carrying **Nellie** through the entrance. She had her throat burned below her chin, slight injuries on the hip, and small shrapnel injury on her right buttock. These injuries however were not fatal, it was shock that caused her bowels to go into paralysis and led to her death almost a week later. Such injuries were sustained because people did not have enough time to reach shelter, and it was even recounted that **George Baker** was oblivious to the zeppelin. A seaman reportedly saw him standing outside, seemingly unaware of the danger and apparently confused by the younger man's efforts to get him to safety. The seaman tried to pull him inside by the arm but a bomb exploded at their feet, leaving the seaman uninjured but **George** (or maybe **Henry Hope Minter**, as identification was difficult) was killed, left lying in the doorway to the store.

Melhuish, Baker, Spain and **Debling** were all involved in Ramsgate's fishing industry, a dangerous job that was vital to the war effort. **John Alfred Debling** wasn't just a Fish-hawker however, he was also a Pte. in The Buffs, East Kent Regiment until he was discharged on 15/11/1916 due to his age. To get around this, he served under the false identity of **John Philpott** with an enlisted age of 30. When he died in 1917, his mother told the coroner that he was in fact 44. His age was instead officially listed as 40 (possibly to explain the previous age of 30 as an error). Although we will never know **John's** full motives, when compared to similar stories from the time we can assume that he changed his age to join a 'pals battalion' with his friends as he was too old at the time to serve in the military. At his funeral, the coffin was borne on a gun carriage, covered with the Union Jack, and on the way to the Cemetery the band of the Northumberland Fusiliers played the Death March. Three volleys were fired over the grave, and the 'Last Post' was sounded.



On 10/05/1940, Ramsgate had its very own little blitz. Over one hundred incendiaries fell on the town starting twenty-three fires in Cliff Street, Effingham Street and Cavendish Street.

Follow **Harbour Parade** (the big slope) all the way up to level ground and make a right onto **Addington Street**. Keep walking straight until you reach **house number 69**. It was here in WWII on 20/03/1941 where **Bernard James Woodfield**, aged 62, died when the house (originally his printing shop) was demolished by a German bomb attack. **Bernard's** wife survived as she was out at the time. Slightly up the road in the same attack is where **George James Crompton**, aged 48, at 63 **Addington Street** was killed in a direct hit from a bomb. **Mrs Crompton** survived even though she was in the same house as **George** at the time. Rescuers discovered her two hours later while still conscious, and **Mrs Crompton** was able to direct the rescue team to where she believed her husband to be. Another two hours passed before they found **George**, who had died in the wreckage.

Continue walking straight until you can turn left onto **Townley Street**. Surrounding **house number 15** is where five people on 07/09/1941 lost their lives:

1. **William Landi**, aged 37, **15 Townley Street**, killed when the house collapsed.
2. **William 'Billy' Landi**, aged 16, **15 Townley Street**, killed when the house collapsed.
3. **Kathleen Florence 'Kitty' Bowles**, aged 30, **8 Townley Street**, killed in a house collapse.
4. **William Bowles**, aged 41, **8 Townley Street**, killed when the house collapsed.



5. **Edith Alice Evans**, aged 56, **West Cliff Tavern, Townley Street**, she was the landlady, killed in a direct hit. Her husband **William** received serious injuries but survived. The only reason casualties were not high in the tavern was that at the time British aircraft were bombing enemy targets on the French coast, causing people to be drawn outside.

Make a U-turn then a left onto **Addington Street** and walk until you can turn right onto **Albert Street**. Walk straight until you reach **house number 47** on your left. Here is where three people died from a Zeppelin torpedo on 17/06/1917. **Keziah Hamlyn**, aged 57 and **Jonathan Richard Hamlyn** aged 61 lived at **no.47** while **Benjamin Thomas Thouless** aged 67, lived at **no.45**. Not much is known about the circumstances, but we do know that the **Hamlyns** were buried together. Very little info was reported for **Benjamin's** death due to the actions of the British government by mid-1917. By this point in the war, the newspapers were heavily censoring information regarding location of raids, with Ramsgate now replaced with 'Kent coast town'. This was to stop the German's finding out if their raids were effective at hitting any vital infrastructure.

On 07/07/1941, half a dozen high-explosive bombs fell across the town and demolished the Employment Exchange in Chapel Place by their sheer weight – not one of them detonated.

Keep walking along **Albert Street** until you can turn right onto **Liverpool Lawn**. At **house number 16** on your right you will see the location where **Sidney Thomas Browning** died on 16/03/1946 from injuries sustained during the war when he worked in the A.R.P (Air Raid Precautions). Although the war was over, it was injuries he sustained protecting Ramsgate that eventually killed him. You will also be able to see the **Liverpool Lawn** plaque that gives a deeper insight into the history of this area.

Continue to follow **Liverpool Lawn** all the way down and follow the road right onto **Prospect Terrace**. At **house number 8** is the site where, on 20/03/1941, **Alfred Moys**, aged 61, was killed. The situation of his death is rather peculiar. **Alfred** was gardening at same time as **George Smith** next door when the bomb hit, **Alfred** was killed but **George** only suffered a broken arm. Nobody knew what had happened and only looked when they saw **Alfred's** hat and coat hanging on a nearby tree with his ID card inside. It turns out that **Alfred** had heard the German aircraft and ran for shelter, but died after running under an archway in his garden which collapsed on him. His employer, **Mrs. Dunn**, was in the dining room at the time and escaped unhurt.

Do a U-turn and head down **Adelaide Gardens**. Almost immediately, at **2 Adelaide Gardens**, is where **Frederick William Simpson** was killed on 07/09/1941, aged 72. He was being helped by a neighbour into their house for safety when a bomb hit. **George James Cossons**, aged 58, was also killed a few feet away in the street as he ran home to **35 Adelaide Gardens**. Adjacent is **3 Adelaide Gardens** where **Joseph Richard Tomalin** sustained injuries from his house collapsing on him after an air raid. **Joseph's** death was particularly horrific. When the rescuers reached him after four hours of tunnelling, they discovered that his skull was being slowly crushed by the weight of the debris. With extreme dexterity the rescue team removed the wreckage from his body, and when a doctor crawled through the tunnel, he noticed a faint flicker of life. His removal took another agonising thirty minutes, and **Joseph** died two days later, on 09/09/1941, aged 72.



Ramsgate's A.R.P.



Ramsgate's Home Guard

Air attacks could come at any moment. On 04/01/1941, a single Junkers 88 bomber dived out of low cloud. On duty PC Coughlan saw the plane and blew his whistle, sending shoppers scurrying for shelter. Three shops were hit. A bomb exploded on the top floor and at the rear of Woolworths, saving many lives by not exploding at ground level.

From here, reach the end of **Adelaide Gardens** and make a right onto **Albert Street**. Keep walking until you can make a left onto **Grundy's Hill** and follow that road all the way until the end. From here, make a right onto **Queen Street** and walk until you can see **Vyeson Court** on your right. It was here where, despite being months apart, two people died. **Miles Wrigley Leach** (24/08/1940, aged 46) died outside **Vye & Sons** after being blown through a plate glass window by a bomb. **Clara Gladys Kay** a few months later (04/01/1941, aged 45), died outside the **Vye & Sons** ruins. Although it may seem like an incredible coincidence, it is explainable through the German tactics, or lack thereof. Often the attacks weren't calculated, instead the bombs were jettisoned over the town from German aircraft (Messerschmitt and the Focke-Wulf fighter-bomber) hastily beating a retreat from the shores of Britain. Therefore, this part of Ramsgate was often bombed.

Keep following **Queen Street** until you see **Coleman's Yard** on your left (by **Changes Day Spa**). This is where **Norman Edward Hougham** on 04/01/1941 died at only age 7. He was killed instantly in the air raid, but his mother survived. It is simply unimaginable the sorrow the mother must have felt seeing her young son die in front of her.

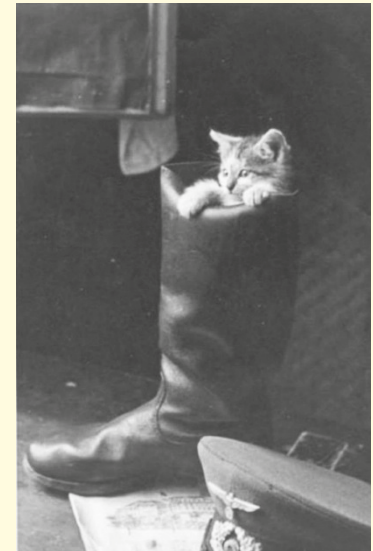
Keep walking straight along **Queen Street**. To your left is **Sherley's Pet Stores** (21 Queen Street), where the **Animals on the Home Front plaque** is located. This plaque commemorates all the animals that died during the wars.

On 24/08/1940, in a house close to Vye & Sons, an old woman was sitting on her stairs when a bomb exploded and blew all her doors open. No windows were damaged but her kitten was going mad at the explosion.



If you instead make a left onto **Queen Street** and follow **West Cliff Road**, you will eventually reach the Grade II listed **Ramsgate General Hospital**, which is now accommodation. In front of the main entrance you will find the **Ramsgate General Hospital plaque**.

This hospital is central to this booklet as many of the people you read about were cared for here until they succumbed to their injuries. However, we must not forget the many injured who survived thanks to the hard work and dedication of all those who worked in this hospital.



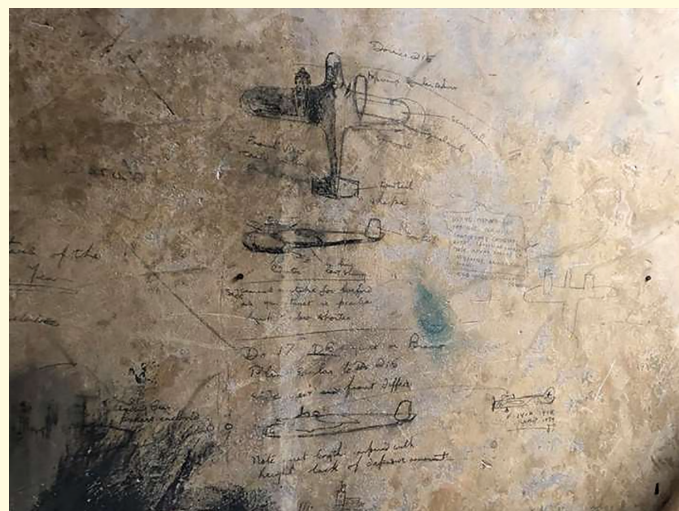
Keep walking and when you reach the banks, make a left onto **High Street** and head straight until you reach **Poundland** (12-14 High Street). In generations past this was the **Bull & George Hotel** which on 19/05/1915 was the location of the first fatalities of Ramsgate during World War I. Only a small fragment of the original building survives, located in the stockroom of **Poundland**. Most of the building was destroyed when a German incendiary bomb was dropped directly on the hotel causing windows to shatter, ceilings to collapse and the front of the building to be left in tatters (see right photo). Surprisingly, despite the immense damage, the death toll was relatively small. A barmaid, **Kate Moffatt**, was awoken by the assistant housekeeper **Miss Pikington** who unknowingly saved her life when, just as Kate left her room, a bomb crashed straight through the bed she had just been sleeping on.

However, others were not so lucky. The explosion caused **John Herbert Smith**, aged 42 and **Florence Earle Lamont**, aged 43 to fall straight through the floor to the cellar below, fatally injuring them both. **John** died immediately, while **Florence** died a day later. She was initially taken to the soldiers' hospital by mistake but due to the seriousness of her injuries she was deemed too unfit to be moved to the civilian hospital. Her death was ruled an 'act of wilful murder' committed by the Kaiser. Interestingly, the papers at the time noted them as "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith", incorrectly assuming they were a couple. In fact, **John** was married to someone else.

However, it is important not to overstate the accuracy of the Zeppelin bombing raids. Despite this successful attack, this was not a common feat, even on that day. The same Zeppelin dropped over a dozen bombs over Ramsgate, many of them incendiary and causing fires. Despite this large number of bombs, the **Bull & George Hotel** was the only seriously affected location. Two incendiary bombs fell in the park harmlessly, a bomb at **Albion Mill** only shattered the shop front, and the same Zeppelin passed Margate, Broadstairs and Deal but did not drop any bombs. Rather than this being well calculated, actual devastation during World War I was rare.



The Bull & George's first floor after the bombing



World War II plane drawings located in Poundland, used to identify friendly and enemy aircraft



Although the town pictured is Norfolk, this generated image is what a Zeppelin would have looked like to those on the street.

Walk slightly up to Card Factory and you will see the site where a great act of kindness was shown in such dire circumstances. On 04/01/1941, **Edna Honess**, aged 19, a grocery store assistant, ran into the butcher's shop for safety during a raid. She was met at the door by the manager **Albert Victor Dennis**, aged 35. They had almost reached the cabinet refrigerator when the bomb exploded. The massive door crushed **Edna**, presumably killing her instantly, and **Albert** was buried beneath the rubble. Rescuers later pulled him from the wreckage, but he died in hospital the same night.

Keep walking straight until you can make a right onto **Hardres Street** and follow it until you can see **The Victoria Restaurant** on your right. It was here where on 03/02/1941 **Lottie Winifred Pritchard**, aged 32, was killed on her way to work and **Alice Louisa Oates**, aged 52, was killed at home when a bomb hit. These deaths highlight that regardless of whether you were out in the open or sheltered in a house, German bombs could kill you. That's why Anderson Shelters and the Ramsgate Tunnels became vital during World War II, as they offered the best protection.

Do a U-turn back onto the **High Street** and make a right, then make a left onto **George Street**. It is here that one shell destroyed both **13** and **15 George Street** on 04/10/1943, showing the deadly effectiveness of German armaments. The shell crashed its way down through **house number 15** and into the cellar before exploding. Occupant **James Bishop**, aged 43, was killed instantly. Next door at no.13, **William Michael Walker**,

Postcard depicting an attack on Ramsgate



The Bull & George's first floor after the bombing

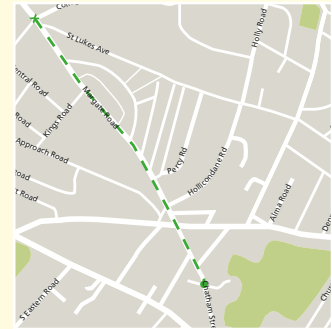


aged 7 and **Rosina Mary Cleveland**, aged 21, who were living above Shooter's fish shop at the time, also died from the explosion. Surprisingly, **Rosina's** eight-month-old baby was found some hours later in its cot unhurt. The rest of both the **Walker** and **Bishop** families were also recovered from the rubble. When dawn broke, several houses had been demolished and it was apparent that several more would have to be pulled down due to the extent of the damage.

This is the end of the trail. Trail 2 begins at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar school, about a 5-minute walk away. If you wish to take part in that trail, please consult the map at the front of the booklet.



The trail is estimated to take you 20 minutes and will roughly be 1,200 steps (0.42 miles)



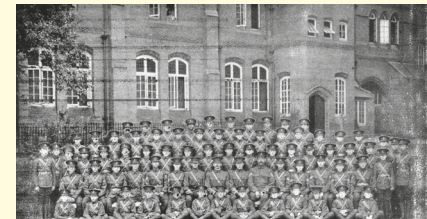
TRAIL 2

RAMSGATE UNDER ATTACK; WALK THROUGH THE WORLD WARS

Please start this trail at **Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School** on **Chatham Street**. It is here where Canadian soldiers, **John Paul**, a gunner for the Canadian Artillery and **Pte. D. R. Crighton**, a butcher for the Canadian Medical Corps, were killed in a bombing on 22/08/1917. They are officially listed as dying at the **Granville Special Canadian Hospital**, possibly due to being recovered there before a doctor pronounced them dead. These men were here because during World War I, **Chatham House** was used as a **Canadian Military Hospital**, highlighting the flood of Commonwealth troops and military infrastructure into Ramsgate as the war progressed. You will see the **Canadian Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital plaque** displayed on the school to honour their sacrifice.

However, this area also has a strong historical connection to World War II as well. A day that lives in infamy for Ramsgate, it was nicknamed the 'Murder Raids' after a brutal German attack was launched on 24th August 1940 and caused massive destruction to vast areas of Ramsgate. It led to the deaths of 29 civilians (and two soldiers), destroyed 78 houses, left 300 houses not fit for habitation and 700 other houses with varying degrees of damage. To fully grasp how World War II affected the town, Ramsgate's population was 35,000 at the outbreak of war, was reduced to 12,000 during the war years then rose to 17,000 by 1945.

At **Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School**, the sites of deaths are already visible. Directly on the road in front of you are where **Alfred George Morris**, aged 51, and **Herbert Frank Wells**, aged 32, were killed when they were both hit by machine-gun fire from the attacking Luftwaffe. **Alfred's** occupation was never published due to government censorship, so he may have been working that day, but we will never know. What we do know is that he left behind his wife, **Kathleen Ada Morris**. **Herbert** was a fireman and his story will be explained at the end of this trail, but he died from the large torrent of shrapnel and machine gun fire. The Luftwaffe were aiming for civilians, flying low enough to accurately use machine guns. As we continue, just imagine seeing German aircraft so low that you could distinguish the features of the pilot's face and the dents on the ME-109's fuselage, as well as the terrifying and deafening noise these aircraft made.



Walk up **Chatham Street** and just past the **Asda** is where, at just 16 years old, **William Robert Thomas Birch** was killed outside what was the **Dawson Hotel**. Due to the sheer number of bombs dropped, buildings crumbled and **Birch** was crushed by rubble while in his van. He died later that day from the severe injuries he sustained. He was only a boy, and had small jobs as an A.R.P. Messenger and Van Boy with the local laundry. He lost his life far too soon and left behind his father **C.W. Birch** and mother **E.M. Birch**. Please keep walking up the hill, past the **traffic lights** and onto **Margate Road**.

To put what you are about to read in perspective, on this day 500 bombs were dropped in the space of 5 minutes, a rate of two bomb blasts per second. There was no time to shelter, and with the deafening sound of the German aircraft engines and the noise of the falling bombs, the fear must have been immeasurable. Nowhere was safe, streets were flattened in a matter of minutes leaving nothing but dust and death. Please walk along **Margate Road** on the right-hand side of the road and stop intermittently when you reach the listed landmarks.

Walk to The **South Eastern Tavern**. As you look around, keep in mind that every name you read was someone who was killed around you:

1. **Albert Henry Chantle**, aged 57, **Railway Tavern**, killed when bomb threw him through the pub's door.
2. **Albert Richard Gifford**, aged 59, not too far from his house at **1 Paradise** (then **Addington Street**).
3. **James Reginald Haggis**, aged 16, killed near **The Shakespeare pub**, at the corner of **Chatham Street** and **Percy Road** (**Chatham Street** stretched further up **Margate Road**).
4. **Ivy Doreen Lilley**, aged 42. She was the owner of a newsagent shop on **15 Margate Road** (just after **Percy Road**). Despite the imminent danger to her life, in her final moments she served a customer before sheltering.

Please continue walking until you reach **The Bread Factory**.



The Bread Factory

1. Frederick Charles Ticehurst, aged 36, **25 Station Approach Road**. A bomb destroyed his house whilst he was asleep after working a night-shift as a Police Constable.

2. Gladys Joyce May Rowland, aged 20, **Margate Road**. Her occupation is unknown, but she lived in Broadstairs so we can infer that she was in Ramsgate for work.

Keep walking until you reach **Tune Up Garage Services**. Just ahead is where **Catherine Ann Boxall**, aged 68, was killed at home on **67 Margate Road** whilst in her Anderson Shelter. This story also highlights just how sudden German attacks could be. The planes the Luftwaffe had at their disposal were quick, and because this was fairly early on in the war the RAF were on the back foot. However, this isn't to say that there was no support. In fact, the RAF were deployed to counter this raid. British pilot **Geoffrey Allard** was born in York in 1912 and by the middle of 1940 he had been awarded a Distinguished Flying Medal. On 24th August, **Geoffrey** shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109 into the sea near Ramsgate, directly helping to mitigate the damage done during the 'Murder Raids'. Sadly, he was unable to see the end of the war as on 13/03/1941, **Geoffrey** and two other pilots were killed near RAF Debden when their aircraft crashed soon after take-off.

Continue to walk to **Scarlet Shades** on the left side of the road, which was originally the location of **Hudson's Flour Mill**. To understand just what it would have felt like to have been caught up in this devastation, here is an eye witness account from John Side who was at the top of the silo at the local flour mill when he saw the German attack:

"The noise was ear-splitting as the bombs exploded on the ground below. I was unhurt but the air was filled with chalk dust and the mill had received some hits. As the bombing had cut off all the electricity, I had a very difficult time climbing down with dust choking me and almost utter darkness".



Hudson's Flour Mill, although often targeted, stayed open throughout the war to provide people with their daily bread. Like London's Windmill Theatre, they never closed and became a symbol of the iconic message "Keep Calm and Carry On".

However, tragedy also befell this site. Just next to the **Mill**, **Benjamin Kember**, aged 31, was walking home to **16 Margate Road** with his son **Brian Benjamin Kember**, aged 3, and his wife **Mary Elizabeth Kember**, aged 31 before a German bomb killed them. This was not an attack on military infrastructure but rather a calculated attack on the civilian population of England in an attempt to demoralise them. It sadly meant the death of children as young as 3 years old.



Geoffrey Allard welcomed back from a successful mission.



The Women's Voluntary Service was an essential organisation throughout the war, with over one million women volunteering. Women played a crucial role in factories and on farms, but also provided social welfare to families and helped promote the war effort.



Please walk the final few minutes of the trail where you will reach the **Premier Express** just before the bridge. We end this trail by talking about **Fireman Edward Henry James Moore**, whose tale of heroism on this horrid day is nothing short of incredible. An Auxiliary Fireman during World War II, **Edward** was presented the George medal by King George VI in September 1941 at Buckingham Palace for his bravery during the 'Murder Raids'. Firemen **Edward** and **Herbert Frank Wells** were cycling along **College Road** when bombs started falling, with both severely injured by the shrapnel. Despite the serious injuries, **Edward** tended to his friend's wounds before being strafed by an enemy aircraft. "He laid over the top of his friend when they were machine-gunned" according to a newspaper. He then crawled from **College Road** to an air raid shelter near the **Derby Arms** pub in **Margate Road**. The injuries **Edward** sustained included a severed artery in one of his arms and bullet wounds in his leg but this did not stop him trying to seek out help for his friend. However, although he managed to find help, fellow **Fireman Herbert** did not make it and died a day later at Ramsgate General Hospital.

The trail ends here. Trail 3 begins at St. Luke's Church, about a 7-minute walk away if you walk straight down **St Luke's Avenue** to the right of **Premier Express**. If you wish to take part in that trail, please consult the map at the front of the booklet.

Although not included on this walk, there are a number of deaths just past the bridge. You can find this info in the 'Heroes on the Home Front Roll of Honour' section of the booklet, which can be found on page 39. The closest deaths to the bridge are on **Woodford Avenue** and **Newlands Road**, where four people were killed during the 'Murder Raids'.

1. **Charles Stephen Wesley**, aged 16 who died in the house he sheltered in.
2. **Albert Edward Newland**, aged 39. A lot of **Woodford Avenue** was destroyed in this raid.
3. **Joseph and Rose Tuckley**, aged 69 and 59, died at **15 Newlands Road** while sheltering in their home. Together in death as they were in life.

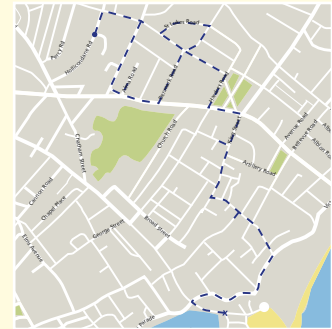


War hero Edward Moore





The trail is estimated to take you 55 minutes and will roughly be 3,700 steps (1.31 miles)



TRAIL 3

RAMSGATE'S WORLD WAR WALK; THE EVENTS THAT CHANGED A GENERATION

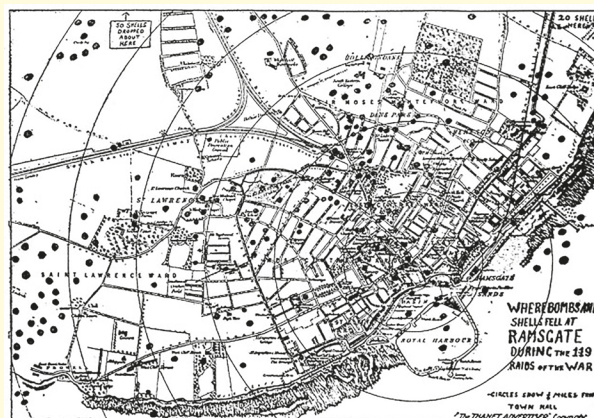
We start this trail at **St. Luke's Church** where the most poignant Zeppelin bombing during World War I took place. 9 people were killed on this road; most of them children. Although just a single Zeppelin bomb was dropped, it was the result of a series of unfortunate events that caused such destruction. Sunday school had just finished, and many children were leaving on their way home. However, the bomb landed on a nearby car, resulting in a much larger explosion. There is the **Child Fatalities of the World Wars plaque** located on **The Avenue** (St Luke's Avenue, CT11 7HS) that commemorates their deaths. The injuries sustained were considered too gory to print in the papers, although a few did publish eyewitness accounts and the coroner's report provided details. Having read these details ourselves, we agree with the reporters of the time and will not be detailing the horrific injuries suffered by the children.

Many were killed immediately:

1. **Gladys Evelyn Saxby.** 19/03/1916, aged 6.
2. **James Saxby.** 19/03/1916, aged 4.
3. **Francis Hardwick.** 19/03/1916, aged 5 ½.
4. **Ernest Robert Philpott.** 19/03/1916, aged 12 ½.
5. **Henry Herbert Divers.** 19/03/1916, aged 49. The explosion blasted the car into a tree and Divers was thrown across road, dying instantly.
6. **Herbert James Gibbens.** 20/03/1916, aged 8, died from injuries.
7. **Gertrude May Bishop.** 21/03/1916, aged 22, died due to serious injuries.



Funeral for the children



While two died after a number of years:

1. **George Edward Philpott**. 13/02/1917, aged 16, after complications due to his injuries. Brother of Ernest Robert Philpott.
2. **Grace Ellen Ward**. 19/01/1926, aged 19, died from complications due to her injuries.

Grace Ellen Ward survived this bombing, but she suffered severe trauma and physical injuries as a result of that day such as a head wound and needing her right arm amputated below the elbow. She sadly died from her injuries 10 years later, and this time-difference fully displays that the scars of war do not disappear because an armistice is declared, but instead haunts people for the rest of their lives. At the time, the commonality of civilian casualties caused several public programs to be put in place. For example, **Henry Divers' wife** was paid £200 by the Daily Mail after his death as she had signed up to their war scheme. A joint funeral for the children was held at **St. Luke's Church** on 23rd March 1916.

Facing **The Avenue**, turn left and make a left onto **Hollicondane Road** and follow it until you reach **house number 37** on the right. Here marks the spot where four people (covering three generations of the same family) lost their lives on 02/11/1940. They were killed at home from a direct hit, destroying their house and the adjoining house:

1. **Margaret May Williams**, aged 18, (sister of Eleanor Shiel).
2. **Georgina Catherine Shiel**, aged 1, (daughter of George Henry and Eleanor Shiel).
3. **Alice Veronica Shiel**, aged 4, (daughter of George Henry and Eleanor Shiel).
4. **Catherine Williams**, aged 52, (grandmother to children killed, mother of Eleanor Shiel).

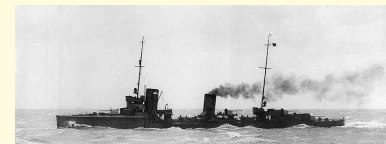
Near the gasworks on 2/11/1940, **Mrs Peete** left her baby in its pram while she went to the shop opposite. When the bombs fell she rushed out of the shop, snatched the baby and ran down some steps leading to a basement. There she crouched as glass splinters and masonry fell on top of her. The pram was flattened but they were both safe.

Eleanor Shiel survived the attack because she wasn't at the house. Before this bombing, an air raid had happened. After the all clear had been given, **Eleanor** went shopping for dinner. Another air raid siren sounded and she took shelter in the nearby tunnels until the sirens stopped, unaware of what had happened to her family. When she returned home, **Eleanor** saw the remains of her house with her mother, sister, and children found dead. We may see heroes as those who earn medals, but **Eleanor** is no less of a hero. Put in a horrendous situation that must have been unbearable, it is her willpower to keep going despite everything that makes her a hero.

Make a U-turn and head back to **St. Luke's Church**. Walk past and then make a right onto **Upper Dumpton Park Road**. Follow the road all the way down (along the left curve at the bottom) and then make a left onto **Alma Road**. At around **house number 5** was where **John William Hobday**, on 27/04/1917 at aged 60 died running to reach his house on **12a Alma Road** for safety. **Hobday** didn't die by a bomb dropped from an airship, but rather by a bombardment from enemy destroyers out in the Channel. Being shelled from the sea, although not as common as Zeppelin raids, was still used by the Germans to target England due to the unreliability of Zeppelins during World War I.

From here, do a U-turn and make a left on **Boundary Road**. Keep walking until you can make another left onto **Denmark Road**. Walk to the end of the road and just before you get there, **house number 29** should be on your right. Here is where **Florence Francis Saffrey**, aged 52, was injured in her home on 02/11/1940. She died later that day in hospital due to her injuries. Reach the end of **St. Luke's Road**, make a right onto **Dane Road** then a left onto **St. Luke's Avenue**. Follow that along until you can make a right onto **St. Luke's Road** then keep walking until you reach **house number 22**. Here is where partners **Ethelwyn** and **Edward William Ruffell**, age 66 and 65, were killed at home on 02/11/1940. They were sheltering under the stairs together, embracing each other in the darkest of times, but unfortunately the attack killed them both and their bodies were found that morning. They were buried in one grave together. Interestingly, their neighbour **Mrs Day** hid under her stairs and although her house was also destroyed, she survived.

Reach the end of **Denmark Road** and make a right onto **St. Luke's Avenue**. Half way down the road at **house number 5** is where **Alice Maude Mary Miller**, aged 71, died on 28/06/1943 in bed when a bomb hit her house. Follow the road to the end and make a right onto **Hardres Road** and follow that all the way down till you reach **Boundary Road**. As will be quite visible, to your right is the **Aldi**. This building was once the old **Gasworks**, a site of Ramsgate's industry. Placed there is the **Labourers of the World Wars plaque** dedicated to the labourers who lost their lives during the World Wars. It was here that **Ernest Howland**, aged 52, and **Sidney Cooper**, age 49, were killed on 24/08/1940 as they ran for shelter. They were friends who both worked here during the war.



Ramsgate Home Guard



Light coastal forces sink German armed trawler (6th April 1943, Ramsgate)

Buried in the cemetery nearby is the German pilot **Hans Hermann Heise**. Little is known about his combat record, except that he shot down a Hurricane north of Arras on 19/05/1940. **Heise** was killed on 11/08/1940 during aerial combat while flying a Bf 109E-1, where he crashed at sea off North Foreland, Kent. He is buried in Section MA, Gr 110 (M.Croft).

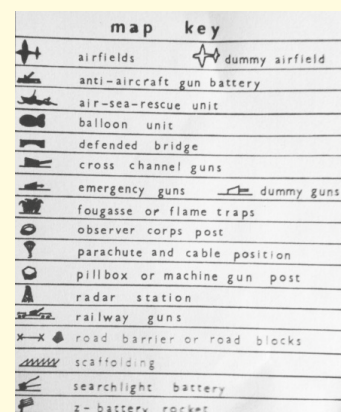
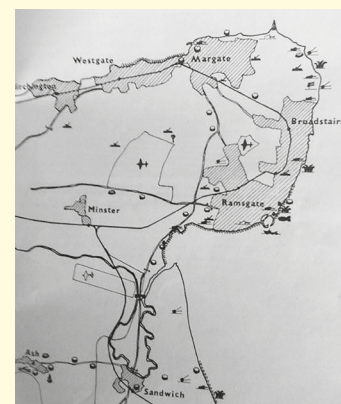
The **Gasworks** was targeted in particular because it was used for the war effort, with the German strategy to cut off Ramsgate's ability to be self-sufficient and, through attacking key sites like this all over the country, force Great Britain into surrender. Fortunately, this strategy did not become a reality and despite the risks, the men still bravely turned up to do their job and their duty.

The British needed defensive maps (1940 Defence Map pictured right) because the Luftwaffe were a formidable force. Take for instance **Hans-Ulrich Rudel**, one of the pilots during the 'Murder Raids'. **Rudel** had one of the most decorated pilot records of the war, being the sole recipient of the Knight's Cross with Golden Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamond medal. He became a Stuka pilot at 25 and rose to the rank of colonel by 28. By the end of the war he was credited with flying 2,530 ground-attack missions, destroying more than 800 vehicles, including one Soviet battleship, 519 tanks, 70 landing crafts and 150 artillery emplacements. At one point, **Rudel's** leg was amputated due to an enemy shell hitting his plane but he returned to active duty less than six weeks later. He spent the last years of his life in South America where he supported South American dictators, aided escaping Nazi war criminals and helped the Americans with the creation of the Warthog A10 plane. Rudel periodically returned to Germany and until his death at the age of 66, he remained a staunch supporter of the Nazi philosophy.

Turn left on **Boundary Road** and near the bus stop is where **Arthur Albert Smith**, on 12/08/1940, aged 58, died at the **Boundary Road conveniences** (public loos) after the building received a direct hit from a German bomb. **Arthur** was killed and two other people were slightly injured in the blast, with **Arthur** being the first local to die during World War II. On that day, over twenty high-explosive bombs were dropped over Ramsgate, Sarre and Monkton – among them an oil bomb that sprayed burning oil for a distance of over seventy feet. German Luftwaffe attacks tended to use mass bombings to get results, destroying many obscure places such as public loos.

From here, cross the road and make a right onto **King Street**. Keep walking and then make a right onto **Sussex Street**. As you walk along, keep an eye on the houses as on this road five people lost their lives:

1. **Thomas Arthur Ronald Jones**. 24/08/1940, aged 26, injured at home, **5 Sussex Street**, died later at hospital due to the severity of his injuries.
2. **Frederick Thomas Plummer**. 24/08/1940, aged 56, was an air raid warden for Ramsgate, but his main job was selling fruit from a horse-drawn green-grocer's cart. He was killed on **Sussex Street** from the serious injuries sustained in the explosion, with the horse also dying.
3. **John Brown**. 24/08/1940, aged 19, killed running across the road to his house at **20 Sussex Street**.
4. **William Tilbey Stredwick** aged 51 and **Clara Gladys Stredwick**. aged 63, were both killed at home on **22 Sussex Street** on 12/11/1940.



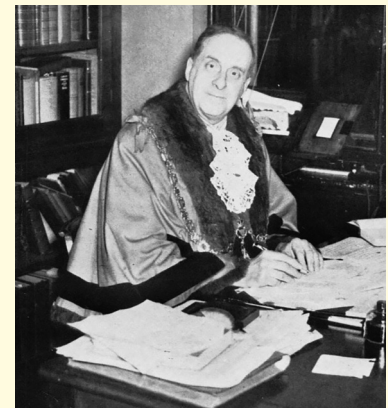
When Sergeant Buddle was inspecting the wreckage with Louisa's husband, they were surprised to find that a large wooden elephant had survived the blast. It was entrusted to Sergeant Buddle who promised to return it to the family when they were re-housed. Jumbo was eventually returned to its former owner in August 1945!

Return to **King Street** and keep moving in the same direction until you are able to make a left onto the **Plains of Waterloo** where you should walk forward until you can make a right onto **La Belle Alliance Square**. On this road marks the site of two deaths. The first is **Evan 'Yanto' Williams** who died on 24/08/1940, aged 47 at **house number 2**. He left behind his wife, **Dorothy Williams**. A few months later **Emily Hilda Horten** died on 05/11/1940, aged 30, at **house number 5**. She ran into her home for shelter, but it received a direct hit. She was killed on a Tuesday, but her body was not recovered until the Friday. Another 30-year-old woman, **Louisa Taylor**, was buried beneath her ruined home next door, but was fortunately rescued in a very short time and rushed to hospital. This is the difference a few feet from an explosion can make.

Return to the **Plains of Waterloo** and make a right, following the road until you reach **Wellington Crescent**. Make another right and follow the route all the way down to the harbour, enjoying the great view of the sea while you do. On this route, when you get to **Madeira Walk**, look to the right down **Albion Place** and you will see **Albion House**. During World War II, on the day of the 'Murder Raids', Ramsgate Mayor **Alderman Kempe** was standing outside the old council buildings when a bomb exploded right in front of him. The blast launched the mayor down the entrance of the building all the way to the basement, where he was later found with minor injuries. He emerged from the debris, replaced his top hat, and went back to work overseeing the rescue and recovery work. All the devastation you have seen on this trail would have been unimaginably worse if not for Mayor **Kempe** and Ramsgate Borough Engineer **R.D. Brimmell's** tireless efforts to get the Ramsgate Tunnels built. They were officially opened by the Duke of Kent on 1st June 1939 and came just in time to shelter the people of Ramsgate. The network was capable of sheltering 60,000 people, although Ramsgate's civilian population at the time was approximately 33,000. Many people used the Tunnels when there was an air raid to provide the best protection from the German bombs, but many times people would emerge and find their houses left as a pile of rubble. Therefore, people decided to live in the Tunnels for the duration of the war, making a home with beds and items like sheets hanging up for privacy. Shops and other places of trade even opened up inside the Tunnels due to the influx of people, with at one point, there were just under 1,000 people living down there! The Ramsgate Tunnels is open to the public and offers guided tours to explore the rich history of these essential shelters.

These experiences were recounted by **Muriel Lilley** from Dumpton in 2011, whose late husband grew up in Ramsgate and visited the tunnels while on leave from the commandos during the war:

"It was like one big family down there, everyone knew each other. You'd bump into neighbours or people that used to go to the same shops as you. After so many people were made homeless by the bombs they just moved into the tunnels permanently. There were barbers down there, greengrocers, everything. Some people would play music, and there were concert parties to keep morale up".



Mayor Kempe attending to his duties



Junkers Ju 88 bombers were used with deadly effect against Ramsgate

From here, you have two options to reach the harbour. Either you can keep walking down **Madeira Walk** to see the waterfall. Or as you're walking, to your left you should see the **Kent Steps** that offer a more direct route to the harbour. In either case, please head towards **Harbour Parade** and **Little Ships** takeaway as this area is steeped in history. For starters, there is the **Dunkirk plaque** on **Little Ships** that commemorates Ramsgate's role in this valiant rescue. Furthermore, it was on this small portion of road that on 24/08/1940 two men died. One was **Frank William Adams**, aged 54, who left behind his wife **Ava Adams**. The second was **Cornelius Roddy** who was only 15 years old at the time, and left behind his parents **John Thomas** and **Ellen Roddy**. They were killed during the 'Murder Raids', discussed in detail in trail 2.

Now, look out into **Ramsgate Harbour** for the location of the final death on this trail. Along the foreshore on 27/01/1940, **Alexandros Tumetrois Petrouson** died aged 28. He was part of the Merchant Navy and was killed out on the waters of the harbour. He was the first death of World War II in Ramsgate, nearly 6 months after the official declaration of war on September 1939.

This is where the trail ends. Trail 1 begins just the other end of the harbour on **Military Road**, only a 2-minute walk away. If you wish to take part in that trail, please consult the map at the front of the booklet.



Pearly Queens at Ramsgate



A German bombing formation



Ramsgate Harbour

THE BLUE PLAQUE ENCYCLOPAEDIA

When creating this booklet, we wanted the people we talked about to be more than just statistics on the page. We wanted readers to have a real understanding of their lives and livelihoods, and what defined them. The following pages give the wordings on each plaque and where you can find them around Ramsgate.

Child Fatalities of the World Wars:

Location: 'The Avenue' (St. Luke's Avenue, CT11 7HS).

During the World Wars, 8 children lost their lives during World War I and 13 during World War II. They were too young to fight in the war but still suffered the same fate as many soldiers on the frontline. At this location on 19th March 1916, a zeppelin's bomb exploded a car and caused the death of 9 people, most of them children.

The following names are of the children killed in the wars, listed in chronological order.

World War I

1. James Saxby, 4
2. Gladys Evelyn Saxby, 6
3. Francis Hardwick, 5 ½
4. Ernest Robert Philpott 12 ½
5. Herbert James Gibbens, 8
6. Edward George Philpott, 16
7. Nellie Alice Atrail Fox, 5 ¾
8. Grace Ellen Ward, 9 when injured, died at 19 from the injuries

World War II

9. William Robert Thomas Birch, 16
10. James Reginald Haggis, 16
11. Brian Benjamin Kember, 3
12. Cornelius Roddy, 15
13. Charles Stephen Wesley, 16
14. Alice Veronica Shiel, 4
15. Georgine Catherine Shiel, 1
16. Margaret May Williams, 18
17. Norman Edward Hougham, 7
18. Derek Walls, 15
19. Alan Battersby, 11
20. William 'Billy' Landi, 16
21. William Michael Walker, 7



Funeral for the children who died outside St. Luke's Church

Canadian Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital:

Location: Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School (Chatham Street, CT11 7PR).

From March 1916 until September 1917, Chatham House was used as a VAD Hospital by the Canadian Military. The building was bombed on 22nd August 1917 killing 2, John Paul and Pte. D. R. Crighton, and wounding 5 others. On the 24th August 1940, 29 people lost their lives during the 'Murder Raids'. The German attack destroyed 78 houses and left 700 badly damaged. Chatham Street and Margate Road were central to this devastation, with 13 people killed.

The following names are of the people killed in the 'Murder Raid'.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. John Paul (Gunner, Canadian Artillery 5B) | 17. Mary Elizabeth Kember |
| 2. Pte. D. R. Crighton (Butcher, Canadian Medical Corps) | 18. Gladys Joyce May Rowland |
| 3. Frank William Adams | 19. Charles Stephen Wesley |
| 4. Cornelius Roddy | 20. Albert Edward Newland |
| 5. Miles Wrigley Leach | 21. Joseph Tuckley |
| 6. Alfred George Morris | 22. Rose Tuckley |
| 7. Herbert Frank Wells | 23. Evan 'Yanto' Williams |
| 8. William Robert Thomas Birch | 24. Thomas Arthur Ronald Jones |
| 9. Albert Henry Chantler | 25. Frederick Thomas Plummer |
| 10. Albert Richard Gifford | 26. John Brown |
| 11. James Reginald Haggis | 27. Ernest Howland |
| 12. Ivy Doreen Lilley | 28. Sidney Cooper |
| 13. Frederick Charles Ticehurst | 29. Phillip John Page |
| 14. Catherine Ann Boxall | 30. George Edward Farley |
| 15. Benjamin Kember | 31. (A number of sources suggest there is one more person yet to be named from this day) |
| 16. Brian Benjamin Kember | |

Home Front Censorship:

Location: The Home Front tea room (13A King Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NN).

Many people died during the World Wars for whom we are unable to know their occupation, 1 during World War I and 32 during World War II. Government censorship limited what information could be made public to prevent the Germans from finding out which key workers they had killed, for fear they would strike again. Although unknown, there is no doubt that the contributions of these unknown heroes to the war effort were invaluable.

The following names are of the people killed in the wars for whom we have little information, listed in chronological order (J.H. Smith is from WWI, the rest are from WWII).

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Herbert Smith | 18. Albert Victor Dennis |
| 2. Arthur Albert Smith | 19. Edna Honess |
| 3. Frank William Adams | 20. Bernard James Woodfield |
| 4. John Brown | 21. Alan Battersby |
| 5. Albert Richard Gifford | 22. Clifford Henry Aste |
| 6. Benjamin Kember | 23. John Godfrey |
| 7. Alfred George Morris | 24. James Holt |
| 8. Albert Edward Newland | 25. William Landi |
| 9. Phillip John Page | 26. Fredrick William Simpson |
| 10. Cornelius Roddy | 27. Joseph Richard Tomalin |
| 11. Gladys Joyce May Rowland | 28. Louisa Rouse |
| 12. Charles Stephen Wesley | 29. Arthur Roberts |
| 13. Evan 'Yanto' Williams | 30. William John Roberts |
| 14. Herbert Victor Lawbuary | 31. William Michael Walker |
| 15. Edward William Ruffell | 32. William Henry Simmons |
| 16. William Tilbey Stredwick | 33. Kenneth William George Campbell |
| 17. Annie Kathleen 'Kitty' Verrion | |

Labourers of the World Wars:

Location: The Old Gas Works, the new Aldi Supermarket (Boundary Road, CT11 7NA).

Many labourers died during the World Wars. Farmers, gas workers, miners, delivery boys and many more people were crucial in helping to win the wars and kept Ramsgate's home fires burning. This is the site of the old Gas Works, a constant target during the wars and a symbol of Ramsgate's industrial heritage and the men and women behind it.

The following names are of the labourers killed in the wars..

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. James Philip Barnes (Farmer) | 7. Alfred Moys (Gardener) |
| 2. George Edward Philpott (Gas Works Office Worker) | 8. John Twyman (Rag and Bone Man) |
| 3. Thomas Arthur Ronald Jones (Miner) | 9. Sidney Cooper (Gas Works Employee) |
| 4. William Bowles (Miner) | 10. Lottie Winifred Pritchard (Employed by firm of house furnishers) |
| 5. Arthur Charles Impett (Agricultural Worker) | 11. James Reginald Haggis (Delivery Boy) |
| 6. James Thomas Woodcock (Agricultural Worker) | |

Heroes of the Home Front:

Location: Central Cars (4B York Street, CT11 9DS).

From the police, to firemen, air raid wardens, doctors, nurses and many more, Ramsgate was protected from enemy attack during both World Wars. They spotted German bombing raids, kept fires controlled and saved countless lives through their quick thinking and bravery. Their sacrifice shall not be forgotten.

The following names are of the people in uniformed services killed in the wars.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Frederick Charles Ticehurst (Police Constable) | 6. Ernest Howland (Air Raid Warden, also a Gas Works employee) |
| 2. Joseph Tuckley (Air Raid Warden) | 7. Herbert Frank Wells (Auxilliary Fireman) |
| 3. Frederick Thomas Plummer (Air Raid Warden, also Fruitier) | 8. George James Crompton (Fire Watcher) |
| 4. George Edward Farley (Air Raid Warden) | 9. Emily Olga Holthouse (Women's Voluntary Service) |
| 5. George James Cossons (Air Raid Warden) | 10. E. or Charles Arthur Davey (Employed at RAF Manston) |



Ramsgate's Home Guard

Here is a fitting tribute to the ARP teams and other groups in the Isle of Thanet Gazette, dated 30 August, 1940:

"As recently as a few months ago street corner loungers sneered at the elaborate exercises to co-ordinate fire-fighting, rescue work and first aid. Special Constables were called snoopers and wardens were laughed at. And then it happened, just as the experts predicted. The years of planning, training and back-breaking exercises were justified in a moment. Everyone knew what to do. Nobody flinched from the heart-breaking sight of homes blazing and in ruins. Girl ambulance drivers, some of them seeing serious wounds for the first time, went deftly and rapidly about their work. There was no panic. At Ramsgate the organisation was so good that it was not considered necessary to call in the County Mobile ARP Reserve. They stuck to their posts despite enemy aircraft machine-gunning them whilst they fought the gas works blaze."

Women of the World Wars:

Location: Nice Things, Ramsgate (19-21 Harbour Street, CT11 8HA).

Many local women lost their lives on the Home Front, 8 during World War I, and a further 31 women during World War II. Without their tireless efforts both at work and at home, the war may have been lost. This plaque commemorates and celebrates all the women who lost their lives and who supported the war effort.

The following names are of the women killed in the wars, listed in chronological order.

World War I

1. Florence Earle Lamont
2. Gladys Evelyn Saxby
3. Gertrude May Bishop
4. S. Florence Margaret K. Cassidy
5. Ivy Doreen Lilley
6. Keziah Hamlyn
7. Nellie Alice Atrail Fox
8. Grace Ellen Ward

World War II

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9. Catherine Ann Boxall | 25. Clara Gladys Kay |
| 10. Mary Elizabeth Kember | 26. Olive Jane Walls |
| 11. Ivy Edith Thorncroft | 27. Alice Louisa Oates |
| 12. Gladys Joyce May Rowland | 28. Lottie Winifred Pritchard |
| 13. Rose Tuckley | 29. Sarah Jane Holt |
| 14. Ethelwyn Ruffell | 30. Kathleen Florence 'Kitty' Bowles |
| 15. Florence Frances Saffery | 31. Edith Alice Evans |
| 16. Alice Veronica Shiel | 32. Clara Matilda White |
| 17. Georgina Catherine Shiel | 33. Christine Hiscoe |
| 18. Catherine Williams | 34. Louisa Rouse |
| 19. Margaret May Williams | 35. Alice Maude Mary Miller |
| 20. Emily Hilda Horton | 36. Rosina Mary Cleveland |
| 21. Mabel Elizabeth Miall | 37. Emily Olga Holthouse |
| 22. Clara Gladys Stredwick | 38. Elizabeth Jane Wolfe |
| 23. Annie Kathleen 'Kitty' Verrion | 39. Violet Lilian Hougham |
| 24. Edna Honess | |



Ramsgate General Hospital

Ramsgate General Hospital:

Location: The site of the hospital (John Nicholas House, West Cliff Road, CT11 9HR).

On this site once stood the Ramsgate General Hospital, now a Grade II listed building. Both military personnel and civilians lost their lives here from injuries sustained during both World Wars. Without the tireless efforts of the hospital staff, there is no doubt that far more lives would have been lost.

Animals on the Home Front

Location: Sherley's Pet Stores (21 Queen Street, Ramsgate CT11 9DZ).

Pets have always been an important part of our lives, even during the World Wars. Sadly not all made it through, including sheep, horses, canaries, cats and dogs. They died from Zeppelin raids, naval shelling and Luftwaffe attacks in fields and at home with their owners. Happily, many more pets survived, often being found uninjured in destroyed houses, chirping or wagging their tails, covered in dust and waiting for their owners to return.

OUR PETS ON THE HOME FRONT

This section is dedicated to all the animals around Ramsgate during the World Wars. Many died, of which are remembered here, but many survived and had interesting tales to tell.

Those that died:

- **Canary.** 17/06/1917, **Addington Street**, death caused by a Zeppelin bomb or torpedo.
- Many dozens of **budgerigars**. 24/08/1940, **60 Winstanley Crescent**, death caused by an Air Raid bomb.
- **Horse.** 24/08/1940, **Sussex Street**, death caused by an Air Raid bomb and belonged to Frederick Thomas Plummer whom also died in the explosion.
- All resulted from a German raid on 24/08/1940 at a **nearby District**, died by incendiary bombs: 20 sheep, many horses, 2 cows.
- **9 canaries** (20 survived). 07/09/1940, died by an Air Raid bomb, owned by Mr and Mrs Wood.
- **18 chickens.** 02/02/1941, **Wilfred Road and Whitehall Road**, died by an Air Raid bomb.
- **Mouse.** 19/03/1941, **Rutland Gardens**, died by a high-calibre bomb.
- **Many rabbits, birds and chickens.** 26/01/1943, **Gardens of Coleman Crescent houses**, died by an Air Raid bomb with coops, cages and hutches blown to pieces.
- And the many more beloved pets whose deaths went unreported.

Those that survived:

Dogs:

- **Dog.** 24/08/1940, **Mr and Mrs N Strouds' house**. Bomb hit as the **Strouds** hid in basement. After the attack was over and the house badly damaged, they feared the worst. However, to their surprise the dog met them at what remained of their front gate, covered in dust and wagging its tail as they were rescued.
- **Flossie the retriever.** 24/08/1940, **Ramsgate**. Flossie was found surrounded by debris, keeping guard over her owner's destroyed home until she returned. Woman survived as she was out shopping.
- **Dog.** 07/11/1941, **Sion Hill**. Pamela Woods returned home to find her dog alive and well in the cellar.

Canaries: Numerous amounts escaped and lived wild all over Ramsgate.

- **16 canaries.** 07/11/1941, **Sion Hill. Mr and Mrs Woods' house** was destroyed by a bomb, but their aviary survived with only the top blown off. Of the 18 canaries, only 2 escaped with the rest staying put.
- **2 canaries.** 07/11/1941, (possibly) **8 Prospect Terrace. Mrs F.L. Dunn**, employer of Alfred Moys was killed in her garden during air raid 20/03/1941. The house was hit again several months later with nobody hurt and both canaries survived. The cage was blown to the floor but both birds were singing merrily.



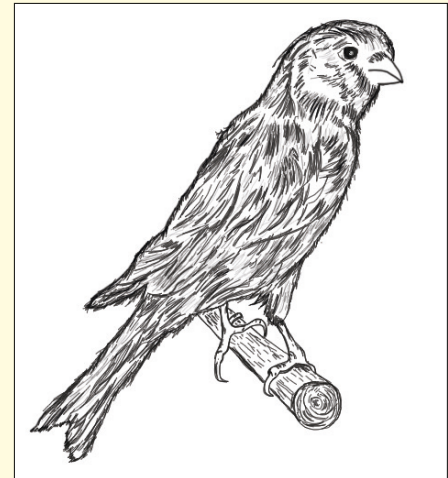
Dogs were important company for many during the war

THE UNKILLABLE CANARY NAMED JOEY

This story is one of the hidden gems we came across while researching this booklet, having found this story in an article from 3rd December 1940 in Advertiser & Echo. The article in question talks about Joey the canary and how he had quite the adventure during the war. From ships to private houses and even a police station, he was moved from location as a result of a series of unfortunate events.

Joey was a sailing canary before the war and was always on a ship. However, the first ship he was on was torpedoed. No matter, he was brought onto another ship. This ship then hit a magnetic mine. After this, **Joey** was given to Howard Knight, coxswain of Ramsgate Lifeboat, for safekeeping. The house he was kept in however, was bombed.

After all of this, Howard's son took **Joey** into his home, hoping that this was the last time he would have to move. This house then proceeded to also be bombed. **Joey**, clearly having enough of the seemingly coordinated German attacks against him, decided to escape and flew down the street. A police officer caught him in his helmet and took Joey back to the police station, where he lived on the officers' leftover lunches. The police station was not bombed and as far as we know, Joey remained there for the rest of his days.



Artist's impression of Joey

Other animals:

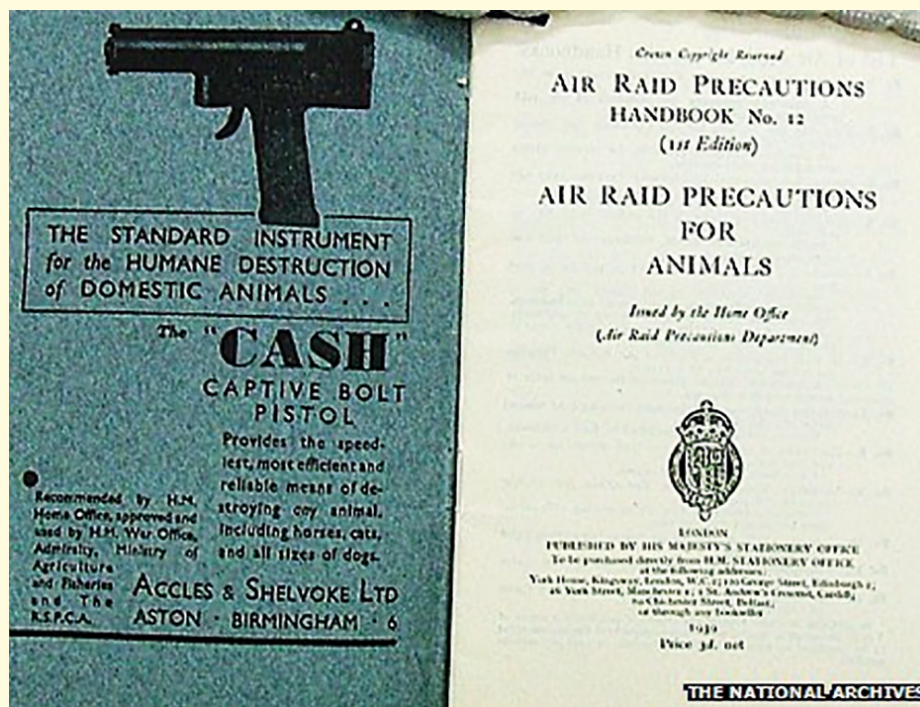
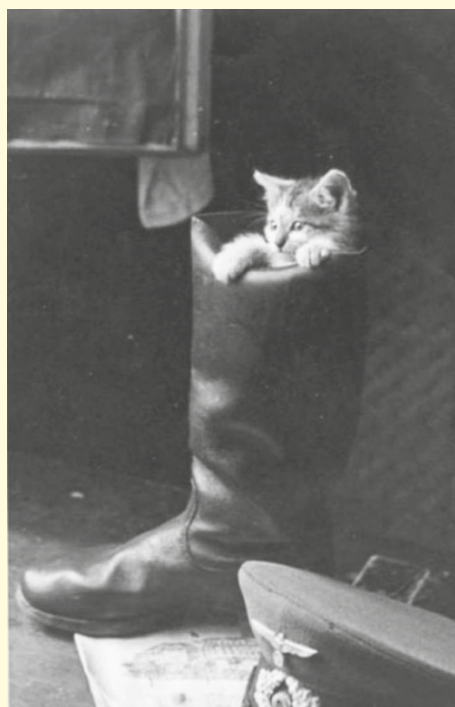
- **Fowls** (most likely hens). 17/05/1915, **Effingham Street**.

During Ramsgate's first Zeppelin raid, Mrs Haskings saw a bomb hit the roof of Star Cinema and roll onto a fowl-house at the back of her garden. The roof was covered in tar and the incendiary bomb set it alight quickly. She kept rushing bowls of water out and over the roof to keep the flames down until help arrived. Mrs Haskings succeeded and the fowls were not hurt.

- **Parrot**. 17/06/1917, **Ramsgate**. Found in the wreckage of a house, apparently shrieking: "Fetch a doctor, quick!" Thanet Advertiser, 23/06/1917, p.5.

- **Budgerigar**. 24/08/1940, **Veranda of house**, found after the dust settled. Still in its cage, unharmed and singing away.

- **Cat**. 16/08/1943, **Ramsgate**. Sleeping on a chair in the kitchen, this cat was blown through the door by a bomb blast. Unharmed but a little scared.



A little-known story about pets during World War II is that there was a massive pet cull. In the summer of 1939, just before the outbreak of war, the National Air Raid Precautions Animals Committee (NARPAC) was formed. In a pamphlet it stated that *"if at all possible, send or take your household animals into the country in advance of an emergency...if you cannot place them in the care of neighbours, it really is kindest to have them destroyed"*. This advice was then printed in almost every newspaper and announced on the BBC. As the war progressed and the situation became increasingly dire, people became desperate. Fearful that they would be unable to feed their animals due to rationing and the fear of being bombed, large parts of the population had their animals put down. It became so severe that in the space of one week, 750,000 British pets were killed.

Although a saddening and shocking piece of history, we have not escaped this same mindset. At the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic and first lockdown in March 2020, many people were scared as to what would happen to them, so they also chose to have their pets put down. This WWII pet cull is a rarely talked about story because it is a difficult story to tell. We are a nation of animal lovers, and killing our pets seems beyond us. But yet in certain circumstances, it can happen.



HEROES ON THE HOME FRONT

ROLL OF HONOUR

A permanent memorial in honour of those civilians killed as a result of enemy action during World War II was entrusted by Royal Charter on 7 February 1941 to the Imperial War Graves Commission. The lists of names were submitted to the Commission by the Registrar-Generals from the various counties and these lists formed the basis of several volumes, known as the Roll of Honour. On 21 February 1956 the Duke of Gloucester, as President of the Imperial War Graves Commission, handed the Roll of Honour to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. One volume lies open in a Memorial Case where a single page is turned each day.

Over these next few pages will be our Roll of Honour for everyone who died in Ramsgate during both World Wars. They are listed from the earliest date of death onwards. We may have missed some people due to government censorship and journalists at the time, but this trail still honours their memory. If you would like to pay your respects, a number of those listed have graves in the Ramsgate Cemetery.

Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
World War I:		
John Herbert Smith	19/05/1915, aged 42	Bull & George Inn
Florence Earle	20/05/1915, aged 43	Bull & George Inn
James Saxby	19/03/1916, aged 4	St. Luke's Church
Francis Hardwick	19/03/1916, aged 5.5	St. Luke's Church
Gladys Evelyn Saxby	19/03/1916, aged 6	St. Luke's Church
Ernest Robert Philpott	19/03/1916, aged 12.5	St. Luke's Church
Henry Herbert Divers	19/03/1916, aged 49	St. Luke's Church
Herbert James Gibbens	20/03/1916, aged 8	St. Luke's Church
Gertrude May Bishop	21/03/1916, aged 22	St. Luke's Church
George Edward Philpott	13/02/1917, aged 16	St. Luke's Church

Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
Ivy Edith Thorncroft	27/04/1917, aged 22	Dumpton Park Drive
John William Hobday	27/04/1917, aged 60	Alma Road
S. Florence M.K. Cassidy	27/04/1917, aged 63	St. Mildred's Road
James Philip Barnes	27/04/1917, aged 73	Southwood Road
Benjamin Thomas Thouless	17/06/1917, aged 67	45 Albert Street
Keziah Hamlyn	17/06/1917, aged 57	47 Albert Street
Jonathan Richard Hamlyn	17/06/1917, aged 61	47 Albert Street
John Paul	22/08/1917, aged ?	Chatham House
Pte. D. R. Crighton	22/08/1917, aged ?	Chatham House
John Alfred Debling	22/08/1917, aged 44	Military Road
Walter Charles Melhuish	22/08/1917, aged 45	Military Road
Alfred John Coomber	22/08/1917, aged 55	York Street
Walter Clarence Spain	22/08/1917, aged 57	Military Road
Henry Hope Minter	22/08/1917, aged 63	Military Road
George Baker	22/08/1917, aged 71	Military Road
Nellie Alice Atrail Fox	28/08/1917, aged 5 ³ / ₄	Military Road
Grace Ellen Ward	19/01/1926, aged 19	St. Luke's Church

World War II:

Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
Alexandros T. Petrouson.	27/01/1940, aged 28	Ramsgate foreshore
Arthur Albert Smith	12/08/1940, aged 58	Boundary Road Loos
Frank William Adams	24/08/1940, aged 54	Harbour Parade
Cornelius Roddy	24/08/1940, aged 15	Harbour Parade
Miles Wrigley Leach	24/08/1940, aged 46	Vye & Son, Queen Street
Alfred George Morris	24/08/1940, aged 51	Chatham Street.
Frederick Thomas Plummer	24/08/1940, aged 56	Essex Street
Thomas A.R. Jones	24/08/1940, aged 26	5 Sussex Street
Albert Henry Chantler	24/08/1940, aged 57	Railway Tavern Pub
Albert Richard Gifford	24/08/1940, aged 59	Margate Road
James Reginald Haggis	24/08/1940, aged 16	Chatham Street
Ivy Doreen Lilley	24/08/1940, aged 42	15 Margate Road
Frederick Charles Ticehurst	24/08/1940, aged 36	25 Station Approach Road
Catherine Ann Boxall	24/08/1940, aged 68	67 Margate Road
Benjamin Kember	24/08/1940, aged 31	Hudson's Flour Mill
Brian Benjamin Kember	24/08/1940, aged 3	Hudson's Flour Mill
Mary Elizabeth Kember	24/08/1940, aged 31	Hudson's Flour Mill
Gladys Joyce May Rowland	24/08/1940, aged 20	Margate Road
Charles Stephen Wesley	24/08/1940, aged 16	8 Woodford Avenue
Albert Edward Newland	24/08/1940, aged 39	Woodford Avenue
Joseph Tuckley	24/08/1940, aged 59	15 Newlands Road



Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
Rose Tuckley	24/08/1940, aged 69	15 Newlands Road
Evan 'Yanto' Williams	24/08/1940, aged 47	2 La Belle Alliance Square
John Brown	24/08/1940, aged 19	20 Sussex Street.
Ernest Howland	24/08/1940, aged 52	Gasworks (Boundary Road)
Sidney Cooper	24/08/1940, aged 49	Gasworks (Boundary Road)
Phillip John Page	24/08/1940, aged 26	76 West Dumpton Lane
William R.T. Birch	24/08/1940, aged 16	Outside Dawson Hotel
Herbert Frank Wells	25/08/1940, aged 32	Chatham Street
George Edward Farley	27/08/1940, aged 53	ARP post (West Dumpton)
Margaret May Williams	02/11/1940, aged 18	Stanley Place
Georgina Catherine Shiel	02/11/1940, aged 1	Stanley Place
Alice Veronica Shiel	02/11/1940, aged 4	Stanley Place
Catherine Williams	02/11/1940, aged 52	Stanley Place
Florence Francis Saffrey	02/11/1940, aged 52	Denmark Road
Ethelwyn Ruffell	02/11/1940, aged 66	St. Luke's Road
Edward William Ruffell	02/11/1940, aged 65	St. Luke's Road
Herbert Victor Lawbuary	02/11/1940, aged 70	Cecilia Road
Emily Hilda Horten	05/11/1940, aged 30	La Belle Alliance Square
Mabel Elizabeth Miall	07/11/1940, aged 80	Southwood Road
William Tilbey Stredwick	12/11/1940, aged 51	Sussex Street
Clara Gladys Stredwick	12/11/1940, aged 63	Sussex Street
Annie Kathleen Verrion	13/11/1940, aged 36	Elms Avenue

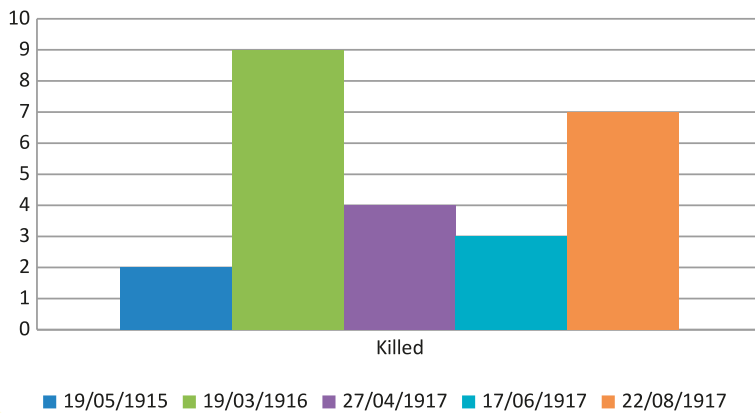
Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
David George Miall	23/11/1940, aged 80	Southwood Road
Albert Victor Dennis	04/01/1941, aged 35	27 High Street
Edna Honess	04/01/1941, aged 19	27 High Street
Clara Gladys Kay	04/01/1941, aged 40	Outside Vye & Son
Norman Edward Hougham	04/01/1941, aged 7	Coleman's Yard
Olive Jane Walls	11/01/1941, aged 51	80 Manston Road.
Derek Walls	11/01/1941, aged 15	80 Manston Road.
Lottie Winifred Pritchard	03/02/1941, aged 32	5 Hardres Street
Alice Louisa Oates	03/02/1941, aged 52	5 Hardres Street
Arthur Charles Impett	03/03/1941, aged 60	In a Manston field
James Thomas Woodcock	03/03/1941, aged 68	In a Manston field
George James Crompton	20/03/1941, aged 48	63 Addington Street
Bernard James Woodfield	20/03/1941, aged 62	69 Addington Street
Alfred Moys	20/03/1941, aged 61	8 Prospect Terrace
Alan Battersby	09/04/1941, aged 11	25 Abbott's Hill
Clifford Henry Aste	14/06/1941, aged 66	28 Wilfred Road
John Godfrey	14/06/1941, aged 66	28 Wilfred Road
Sarah Jane Holt	14/06/1941, aged 70	26 Wilfred Road
James Holt	14/06/1941, aged 70	26 Wilfred Road
Edith Alice Evans	07/09/1941, aged 56	Townley Street
William Landi	07/09/1941, aged 37	15 Townley Street
William 'Billy' Landi	07/09/1941, aged 16	15 Townley Street



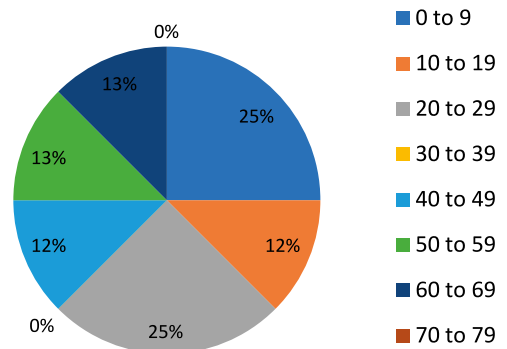
Name	Date of Death & Age	Location
Kathleen Florence Bowles	07/09/1941, aged 30	8 Townley Street
William Bowles	07/09/1941, aged 41	8 Townley Street
Frederick William Simpson	07/09/1941, aged 72	Sion Hill
George James Cossons	07/09/1941, aged 58	Sion Hill
Joseph Richard Tomalin	09/09/1941, aged 72	3 Adelaide Gardens
Clara Matilda White	09/11/1941, aged 85	7 Barbers Alms Houses
Christine Hiscoe	26/01/1943, aged 53	Whitehall Estate
Louisa Rouse	6/01/1943, aged 62	60 Coleman Crescent
Alice Maude Mary Miller	28/06/1943, aged 71	5 St. Luke's Avenue
William John Roberts	05/07/1943, aged 52	Bradley Road
Arthur Roberts	05/07/1943, aged 20	Bradley Road
John Twyman	16/08/1943, aged 65 (or 73)	West Dumption Lane
James Bishop	04/10/1943, aged 43	15 George Street
William Michael Walker	04/10/1943, aged 7	13 George Street
Rosina Mary Cleveland	04/10/1943, aged 21	13 George Street
Elizabeth Jane Wolfe	03/11/1943, aged 70	Chadworth, 8 Grove Road
Emily Olga Holthouse	03/11/1943, aged 40	Chadworth, 8 Grove Road
Violet Lillian Hougham	01/09/1944, aged 32	26 Bradley Road
William Henry Simmons	01/09/1944, aged 56	52 Station Approach Road
Sidney Thomas Browning	16/03/1946, aged (?)	Liverpool Lawn
Kenneth W.G. Campbell	19/04/1947, aged 31	29 Coleman Crescent

STATISTICS SECTION: WORLD WAR I

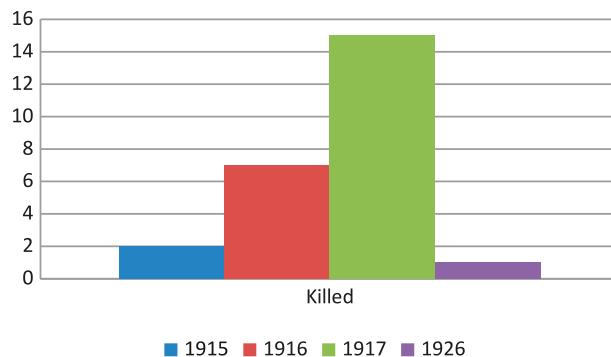
Civilian Deaths per Attack throughout WWI



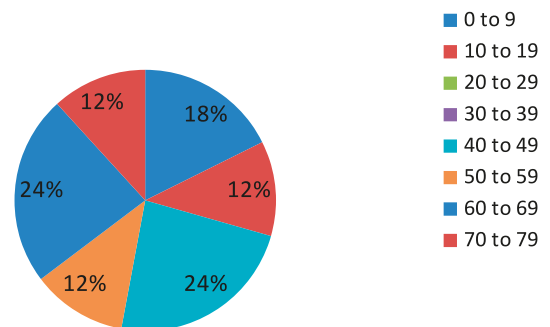
Female Deaths per Age Bracket



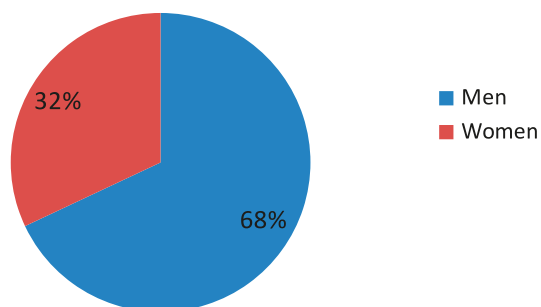
Deaths per Year



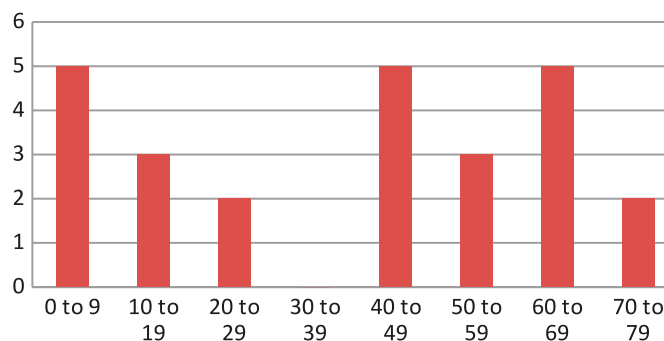
Male Deaths per Age Bracket



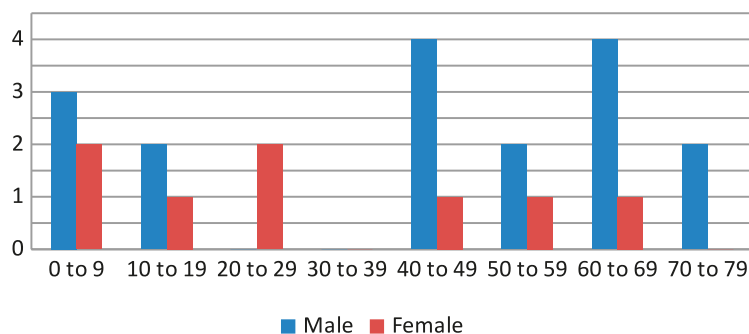
Deaths by Gender



Age Ranges of Deaths



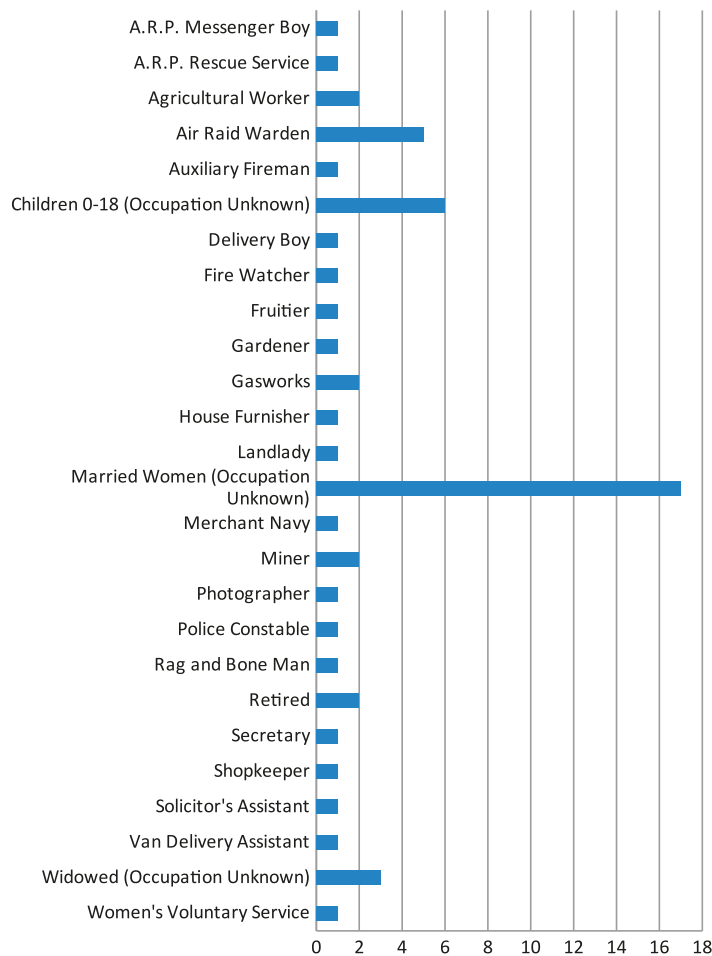
Deaths by Age and Gender



Interestingly, there were no deaths in the 30-39 age bracket. This is most likely because a lot of men of that age either volunteered to fight in the war or were conscripted. The deaths past this age bracket are considerably higher due to them being too old to fight.

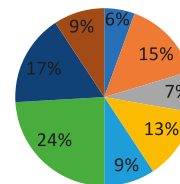
STATISTICS SECTION: WORLD WAR II

Occupations



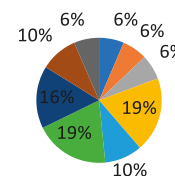
Male Deaths per Age Bracket

0 to 9 10 to 19 20 to 29 30 to 39 40 to 49
50 to 59 60 to 69 70 to 79 80 to 89

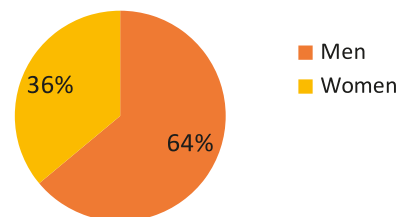


Female Deaths per Age Bracket

0 to 9 10 to 19 20 to 29 30 to 39 40 to 49
50 to 59 60 to 69 70 to 79 80 to 89

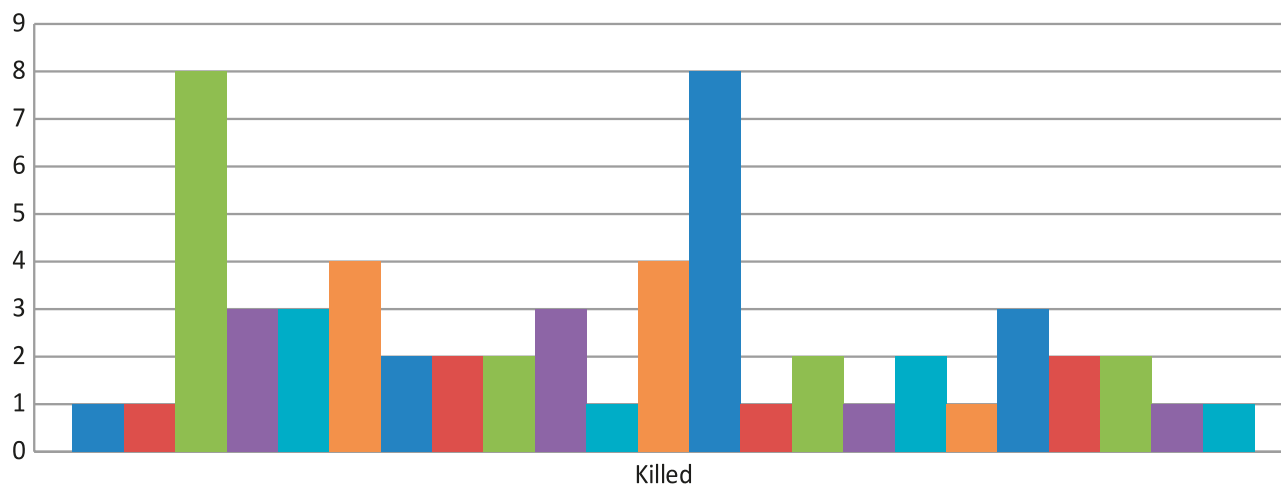


Deaths by Gender



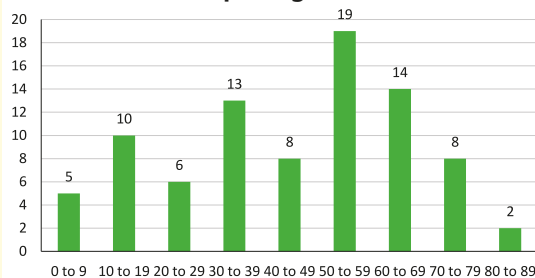
Civilian deaths per Raid

(24/08/1940 raid not shown as 31 people died, making interpretation of the rest of the graph difficult)

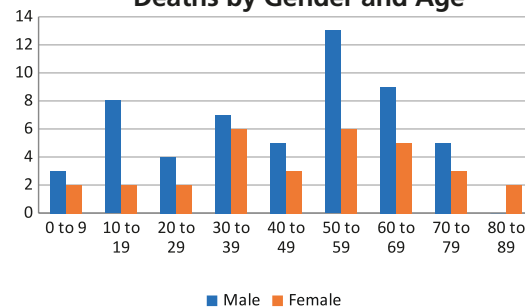


■ 27/01/1940 ■ 12/08/1940 ■ 02/11/1940 ■ 05/11/1940 ■ 12/11/1940 ■ 04/01/1941
 ■ 11/01/1941 ■ 03/02/1941 ■ 03/03/1941 ■ 20/03/1941 ■ 09/04/1941 ■ 14/06/1941
 ■ 07/09/1941 ■ 09/11/1941 ■ 26/01/1943 ■ 28/06/1943 ■ 05/07/1943 ■ 16/08/1943
 ■ 04/10/1943 ■ 03/11/1943 ■ 01/09/1944 ■ 16/03/1946 ■ 19/04/1947

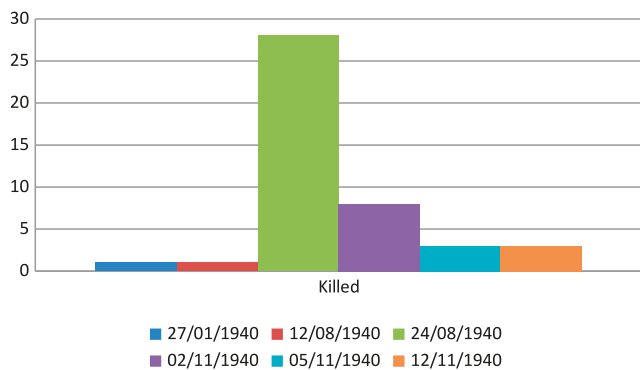
Deaths per Age Bracket



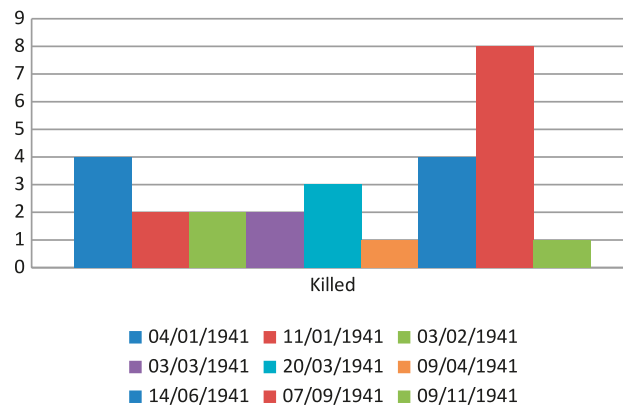
Deaths by Gender and Age



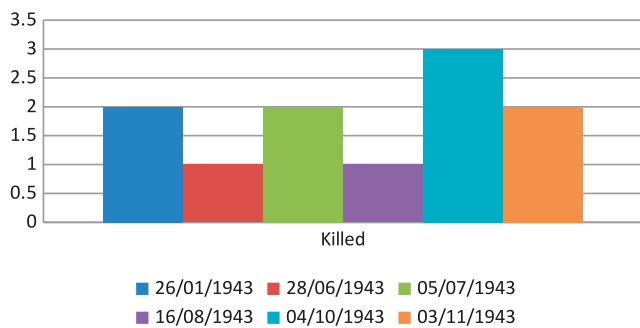
Civilian Deaths in 1940



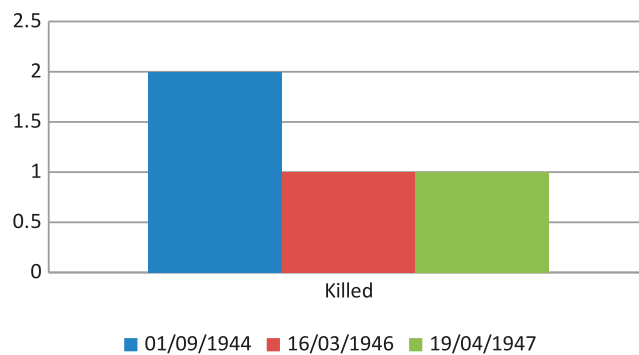
Civilian Deaths in 1941



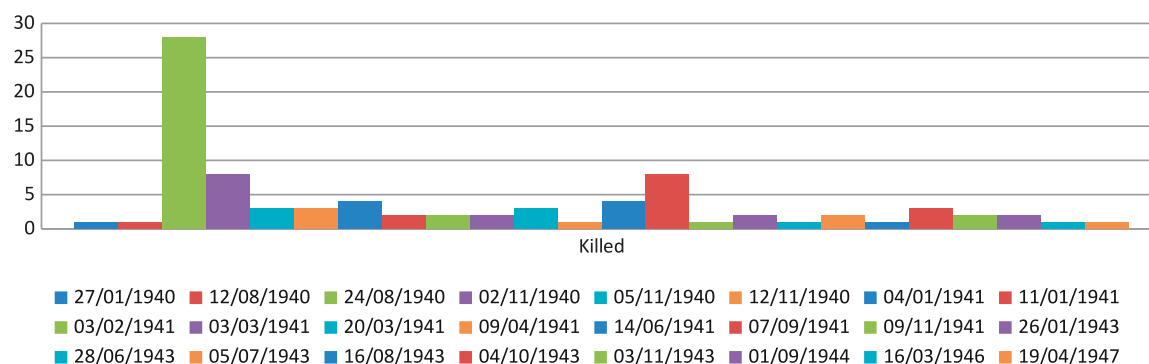
Civilian Deaths in 1943



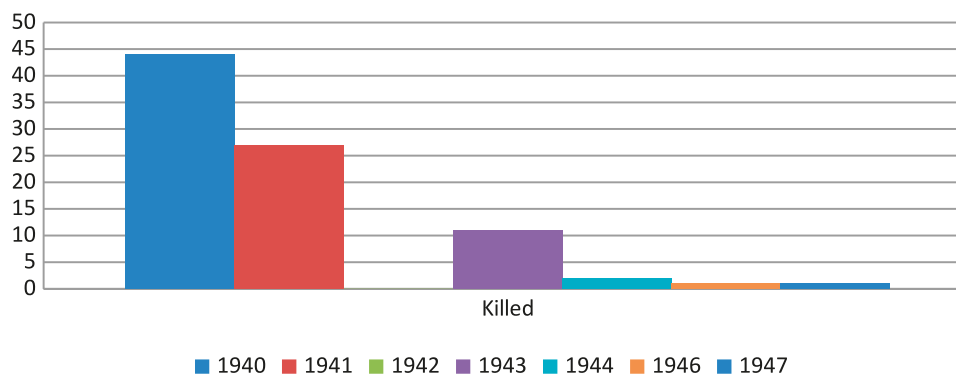
Civilian Deaths in 1944-7



Civilian Deaths per Attack throughout WWII



Deaths per Year



LIST OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874-1965):

What booklet about World War II would be complete without mention of the wartime Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill. His courage and determination when leading this country was a vital factor in the Allied victory, but the PM also made a personal mark on Ramsgate's history as well. The picture (right) is of Churchill visiting Ramsgate to inspect the bomb damage from the German raids and to boost the morale of the hard-hit town. It was taken on 28th August 1940, just 4 days after the 'Murder Raids', and highlights how Churchill wanted to see first-hand the fighting spirit of Ramsgate.

Here is an interesting story from that eventful visit by Churchill: Both the Prime Minister and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Kingsley Wood, reached Ramsgate just after an air raid. Churchill expressed concern about payments of compensation for the bombed-out shopkeepers, but then the alert sounded again. The mayor promptly suggested that the PM should take shelter in the nearest chalk tunnel, with Churchill promptly handed a steel helmet. He lit one of his famous cigars and strode towards the entrance in Queen's Street. It was there he was informed that smoking was not allowed in the shelter. This cigar then came into the possession of a workman but it is unclear whether he was given the cigar or simply picked it up from the ground.



Mayor Alderman Arthur Bloomfield Courtenay Kempe (1882-1959):

Also known as the 'top-hat mayor' due to his constant wearing of one, Kempe was a descendant of the 1452 Archbishop of Canterbury and was the mayor of Ramsgate between 1938-42. Due to his tireless hounding of the government to get the tunnels built, he has been credited with saving countless lives during these raids. The tunnels meant that many could seek shelter during the war, and even live underground for extended periods of time when their houses had been destroyed. Mayor Kempe is one of the main reasons why there aren't more names listed in this booklet.



Edward Henry James Moore:

Mr Moore was an Auxiliary Fireman during World War II, but it was his actions on 24th August 1940 that meant Edward was presented the George Medal by King George VI in September 1941 at Buckingham Palace. The story goes that firemen Mr Moore and Mr Wells were cycling along College Road when bombs started falling all around them. Both were hit by bomb splinters. Despite suffering serious injury, himself, Mr Moore tended to his friend's wounds before being strafed by an enemy aircraft. "He laid over the top of his friend when they were machine-gunned", reported a local paper. After this attack, Edward's injuries included a severed artery in one of his arms and bullet wounds in his leg. Despite this, Edward still managed to crawl from College Road to an air raid shelter near the Derby Arms pub in Margate Road in search of aid for his friend. Unfortunately, when help arrived Mr Wells was already dead. So bad were Edward's injuries that when his father went to look for him, Edward was listed as dead. Luckily, his father found him in an ambulance waiting to be transferred elsewhere and Edward survived the attack, being awarded the George Medal for his astounding bravery on this day.



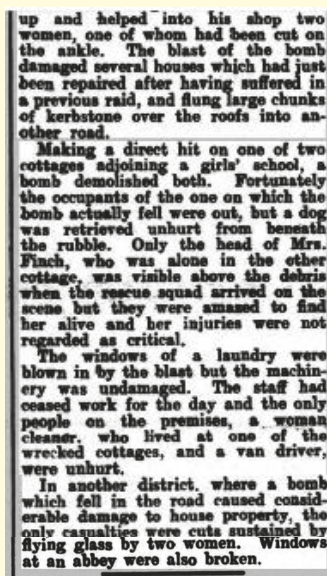
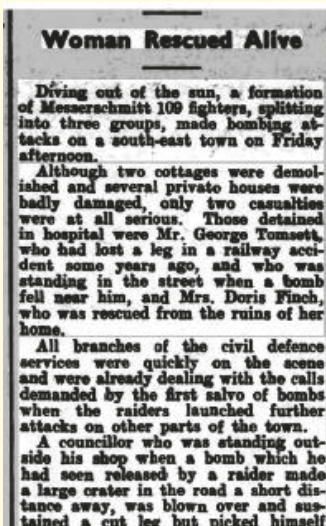
The Day the Germans Invaded:

In the picture to your right are German uniforms brought back from Dunkirk that were used during a street fighting exercise at Ramsgate in May 1943. The local Home Guard wore these outfits as they were putting on a demonstration for Lt.-Gen. Sir Edmund Schreiber, GOC, Commander-in-Chief for South Eastern Command. Before the General's arrival, the platoon decided to get a bite to eat, so they went into a York Street café. However, the woman behind the counter, believing that Hitler had invaded, ran out of the café and into the street.



Thanet Advertiser article about Doris Finch:

Published on 15th October 1940, this article explains the incredible story of how Doris survived a German air raid. Despite all this destruction, there were stories of close calls and unbelievable tales of survival throughout World War II. For example, take Thanet Trust's own Administrator, Lee Goodwill, and the story of his great aunt, Doris Finch, who was bombed on 15 October 1940. Doris (pictured right) worked for a laundry where a number of them lived in cottages on Ashburnham Road in St. Lawrence. However, due to an attack from a formation of Messerschmitt 109 fighters, two cottages were destroyed and several other buildings were left badly damaged. The explosion was so large that the laundry where Doris worked had its windows shattered several streets away, but the building and business survived. In one of the cottages, all occupants were out and a dog was "retrieved unhurt from beneath the rubble". The cottage next door was where Doris was home alone. With the house in ruins, you would expect Doris to be dead, but far from it! In fact, only Doris' head was visible in the wreckage, but rescue squads were "amazed to find her alive and her injuries were not regarded as critical". Truly an amazing story of luck and survival in the bleakest of odds, and shows that even eight decades later, Ramsgate's inhabitants like Lee still have strong connections to what happened during the war. You can read the original newspaper below.



THANET TRUST: A HISTORY

Thanet Trust was created as what is called a 'legacy project' from the regeneration programme of Thanet District Council in the late nineteen-nineties.

The first recruit joined in May 2000 when the Trust was based in Margate's old mortuary. It would be more than 7 years before we finally found a permanent home in Lillian Road, Ramsgate, and in the meantime, we moved around Thanet having bases at one time or another in Margate, Ramsgate, Cliftonville and Broadstairs.

By the middle of 2001, the Trust had a full complement of staff, a voluntary board of trustees and in June of that year it was awarded charitable status by the Charity Commission. It had come of age and was ready to begin charting its own course.

Since then Thanet Trust has been successful in receiving money from such bodies as, the National Lottery, the European Union, grant making trusts and charities, banks, local businesses, through local fundraising activities and from private donations: it leaves no stone unturned. Our current priorities are on helping people to get into or nearer to work, to start their own business, or to stay healthy. Working mainly from Lillian Road but also holding weekly Job Clubs at Margate's Turner Contemporary, we run training courses on subjects such as First Aid; Health and Safety; Food Safety; Cookery; CSCS Card Training and many others. There are also a number of social clubs such as a Local History Club and a Craft Club. The Trust has helped thousands of people to change their lives and continues to do so.

TT would like to thank the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and the National Lottery for their support and we hope that everyone who follows this trail will remember those whom went before and be part of the effort to keep their memories alive.

If you'd like to learn more about the Trail, or about the Trust, please call **01843 855155** to speak to someone about how you might get involved.

Thanet Community Development Trust 2021

www.tcdt.org.uk





Hereson Family & Community Centre, Lillian Road



Cookery



Health & Safety



Ageless Entrepreneurs



CSCS Card Training



 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

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