

**“70 YEARS ON”**

**THE SUMMER  
OF 1940**

**MAY – OCTOBER**

**Created by**

**The**

**Dover War Memorial**

**Project**

**[www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk](http://www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk)**

# Panel Four

# The First Civilian Casualties

On 12 August 1940 shells hit Dover for the first time.

Helen Barker, a nurse from Oswald Road, was killed on her way to work. Her neighbour, papermaker Alfred Reid, was injured; he died at the Casualty Hospital.

**REID.**—In loving memory of our dear son  
and our brother, Alfred George Reid, killed  
by enemy action, August 12th, 1940.  
Deep in our hearts lies a picture,  
Of one who is laid to rest;  
In memory's frame we will keep it,  
Because he was one of the best.  
—From his loving Mum, Dad, Sisters and  
Brother-in-law (Exhall, Coventry).

*In Memoriam Announcement - August 1941*

Forty-two more civilians died in Dover in The Summer of 1940. Twelve Dovorians were killed elsewhere.

Henry Baker was one. He died in London on 7 September 1940 – the first day of The Blitz.

# William and Mary Maycock



Mrs Maycock left her children, Stella, 2, and Peter, 6, with grandparents in Southall, London, and came to Dover to celebrate her thirtieth birthday, 24 August 1940, with her husband.

plane struck a barrage balloon cable and crashed onto their home in Chevalier Road. The three crew were killed also.

*“There was nothing left, not a brick standing. ... So very sad - they were such a lovely couple,”* said their cousin.



Mrs Maycock had been expecting the couple's third child.

# Charles Goodbourn



On the far right as a lad in this early picture of his family, Mr Goodbourn died on 9 September 1940. He was on his way home to Chevalier Road when a shell fell near the Elms Vale Road garage.

The explosion also injured Basil Wells, a 17-year-old garage hand, who died the next day.

Mr Goodbourn's daughter, 8, laid a wreath at his funeral: "To a dear Daddy, from your loving little Pauline".

# Evacuation



On 2 June 1940, 3,000 Dover schoolchildren and their teachers were evacuated to South Wales. The postcard (left) showed a safe arrival.

Children were discouraged from coming home in school holidays by the Ministry of Health, who would not guarantee to find new billets.

Experiences varied. *“Wales for me was a great adventure. I loved it and was made very welcome. The daughter of the family was like a big sister.”*

Other evacuees were not so happy. *“I was only 9, and wasn't welcome. They made me work and they took my ration and anything I was sent. By the time I returned home I was nearly grown up. I never really had a childhood, and I never really knew my own family.”*



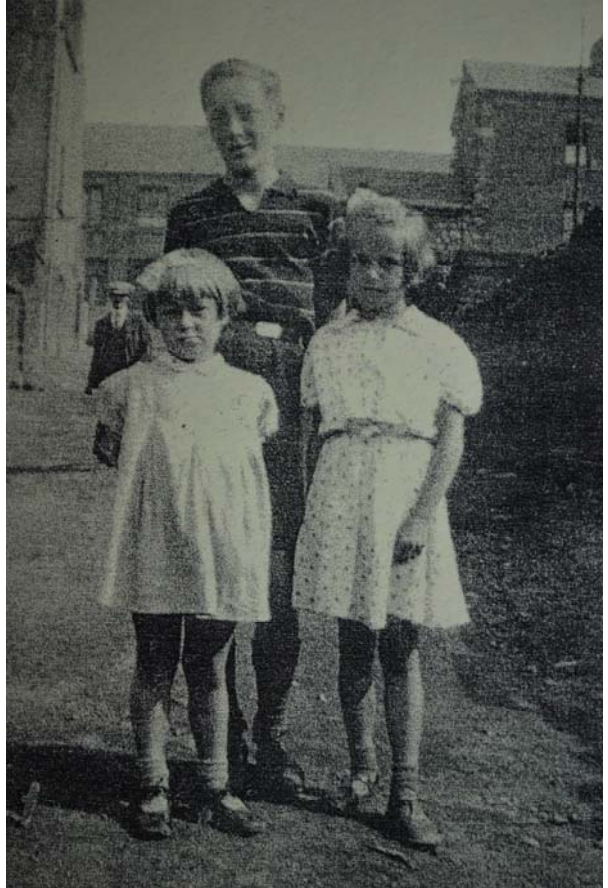
By December 1943 only 340 Dover children remained in Wales. Some settled there in their own new homes.

# **“A Little Corner of Wales ...**

Some Dover children in Wales sadly died in accidents.

John Skelton, 6,  
drowned at  
Cwmbran, about  
19 June 1940. He  
is buried at  
Cwmbran.

Georgina, 11, and  
Joan Thomas, 9,  
died at Undy,  
after an accident  
on a level  
crossing on 9 July  
1940.



Rosetta Lockyer, 8, on the left, above, died in a road accident in 1943. She is buried in Memhilad churchyard, near Pontypool.

## **... that is for ever England.”**



# “The Cave Kids”

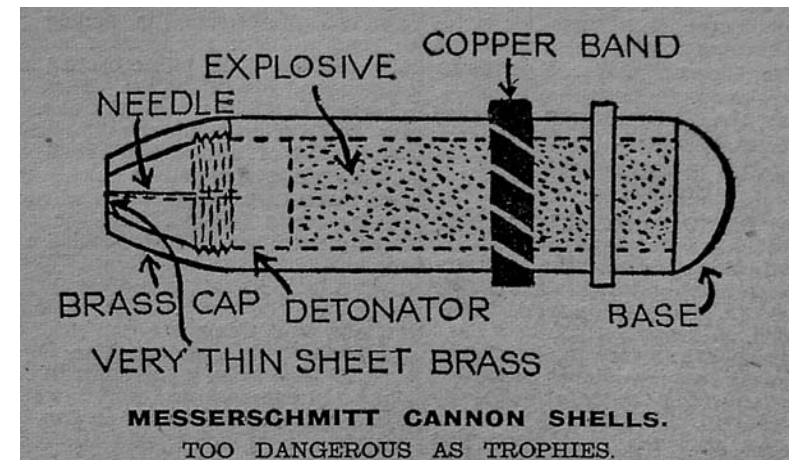
*“I wasn’t evacuated, and didn’t go to school for years because of the War. We used to have to go into the caves. It was so boring. After the last shell had come over we had to wait for an hour before the all-clear. That was because of the way the guns worked, and you knew if nothing had happened for an hour then it would be safe. But if a shell came after 55 minutes then you’d be stuck for another hour. You could be in the caves for days.”*



Some children found the wrecked buildings to be good play areas. There were many other excitements too.

*“There was a field, up beyond Aycliffe. All the children used to go up and there and sit on the fence to watch the planes fighting. They’d be cheering and calling, encouraging them on.”*

However, warnings (right) were issued about air shells which fell in the streets after a battle. They were volatile, and could maim.



*“We’d go scavenging, to play with what we could find. Schools opened when they could, but as I often say .... “Oh, What a Lovely War ... I had” - because I was too young to go!”*

# The Dover War Memorial Project

We remember all Dovorians who died in the two world wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and who have died in service.

Dover's Virtual Memorial is at:

[www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk](http://www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk)

If you have any further information, please let us know: 'phone 07876 240701 or see the website.

This display was created by Marilyn Stephenson-Knight and Simon John Chambers with gratitude for the help and knowledge of many volunteers, especially Joyce Banks and Dean Sumner. We thank sincerely all those who have contributed, including the relatives and friends of casualties and the survivors of war-time Dover, the Dover Express, and Dover Museum. Any mistakes are ours! We also thank sincerely those who have assisted by donations, enabling us to continue to remember those who gave all they possibly could – our Fallen.

## Lest We Forget