

COMMEMORATING ROYAL SIGNALS WAR DEAD

‘V’

A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF OUR “TUMBLING TUMBLE-WEED”

From the epitaph for Lance Corporal G. Vickers.

1563472 Signalmán LAWRENCE EDWARD **VAHEY**, Prisoner of War (formerly 1st Armoured Divisional Signals).¹

- Captured in April 1941 during the Battle of Greece, he was transported to Italy and **died as a prisoner of war** on 6 December 1942 at *Prigione di Guerra 85 (Campo 85)*, the transit camp at Tuteurano.
- Originally buried at Tuteurano Civil Cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 27 November 1944 at Bari War Cemetery, Italy.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2359577 Driver ERIC **VALENTINE**, 56th (London) Divisional Signals.²

- Killed in action** with Signalmán S. J. Weston on 8 May 1943 during the Tunisian Campaign.
- Originally buried in a battlefield cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 12 January 1944 at Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia. *IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR SON AND BROTHER. “UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN”*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2382805 Signalmán ROLAND **VALENTINE**, 56th (London) Divisional Signals.³

- Wounded during the Tunisian Campaign, he **died of wounds** on 30 April 1943.
- Originally buried in a battlefield cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 22 December 1943 at Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia. *KIND AND UNSELFISH A PAL EVER TRUE ONE IN A MILLION DEAR SON, THAT WAS YOU*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2576131 Signalmán STANLEY **VALPY**, 56th (London) Divisional Signals.

- Died on 20 January 1945 as a result of injuries sustained in a **battle accident** during the Italian Campaign.
- Forli War Cemetery, Italy. *ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2385858 Signalmán JOHN **VANE** see 2385858 Signalmán JAN CHARLES HENRY **VAN BOCHOVE**.

2385858 Signalmán JAN CHARLES HENRY **VAN BOCHOVE** (served as JOHN **VANE**), 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

- Killed in action** on 6 June 1944 in the Normandy landings during the North-West Europe Campaign.
- Bayeux War Cemetery, France. *DEEP IN OUR HEARTS HE IS LIVING YET WE LOVED HIM TOO DEARLY TO EVER FORGET*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes⁴

2335952 Driver JOSEPH CHARLES ADOLPH **VAN LOOY**, 148th (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal Artillery Signal Section (18th Divisional Signals).

- Killed in action** on 15 February 1942 in an air attack at Newton Circus, Singapore during the Malayan Campaign/Battle of Singapore.
- Originally buried in the grounds of a Chinese temple at the junction of Norfolk Road and Rangoon Road, his remains were later reinterred at the original Kranji cemetery and then reinterred on 15 June 1946 in their present location at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. *BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD. “THY WILL BE DONE” R.I.P.*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

11994 Captain THOMAS WILLIAM **VARCOE** DCM, 7th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.⁵

- Died suddenly of disease/natural causes on 17 May 1940.
- West Road Cemetery, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

-Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Roll of Honour: Yes

2337912 Driver EDWARD BAYTON **VARDY**, 1st Air Formation Signals.

-**Killed in action** at sea on 7 January 1943 when the troopship S.S. *Benalbanach* was sunk en route to Algiers from the United Kingdom by torpedoes launched by a German aircraft. Fourteen Royal Signals all ranks from 1st Air Formation Signals were lost. His date of death is recorded as 19 January 1943, the date on which his body was recovered.

-Originally buried elsewhere, his remains were reinterred on 2 June 1944 at Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria. *HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE*

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

14524233 Corporal ALBERT **VARNAM**, No. 71 Construction Section.

-Died on 4 October 1944 as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident during the North-West Europe Campaign.

-Leopoldsbury War Cemetery, Belgium. *GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN NEVER SHALL THY MEMORY FADE SWEET THOUGHTS EVER LINGER WHERE THOU ART LAID*

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

14247461 Signalmán WILLIAM ALBERT **VAUGHAN**, 12th Corps Signals.

-Died on 20 May 1945 in No. 84 (British) General Hospital at Hamburg as a result of a negligent shooting when he suffered a wound to his abdomen.

-Hamburg Cemetery, Germany. *DEARLY LOVED SON OF H. S. AND E. VAUGHAN, HANFORD, S-ON-T, STAFFS. "AT REST"*

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2378478 Signalmán MACDONALD MARTIN **VENN**, 2nd Divisional Signals.

-**Killed in action** on 28 May 1944 in the Battle of Imphal during the Burma Campaign.

-Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar.

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2361708 Driver REX WILLIAM **VENNER**, 46th (North Midland and West Riding) Divisional Signals.

-Wounded on 6 December 1944 in fighting on the Gothic Line during the Italian Campaign, he **died of wounds** on 2 January 1945 in No. 59 (British) General Hospital at Fano. (See Signalmán F. R. Barnes.)

-Originally buried in a cemetery at Fano, his remains were reinterred on 28 February 1945 at Ancona War Cemetery, Italy. *GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS*

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2364520 Signalmán PHILIP MUSGRAVE **VERITY**, Prisoner of War (formerly 4th Light Armoured Brigade Signals).

-Captured in June 1942 during the Battle of Gazala in the Western Desert Campaign. **Killed in action as a prisoner of war** at sea on 14 November 1942 when the Italian cargo ship S.S. *Scillin* was sunk by H.M.S. *Sahib* en route from Tripoli to Sicily. Thirty-two Royal Signals soldiers were lost.

-Lost at sea, he is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2577656 Driver LEONARD MARTIN **VERNEY**, 9th Armoured Brigade Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry).

-Drowned on 20 August 1943 at a designated bathing area.

-Khayat Beach War Cemetery, Israel. *IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND. AT REST*

-Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes

-Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2581869 Serjeant WILLIAM HENRY **VERNON**, 56th (London) Divisional Signals.

-Wounded in the fighting near the River Uso during the Italian Campaign, he **died of wounds** on 29 September 1944. He was one of five men of the unit who were killed in action or died of wounds in these actions. (See Warrant Officer Class II E. J. Lewis, Signalmán E. R. Brown and Drivers T. Radmilovic and J. Smith.)

-Originally buried in a battlefield cemetery north-west of Fornace near the Uso River, the remains of these men were reinterred on 15 October 1945 at Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy. *GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS*

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2364325 Serjeant EDMUND ALEXANDER **VERRAN**, Guards Armoured Divisional Signals.

- Died on 21 January 1946 as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident while serving with British Army of the Rhine.
- Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany. *A DEVOTED HUSBAND AND LOVING FATHER. TOO DEARLY LOVED TO BE FORGOTTEN*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

88290 Major DENIS BRIAN BINGHAM **VICKERMAN**, Mention in Despatches, 46th (North Midland and West Riding) Divisional Signals.⁶

- Reported dangerously ill on 15 August 1943, he died of disease/natural causes on 18 August in Algeria where the division was training prior to departing for Italy.
- El Alia Cemetery, Algeria. *DEARLY LOVED ONLY SON OF CONSTANCE & FRANK VICKERMAN BROTHER OF BRENDA & OONAGH "DOMINUS MIHI ADJUTOR" R.I.P.*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes
- Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Roll of Honour: Yes

4131584 Serjeant DENNIS THOMAS **VICKERS**, United Kingdom Liaison Mission to Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Japan.

- Died on 6 April 1946 while serving with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident when he was thrown from a Jeep.
- Cremated, his ashes were originally buried at the United States Army Air Forces Cemetery, Yokohama and reinterred on 26 September 1946 at Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

6293706 Lance Corporal GEORGE **VICKERS**, 3rd Divisional Signals.

- Wounded with Lance Corporal H. L. McKinley on 8 July 1944 in the Battle of Normandy during the North-West Europe Campaign, he **died of wounds** in one of the hospitals at Douvres-la-Délivrande on 13 July 1944. Lance Corporal McKinley died the day he was wounded.
- Originally buried at La Delivrande Temporary Cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 12 December 1944 at La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres, France. *A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF OUR "TUMBLING TUMBLE-WEED" FROM MUM, DAD, BILL AND FRED*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

33788 Major JOHN **VICKERS**, Prisoner of War (formerly Second-in-Command, 11th Indian Divisional Signals).

- Captured during the Malayan Campaign/Battle of Singapore. Transported on 25 October 1942 on S.S. *England Maru* to Formosa (Taiwan) in 'Overseas Party Z'. **Died as a prisoner of war** of septic sore throat on 8 March 1943 at Taihoku (Camp No. 6), Daichoku (Dahzi, Taipei).
- Originally buried in the camp cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 21 July 1947 at Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong. *AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes
- Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Roll of Honour: Yes

2576075 Lance Corporal EDWARD **VICKERY**, 4th Light Armoured Brigade Signals.

- Killed in action** on 27 July 1942 with Signalman D. H. Douglas in the First Battle of El Alamein during the Western Desert Campaign.
- Alamein Memorial, Egypt.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

959039 Signalman DOUGLAS ROBERT **VINCENT**, 4th Corps Signals.

- Died of malaria on 6 August 1943 at 16th (Indian) Casualty Clearing Station.
- Imphal War Cemetery, India.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2594593 Signaller HAROLD **VINER**, No. 6 Line of Communication Signals.

- Died on 25 April 1942 in No. 42 (British) General Hospital at Mahattat al Ballah, Kantara (El-Qantara) in Egypt as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident.
- Originally buried at Kantara West New War Cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 17 July 1945 at Moascar War Cemetery, Egypt. *"ABIDE WITH ME"*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2589803 Driver THOMAS WILLIAM **VINSEN**, Prisoner of War (formerly No. 101 Special Wireless Section).

- Captured in April 1941 during the Battle of Greece. **Died as a prisoner of war** on 1 September 1943 at *Kriegsgefangenenlager Kokkinia* in Greece.
- Originally buried in Kokkinia Civil Cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 9 February 1945 at Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece. 10. B. 14.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

5493644 Serjeant JOHN **VITALE**, 10th Air Formation Signals.

- Died on 12 December 1943 as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident in Algeria. Signaller A. Holmes was also killed.
- Le Petit Lac Cemetery, Algeria. *"INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT. LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SOUL" R.I.P.*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2335377 Signaller ARTHUR EDWARD **VITLER**, Prisoner of War (formerly 18th Divisional Signals).

- Captured during the Malayan Campaign/Battle of Singapore. Transported to work on the Thai-Burma Railway 3 November 1942 in 'O' Party'. Worked in 'No. 4 Group'. **Died as a prisoner of war** of dysentery on 5 June 1943 in Kanchanaburi 'F' and 'H' Force hospital. His father, Private Arthur Vitler, was killed in action in Belgium on 31 July 1917 serving with 1st Battalion, The Hertfordshire Regiment.
- Originally buried in Kanchanaburi Paper Mill Cemetery, his remains were reinterred on 29 January 1946 at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. *UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

2380794 Driver JAMES MAXWELL **VITTY**, 'G' Company, 4th Air Formation Signals (North Somerset Yeomanry).

- Killed in action** on 19 December 1944 in the attack by the Greek People's Liberation Army (E.L.A.S.) at Kifisia, the site of Air Headquarters, Greece, during the *Dekemvriana* (the 'December events' preceding the Greek Civil War). Driver H. Summers was also killed in action. (See also Signallers D. Laurie and A. D. McCormick.)
- Originally buried at Kifisia, his remains were reinterred in February 1945 at Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

PAL/8651 Signaller Shalom **VSELOOBSKY**, Unit Not Known.⁷

- Died on 2 August 1943 as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident in Libya.
- Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): No

2339704 Signaller LIONEL CONRAD **VYNER**, Malaya Command Signals.

- A Eurasian and Johore government pensioner, he enlisted into the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force in 1941 and was later transferred to Royal Signals. He was evacuated from Malaya/Singapore during the Malayan Campaign/Battle of Singapore and was **killed in action** on or shortly after 20 February 1942 somewhere in the Netherlands East Indies during the Japanese invasion.
- Singapore Memorial, Singapore.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): No

6105313 Corporal CYRIL **VYSOVE**, No. 5 Special Wireless Group.

- Died of disease/natural causes on 18 June 1945 at No. 110 (British) General Hospital at Bruges after the war in Europe had ended.

- Brugge General Cemetery, Belgium. *WE MISS YOU STILL AND ALWAYS WILL; YOU LEFT A PLACE NO ONE CAN FILL*
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Yes
- Royal Signals Roll of Honour (Second World War): Yes

¹ Royal Signals Casualty Summary of March 1943 records that he was serving with the Royal Signals Base Depot and School in the Middle east prior to serving in Greece.

² Incorrectly commemorated by the C.W.G.C. as 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

³ Incorrectly commemorated by the C.W.G.C. as 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

⁴ Recorded in the Roll of Honour as 'J. Vane'.

⁵ Distinguished Conduct Medal. 60414 Serjeant T. Varcoe, 20th Battery, IX Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Wadi, Mesopotamia. *For conspicuous gallantry in keeping his gun in action under continuous effective fire* [on 13 January 1916]. LG 15 April 1916; 29548, p. 3993.

Varcoe was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery '*for services in the field*' on 3 October 1916. He retired on 22 November 1922. He was commissioned into Royal Signals on 11 December 1939.

⁶ Despatches. (Temporary) Captain D. B. B. Vickerman, 46th (North Midland and West Riding) Divisional Signals. Tunisian Campaign. LG 23 September 1943; 36180.

⁷ Formerly No. 3 Line of Communication Signals, which had been renamed Ninth Army Signals in 1941, and which did not serve in Libya. It is likely that Signalman Vseloobsky had been posted elsewhere by the time of his death.

He was one of five Jewish soldiers who enlisted in Palestine for service with Royal Signals in 1941 and who died during the course of the war. One Royal Signals Palestinian Arab soldier also died. His name is recorded elsewhere as 'S. Vseloonsky' and 'Shalom Wasilovsky'. Born in 1923 in Vilnius, Lithuania, he emigrated to Palestine with his family in 1935 and enlisted in 1941.