

The following extracts from a Isle of Wight County Press 9 May 1942 report of the 4/5<sup>th</sup> May air raids on the Isle of Wight, reflect those buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

(A full transcription of this report is available at:

[http://www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk/cemeteries/cowes\\_air\\_raid\\_may\\_19420509.pdf](http://www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk/cemeteries/cowes_air_raid_may_19420509.pdf))

### **SOUTH COAST AIR RAIDS. DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES AT A PORT**

A South Coast port [*Cowes*], which was subjected to an early morning low-flying raid by German fighter-bombers a few days previously, was twice attacked by bombers during the night of Monday-Tuesday [*4/5 May*], resulting in further serious damage to property and a considerable number of casualties. ....

With admirable promptitude the rest centre and billeting services were brought into operation, and proved a great comfort to the many who had been rendered homeless. The gallant helpers in these services did not escape casualties, as Mrs. Hann, who was going round the stricken area with a W.V.S. mobile canteen, was killed during the second raid, .....

During the first raid bombs which fell wide of the mark did damage and caused casualties in the outskirts of another town [*Newport*]. One of heavy calibre fell in the back gardens of villas residences on a main road [*Medina Avenue, Newport*], completely demolishing three residences, seriously damaging half a dozen more, and doing minor damage to many others. Thanks to what would appear to be providential protection several residents had wonderful escapes and there was only one fatal casualty, the victim being Mr. George Kirkup, well known as a teacher of music and ex-church organist. He happened to be in the kitchen of his house [*123 Medina Avenue*] where he lived alone, the nearest part of the house to the bomb, and he was apparently instantly killed when the building collapsed. The rescue squad, who with their colleagues of other branches of the A.R.P. service worked splendidly, regardless of an ever-present danger they knew to be at hand, soon extricated Mr. Kirkup, but he was beyond human aid. [*Mrs. Ada Dyer also appears to have been injured at 92 Medina Avenue and died later*] They also rescued Staff-Sergeant Chapman, R.A.O.C. from the ruins of his home. He had a marvellous escape from serious injury, suffering only from bruising and shock. His wife and little boy, and Mrs. Davies, the occupant of the other destroyed house, had left to take shelter with friends on the opposite side of the road a few minutes before the bomb fell. The house [*129 Medina Avenue*] nearest the three demolished was badly shattered, but the occupants (Mr. and Mrs. H. Thompson) escaped injury.

A most tragic result of the raid occurred when two cottages [*Point Cottages (aka, Ryde Road Cottages)*], about a mile from the town at the junction of main roads [*Whippingham Road & the Racecourse*], received a direct hit. The occupants of one of the cottages, Mr. and Mrs. W. Chiverton, and two children were rescued, but their other six children, whose ages ranged from 5 weeks to 7 years, including twins 2 years of age were killed. Mrs. Abrook was rescued from the other cottage after being buried under the ruins for six hours\*. Here a party of soldiers gave much appreciated help in the rescues. ...

\* *Mrs. Evelyn Abrook subsequently died at Park Prewett Hospital, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire – her death was recorded in the IWCP the following week, 16<sup>th</sup> May.*

*Transcription etc. by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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Jean CHIVERTON	5 weeks	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
John Wallace CHIVERTON	3 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Mary Elizabeth CHIVERTON	7 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Patrick George CHIVERTON	2 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Paul Richard CHIVERTON	2 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Vera Florance CHIVERTON	4 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Ada DYER	56 years	Buried at Newport Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Alice Frances HANN	63 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
John George Cheney KIRKUP	59 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>
Frederick William WHITE*	24 years	Buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery	<a href="#">View record</a>

\* Not specifically mentioned in newspaper report, although from CWGC '*Home Guard; of Temeraire, Nodes Road, Northwood. Son of Frederick Charles and Elsie Winifred White. Injured 4 May 1942, at Northwood; died at Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, Ryde.*'