

Memorial: (WMR 88176) Halling, Kent

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS II

JACK EDGAR HOMEWOOD

Service Number:	957494
Regiment & Unit/Ship	Royal Artillery 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regt.
Date of Death	Died 26 July 1944 Age 26 years old
Buried/commemorated at	BANNEVILLE-LA-CAMPAGNE WAR CEMETERY XII. F. 3. France
Additional Info	Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Homewood; husband of D. P. Homewood, of Wouldham, Kent.
Personal Inscription	WHATEVER ELSE WE FAIL TO DO WE SHALL REMEMBER YOU

Born: 28-Apr-1918 in Strood, Kent. Father Ernest Peter Homewood. Mother May Elizabeth Monk

[Jack married Dorothy Peggy Johnson 24-Apr-1943 at All Saints, Wouldham, Kent](#)

History

During the Allies push out of the Normandy bridgeheads, Operation Goodwood and the liberation of Caen were undertaken in July 1944. During August, the Falaise Gap was closed. The majority of the soldiers interred in the cemetery date from these attacks. Of the 2,175 soldiers in this cemetery there are 2,150 Britons, 11 Canadians, 5 Australians, 2 New Zealanders, 5 Poles and two unidentified soldiers.

Jack's birth was registered in the Strood, Kent District during the second quarter of 1918. His mothers' maiden name being recorded as Monk. Jack's marriage to Dorothy P. Johnson was registered in the Maidstone, Kent District during the second quarter of 1943. At the commencement of the Second World War the 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery which was the Second Line Regiment of the 97 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, and was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel F.N. Richardson, T.D., being initially comprised of 386 (Duke of Connaught's Own Yeomanry) Battery, and the 388 (Queens Own Yeomanry) Battery, in Eastern 45 Command. In April 1940 the regiment joined the Corps Artillery of the 4th Corps in readiness of a move to France, but whilst advanced parties were at Southampton prior to embarkation, France fell, at which time the regiment was one of only a few which were fully equipped to resist the imminent German invasion. Between September 1942 to May 1943 Lieutenant Colonel W.J.N. Norman Walker, M.B.E. commanded, and from May 1943 to July 1944 Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Hamilton, D.S.O. commanded, after which from July 1944 to September 1944 Lieutenant Colonel E.H.N. Rees-Webb commanded. From September 1944 to July 1945 Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Hamilton, D.S.O. was again placed in command, and the last Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel C.D.T. Pope who was in charge between July 1945 and March 1946. 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was posted in Iceland, in the 49th Division, as part of 'Alabaster Force' between October 1940 and April 1942. Initially the regiment in Iceland was comprised of 386 Battery, in support of 70th Brigade based near Reykjavik, and 388 Battery based in the North West Sector with B.H.Q. located at Borganes, with the remaining sections located at Blondos and Reykjaskoli. During

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the time that the regiment was in Iceland, prior handing over its duties to American troops, two of the members of the 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery died, they being 25 year old Bombardier, Eric Charles Mathews from South Norwood, Surrey who died on Sunday 4 May 1941, and Gunner Jack Terrance Russell, from Kent who died on Monday 13 April 1942, both of whom are at rest in Fossvogur Cemetery, Reykjavik. After returning back the from Iceland, the regiment remained within the United Kingdom in the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division, until crossing from Tilbury, Essex on 8 June 1944, landing at La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur, which is a commune of the Calvados département in the Basse-Normandie région of France, four days after leaving Tilbury, in preparation to take part in the North West Europe Campaign, during the latter stages of which the regiment was in the 1 Canadian Corps. The Allied offensive in north-western Europe began with the Normandy landings of Tuesday 6 June 1944. Among the major battles in which the 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery as part of the 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division, during the North West Europe Campaign 1944-45, it gave active fire support were those of Caen, during the campaign in Normandy, Le Havre, and the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal in Belgium. Having pushed on through the Netherlands, the winter of 1944-45 was spent by the River Maas on the Dutch-German frontier. The final action of note which the regiment played its part was during the closing stages of the Second World War, was to support the much delayed liberation of the Dutch town of Arnhem in April 1945. For the most part, the men buried at Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery where Jack is at rest, were killed in action during the fighting from the second week of July 1944, when Caen was captured, to the last week in August, when the Falaise Gap had been closed, and the Allied forces were preparing their advance beyond the river Seine. The Normandy village of Banneville-la-Campagne is situated 6 miles to the east of the town of Caen. Jack is numbered amongst the 34, 143 (The Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery casualties that we have located, the majority of whom, like Jack lost their lives during the North West Europe Campaign 1944-45.

[Source Wouldham War Memorial -]

See also information from Snodland Historical Society site.