



**Gravestone of:- 'Marie. L. Jadot. Aged 73 years.
Wounded in Air Raid Died 8th May 1942'**

Buried Angmering West Sussex R.C. Graveyard.

(O.S. Grid TQ 066 046)

Author Peter. H. Skilton

Spring 2018

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3.1 **Three Strands.**

Throughout this article, there are three strands that, unlikely as it first seems, become inseparable. They are-

a) Mdm. Jadot's Grave. (b) An Unknown Sailor and (c) A Luftwaffe Pilot.
In the following, I have attempted to draw the strands together.

- 3.2 Over several years, on Remembrance Sunday, it has been the custom for my wife and I, to place a poppy on the grave of a Second World War, unnamed R.N. Sailor. The War Graves Commission headstone is engraved "Known unto God". 21st January 1943. I shall return to this later. The cemetery is a small Roman Catholic one, situated north from St Wilfrid's School, Arundel Road, Angmering, West Sussex. (Grid TQ06714 04608)
- 3.3 Whilst neither of us are Roman Catholics (As if it matters) both the author and his wife are ex Royal Navy (RN) and Women's Royal Naval Service. (WRENS) respectively. Following the funeral of an acquaintance, the gravestone in question was noticed. What caught the eye, was the age and demise of the internee.
- 3.4 Having discovered the grave of the unknown sailor, it was visited once a year or so, in order to say a few words over someone that it was felt was lying very cold and forgotten, in order to pay our respects.
- 3.5 Over a few years, my eyes were continually drawn to that particular headstone, a few feet away to the North. It was inscribed "Marie. L. Jadot. Aged 73 years. Wounded in an Air Raid Died 8th May 1942." (see Frontispiece p1)
- 3.6 The main thoughts that occurred were, (a) She was known by someone. (Who paid for the headstone?)
- (Following a visit to Fr. David Rae on 14/2/18 at East Preston. (Custodian of St Wilfrids's Cemetery) He explained that this was not necessarily the case. There may have been members of the congregation, who at the time would have 'chipped in' as it were, to pay for just such a memorial.) A custom that should be emphasised continues to this day.
- (b) Where was the air raid in Angmering that ended her life at the age of 73 years, in 1942?
- 3.7 On Remembrance Sunday 2017, following a visit to the graveyard, I decided to attempt to find out some of the above answers. Having no previous knowledge, of Marie Jadot, it was an investigation from scratch. Being an Angmering resident since about 1973, as well as a member of the Worthing Archaeological Society (WAS), I personally, was unaware of any raids on Angmering per se.
- 3.8 It is recorded that a Stuka JU 87 was shot down and crash-landed on Ham Manor Golf Course. The observer/rear gunner was killed whilst attempting to resist capture. (His burial is recorded as being at Cannock Chase See 9.5 and 11.11) (See Angmering website)

- 3.9 There is an alternative account of the death of his death. See www.littlehamptonfort.co.uk Hilary Greenwood Nov 2013
- 3.10 There are also reports that enemy bombers unloaded their ordnance in the area, in an attempt to evade being shot down, or to return home at best possible speed. No such reports, so far uncovered, fit the specific details as described on the headstone.

4.0 Investigation

- 4.1 Internet research failed to turn up any evidence of an air raid in Angmering. That said it would be unprofessional to discount any anecdotal evidence that may be presented post publication of this article.
- 4.2 A search on 'Jadot' proved to be another matter. Although sculpted into the headstone as Marie.L. Jadot, it became obvious that her name(s) were recorded as several and varied. (para 11.1 p.18)
- 4.3 What appears to be incontrovertible was that she suffered serious injuries and died, at Worthing Hospital because of the air raid on 8th May 1942.
- 4.4 As it transpired, the air raid was actually at Rustington, some couple of miles from Angmering. This was uncovered because of an article written by the below named (4.5) Also evidenced by : -
- 4.5 Whitworth. Born Wood. British Schools Museum (BBC) ran programmes for people to record their wartime experiences. One such article was published by Rodney Stuart Whitworth. He was adopted. His birth name was WOOD. (Note. Full Article para 11.3)
- 4.6 The significance of Mr. Whitworths account (previously Wood) is that he was injured and his Mother later died because of the same air raid that killed Marie Jadot (para 11.3)
- 4.7 Death Certificate A Death Certificate of Jadot was obtained from West Sussex County Council, which is the authority now responsible for collation. At that time, it was Worthing Registration District. (para 11.f)(See also UK Civilian War Deaths below)
- 4.8 The Death Certificate gives another variation of her name a *Marie Louisa Jadot* and her address as 'Bramfield' Seafield Road Rustington. It confirmed she died at Worthing Hospital on 8th May 1942, the same day of the attack. It also revealed she was a widow.
- 4.9 Phil Quinn A retired Engineer, living in Rustington in 1993. He was keen to research the local history. He lived in Seafield Road Rustington. Having viewed a photograph of bomb damage in a copy of a wartime edition of the Littlehampton Gazette, simply labelled 'Rustington', was able to his own satisfaction, to identify the location as being opposite Seafield Close. (para 5.0 p10)
- 4.10 Censorship. Despite requests to Local Newspapers published at that time, but still extant, this particular photograph has not currently been traced. However the almost certain location was traced by other means. (para 5.0)
It should be pointed out that newspapers, or indeed postal letters to and from the armed forces were censored, so as not to reveal the location(s) of any bomb/other damage by the enemy i.e. Germany.
This was to stop them using such sources as a confirmation, or otherwise as to their 'effectiveness'

Equally frustrating from a research point of view is, that of the several accounts of German aircraft, none gives the type i.e. JU87, ME 109 etc. (or indeed of the allied aircraft) Again It is suspected this is to disguise the 'effectiveness' or otherwise of any actions undertaken.

- 4.11 Contemporary Accounts Mr. Wood aka Whitworth, cannot, strictly speaking be called an eyewitness. He was only 2 years old at the time when he was injured during the air raid, at presumably a house called Kogarali. With his Mother dead and his Father in the R.A.F., he was subsequently adopted by, and took the name of Whitworth. (See para 11.3)
- 4.12 www.rootschat gives an account of this particular air raid as well as others.
- 4.13 Mary Taylor B.E.M. 87 years (2018) is a respected author of several historical books about Rustington, West Sussex. She wrote an account in one book of the raid in question. In personal correspondences to the author, she describes how her Father, a part time postman awaiting call up, was involved in that particular raid. His peaked cap took a bullet through the visor.
- 4.14 Littlehampton Gazette dated Friday 15th May 1942 (para 11.2) gives a concise account, including the touching storey of Mrs Wood remaining alive long enough to be told her son Rodney was alive and recovering (See 4.5 above)
This account is the first time that Mrs. Jadot is referred to as Madame.
- 4.15 Bramfield and Kogarali the houses named as the places subject of the attack no longer exist. Nor can any evidence of their names be uncovered. I therefore employed other means to attempt to locate said properties.
From accounts concerning the dead and injured, it is probable that the properties were used to house evacuees from high-risk areas of bombing, which, if true is ironic.
- 4.16 Worthing Library Holds DVD's of old newspapers, where a copy of the Littlehampton Gazette was located. The Reference Section Staff supplied a copy of WW11 Civilian Deaths, which includes *Mrs Wood* and *Jadot Josephine Marie Louise*. It also states that the latter is the widow of *Georges Jadot* and that she was a *Belgium Subject*
- 4.17 Civil Registration Death Index also records both ladies demise, but not *Georges Jadot*. (p)
- 4.18 National Census All Censi (Every 10 years in the U.K. from 1801) searches proved negative for both Jadot's, between 1871-1931. The 1941 census was not held, owing to war. There was a limited one in 1939.

5.0_ Identifying the Bombed Houses

5.1 Initial Identification

Phil Quinn (4.8) Identified where he thought the bombed houses were. Living in Seafield Road, Rustington he comparing it to a photograph he had seen, in the Littlehampton Gazette. He placed them opposite Seafield Close Rustington.

(Currently Orchard Gardens. (see 5.5)

In private correspondence to the author by *Mary Taylor*, she asserts that 310 houses were damaged by bomb, cannon, or machine gun fire.

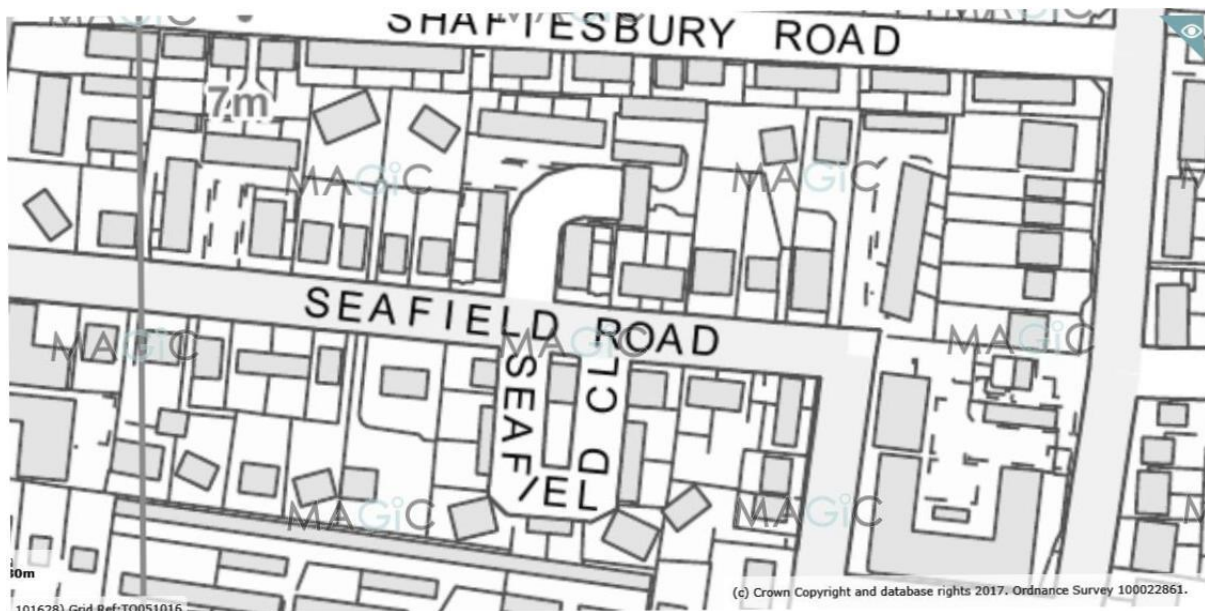
5.2 Honour and revenge

The indiscriminate strafing of civilians and civilian houses, albeit that troops were stationed in the area, does not speak well of the Luftwaffe. When modern day thinking attempts to make it appear that only Nazi's carried out war crimes (less than 10% of the German population were registered as such), then this and other acts speak the truth of the German war machine.

Reprisal happened. According to the newspaper report, (para 11.2 p18) one German aircraft involved in this specific war crime was shot down and crashed on the nearby beach. Again, no details of the type of aircraft are given, or of the fate of its crew. See <http://www.aircrewremembered.com/KrackerDatabase> for Luftwaffe details.(para 11.11)

5.3 Proving the Location

5.4 DEFRA Map (Magic) showing Seafield Road and Seafield Close



This 2017 DEFRA Map clearly there are only a few dwellings opposite the Eastern Arm of Seafield Close but they are bungalows and do not bear the relevant names. Opposite the Western arm, there is now a close. (Ashton Gardens)

5.5 Site Visit

I visited the site and the following photographs are exhibited:-

5.6 Seafield Road facing Eastwards n.b. Ashton Gdns. Top left:- Seafield Close Top Right



5.7 Seafield Close facing Ashton Gardens



5.8 Ashton Gardens facing Seafield Close



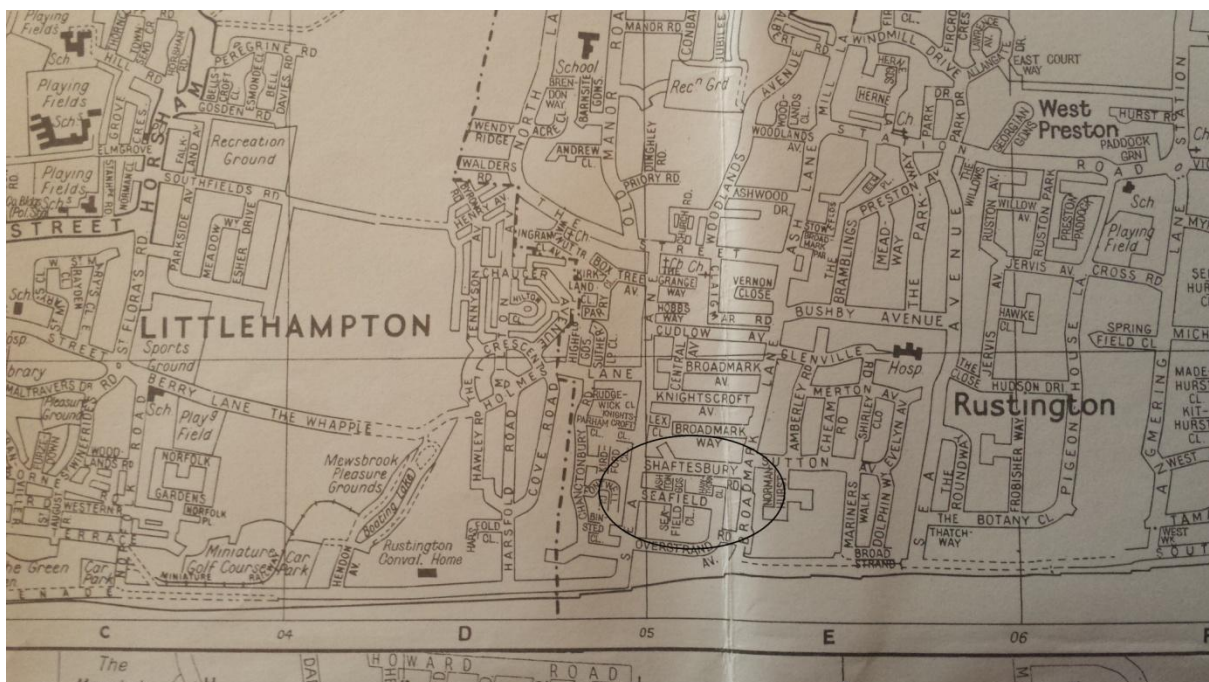
5.9 Modern Buildings

Looking at the photographs of Ashton Gardens, it became apparent that they were built in the mid 1960's to early 1970's. This therefore pre supposes that there was some kind of vacant lot for this to happen. Alternatively, the existing buildings were pulled down for redevelopment. It was still common in the 1960's to see 'bombed out' building sites, where children delighted in playing. Therefore, the hypothesis is that Ashton Gardens area is where the bombed buildings once stood.

6.0 Examining Older Maps

Working backwards through time, a slightly different approach, we can examine when the older (bombed) houses were last recorded. In 5.4 above, it is obvious that Ashton Gardens is in existence (2018)

6.1 Post 1971 Street Map



The above was printed by Geographia Ltd. London. (No Edition) Now defunct. There are no dates of print but apparently, there is a date code somewhere on the map, not always in the same place. 'RL' on this map, if is to be deciphered correctly, equates to 1967. The date is difficult to believe, as the cover price says 3/- AND 15p. This places it at the change from Imperial to Decimal currency. Circa 1971. (and in doing so, severed England's last link to the Roman Empire)

6.2 Pre 1971 Street Map Map (pre decimal)



The above is another undated Street map. This does not show Ashton Gardens. The price displayed is 2/6d (Two Shillings and Sixpence) (25 pence) The evidence being that it was pre decimal (1971)

6.3 Mallon Dene Lido

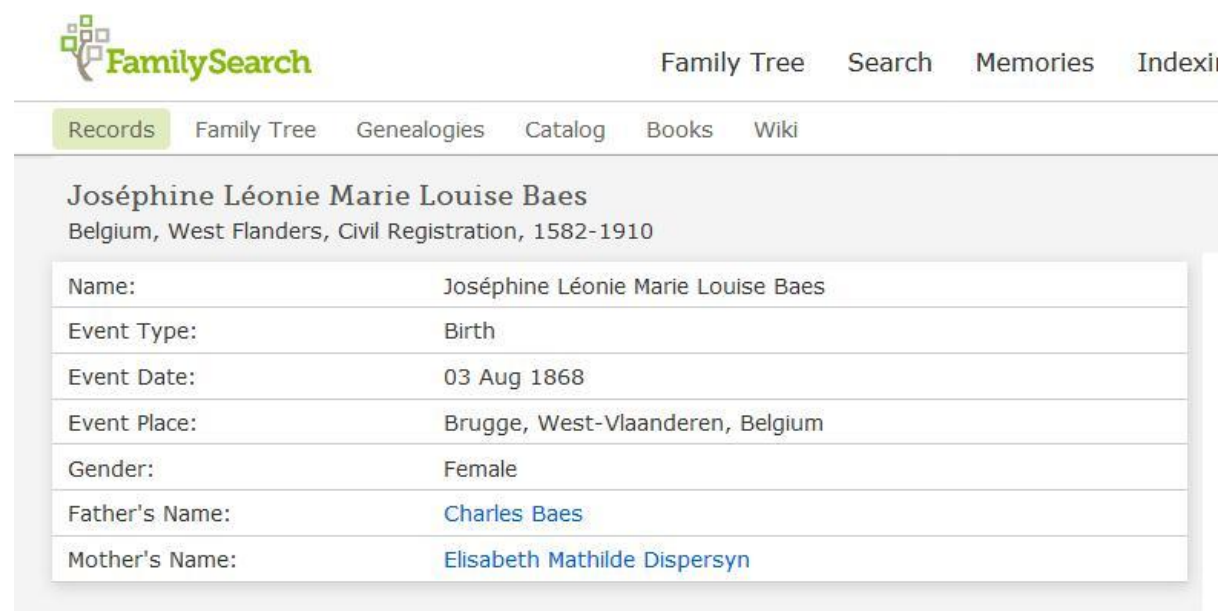
However. It does show Mallon Dene Holiday Camp/Lido. It was opened in 1959 and closed sometime after 1965. It is therefore safe to assume that Ashton Gardens was not in existence until after 1965, but before 1971. (Mallon Dene lives on as the name of a road, to the east of Broadmark Lane)

6.4 OS Map Sheet TQ00 Published 1959



This OS Edition clearly shows Seafeld Close. (Circled) Ashton Gardens is not present, but just inside the top of the circle, is shown some sort of building(s) directly in the road of what is now Ashton Gardens. It is suggested that the evidence points to this block as encompassing both 'BRAMFIELD' and 'KOGARALI'.

7.0 Research of Birth



The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, and Index. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Records, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area displays a record for Joséphine Léonie Marie Louise Baes, born in Belgium, West Flanders, in 1868. The record includes a table with the following details:

Name:	Joséphine Léonie Marie Louise Baes
Event Type:	Birth
Event Date:	03 Aug 1868
Event Place:	Brugge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Gender:	Female
Father's Name:	Charles Baes
Mother's Name:	Elisabeth Mathilde Dispersyn

7.1 Birth Certificate JADOT nee BAES

Mrs Gail Cusden carried out the above research. A far better researcher than I. There is no definite proof that this is the Madame Jadot. The year of birth certainly fits. i.e. ± 1 year.
The forenames do could certainly match, with an added 'Leonie'
In addition, she was born in Belgium. With no other matches against the data given.
(So it is currently understood) This therefore, makes her a highly suitable candidate for being our Madame Jadot.

8.0 Suggested Sequence of Events

- 8.1 It is entirely feasible that Mdm Jadot was born in Bruges, Belgium on 3rd August 1868. (as at para 7.1 above)
- 8.2 She was married, sometime, to a Georges Jadot-Date unknown.
- 8.3 She/they moved to the UK Date unknown, but neither is recorded on the 1931, or any other censi in this country.
- 8.4 This could mean that the move was made after 1931 but before 1940. (The Germans had conquered most of Europe by that time and the movement of civilians would have been very difficult, if not impossible.)
- 8.5 She became a widow, but it cannot be ascertained when.
- 8.5 The most likely chain of events, is that she emigrated and lived elsewhere in the UK and was subsequently evacuated to Rustington. This is partially supported by the fact that Mrs., Wood had done exactly that, and died in the same raid.
- 8.5 Both she and Mrs Wood were removed to Worthing Hospital and died on the same day.
- 8.6 Mrs Wood's body was subsequently buried at Hither Green cemetery, Verdant Lane, London SE6.

- 8.7 Madame Jadot in the meanwhile, was buried in a very small R.C. cemetery in Angmering. 'Larger' R.C. cemeteries were available in the area, although not in Rustington.
- 8.8 Who identified her as a Roman Catholic and who paid for the erection and inscription on her headstone? (See 3.5 above) If the truth be told, we are not likely to answer that question.

9.0 Attempts to identify the German Aircrew men

- 9.1 The Littlehampton Gazette dated Friday May 15th 1942, reported that 'German *Fighters* (my italics) attacked the area and that one was destroyed. An assumption could be drawn that the aircrew men/man died as a result.
- 9.2 From my limited research, this is almost certainly a false assumption.
- 9.3 Records from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) do not show any German deaths on or just after the event in question. That is not to say the records are infallible. e.g. : -
- 9.4 Waliner. F. A German Unterofficer is shown as being buried at St Wilfred's R.C. Cemetery on/after 23/1/41. The entry has then been deleted but in any event, is too early to be involved in the airstrike in question. However his name does not show up anywhere else, including Cannock Chase Staffs., which is one of the official War Cemeteries for German War Dead (See 11.7) However:-
- 9.5 Willi Geiger, born 30/8/14, died 18/8/40 is shown as being buried there.(Cannock Chase) He was the observer/radio op/gunner of the JU 87 (Stuka) that made a forced landing at Ham Manor Golf Club.
He was either (a) Shot by the Home Guard or (b) died later of his wounds following a 'mission of mercy' by his pilot OFW Kurt Schweinhardt, who landed his plane following his crewmates injuries.(See 3.8)
Of the two accounts, I am inclined to believe the latter, insomuch that the photograph does not show much damage to the aircraft. Having said that, I am all too well aware that one round striking an important part of the engine will do the trick.
- 9.6 Given that desktop research has its limitations, I visited the cemeteries at Angmering and Littlehampton. The latter has a War Grave Commission section.
- 9.7 Littlehampton Cemetery has 46 Allied graves of which 8 are Canadian Airmen, several Australians and one New Zealander. Also one grave of an unknown R.N.Sailor.
It also contains 13 German Airmen and one unknown German. Unfortunately, the latter grave does not contain a date of death/burial. All the others do, but none coincides with the date of Mde. Jadot's death. That only leaves the unknown German. Whilst being aware that lack of evidence is not the same as evidence is lacking, I cannot start to make a case for this 'unknown' being involved. God rest his soul.
- 9.8 Conclusion The conclusion that one reaches, on the available evidence is, that the offending pilot did not die at the time. There is no real evidence that the aircraft that was shot down, contained the said offending pilot. It would have been a delicious irony indeed, if the enemy pilot had been killed and buried near Mde. Jadot. Alas, the evidence does not bear this out.
- 9.9 For whatever reason, Madame Jadot was identified and buried as a Roman Catholic in St.Winifrids Cemetery. May she rest in Peace.

10.0 All Roads lead to Rome

- 10.1 This article started with the grave of a Sailor 'Known unto God' buried at Angmering cemetery and there it finishes. (Subject to further developments)
- 10.2 Juxtaposing the two headstones, one from Littlehampton and the other from Angmering, there is an immediate similarity of burial dates.



Angmering 21/1/43



Littlehampton 4/2/43

There are only 14 days between the both being buried. It goes without saying that this does not mean the same date as dying. It could be construed that they were shipmates and possibly elsewhere along the South Coast, are dead sailors who are named (or not) and came from the same vessel.

10.3 H.M.S. Penylan

- 10.4 HMS Penylan, a 'Hunt Class' Destroyer (L89) was torpedoed off Start Point Devon, by an E-Boat on 3/12/42. (Some 180/200 statute miles to the west of Littlehampton) Of her crew of 168, 61 members were lost. Given the prevailing tide drift and the time of the sinking, it puts forward a hypothesis that the two sailors *could* be shipmates. Other unknown sailors could have drifted ashore all along that route, without being tied into the same sinking. i.e. $180 \text{ statute miles} \div 49 \text{ days} = 3.7 \text{ m.p. day}$ this is well within 'Further Investigations upon the Water Movement of the English Channel' (12.6) p26

Their story is not part of this report. It does, I hope, tie the three links in.

Peter. H. Skilton. Angmering Spring 2018

11.0

Appendix**11.1 Known Variations of Name**

- a) Marie. L. Jadot Headstone and Civil Registration Death Index
- b) Marie Louisa Jadot Death Certificate
- c) Madame Jadot Littlehampton Gazette-15th May 1942
- d) Jadot, Josephine Marie Louise UK WWII Civilian Deaths. (Gives age as 74)
- e) Josephine Leonie Marie Louise Baes Belgium Birth Certificate

(e) Above has been included because the evidence suggests that this is the same person, which is not the same thing as saying it is proof.

f) Copy of Death Certificate


CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

FE 589832

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Worthing

1942

DEATH in the Sub-District of Worthing

in the County of West Sussex

Columns:-		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	
57	English May 1942 Worthing Hospital Worthing U.D.	Marie Louisa Jadot	Female	73 years	of 'Branfield' Seafield Road Risington Worthing R.D. widow of J. Jadot occupation unknown	Due to war operations	Certificate received from J. W. Calvert Clerk to the Worthing Rural District Council	Thirteenth May 1942	A. H. Linfield Registrar	

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

P. Huelin Deputy Superintendent Registrar
23rd November 2017.

Date

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

Two Killed In Mid-day Air Raid

FIGHTERS AVENGE BOMB AND CANNON ATTACK ON A VILLAGE AND TOWN

BOMB-CARRYING German fighters attacked a South Coast town and village on Friday afternoon in a lightning raid.

One small bomb landed in the village causing casualties, two fatal.

Another bomb exploded in another place causing slight damage but no casualties.

The attack was carried out at low level. British planes destroyed one of the German aircraft almost immediately afterwards and it crashed on the beach just outside the town.

Part of the street in the village where a bomb landed was peppered with small craters as the Germans opened up with cannon and machine-gun fire.

Fatally injured were:

MRS. IRENE GRACE WOOD, age 32,
MADAME JADOT, aged 73.

Other were detained in hospital, among them:

MRS. ALICE MAUD HARDY, 52,
(gunshot wound in left leg);

MISS BLANCHE HARDY, 24, daughter
of Mrs. Hardy (injuries to wrist
and shoulder);

MRS. ISABELLA HEBBLE-

THWAITE, 82, mother of Mrs. Hardy
(head injuries and shock);

RODNEY WOOD, aged two, Mrs.
Wood's son (lacerated leg and other
injuries);

MRS. CAROLINE JEWSEBURY, 60,
Wimpole-street, W. (head injuries);

A SOLDIER was also detained with
a fractured collar bone;

MADAME ZAIS was treated for
slight injuries but was not detained.

Mother, Dying, Asked About Injured Son

The house where most of the casualties occurred was almost completely destroyed. A few other houses received damage.

Mrs. Wood is the wife of a former London policeman who is now in the R.A.F. She was taken to one hospital in a critical condition and her two-year-old son Rodney, also seriously injured, was taken to another.

Mrs. Wood asked repeatedly for news of her son and just before she died it was possible to tell her that he was recovering and would be all right.

Her husband was granted special leave and he attended the funeral, which took place in London.

Rodney's condition was serious, but he was stated yesterday, to be "going on nicely."

Mrs. Hebblethwaite, who is a grandmother and 82 years old, was also in a serious condition on admission to hospital. "She seems to be all right now," it was stated at the hospital.

An eye witness told a reporter: "I saw the planes flying low and at great speed along the front. Everyone about at the time seemed to sense there was something coming and they all ducked as the planes opened fire.

A soldier said: "I saw one bomb leave one of the aircraft. There was a lot of firing for some seconds, some of it from the ground."

A group of soldiers were in the vicinity at the time and they rushed

in to assist the injured. Villagers praised their efforts.

"They were running into all the houses to see if the people were all right and they gave first-aid and did everything they could until ambulances arrived," one resident said.

11.3 BBC-Whitworth Account

Contributed by

[British Schools Museum](#)

People in story:

Rodney Stuart Whitworth

Location of story:

Knebworth, Hertfordshire

Background to story:

Civilian

Article ID:

A7407605

Contributed on:

29 November 2005

This story is submitted by the British Schools Museum, Hitchin on behalf of Mr. Whitworth and with his permission.

My father Percy Alfred Wood had a brother John and two sisters Beryl Eileen and Esme Olive Wood. Uncle John married and lived in Watton Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

Beryl married Robert Gabriel Warner who was a Royal Naval Engineer serving in destroyers and submarines in the war. Robert had been born in France and spoke fluent French. As a result, when the Royal Navy seized the French Fleet to prevent it falling into German hands, Robert was needed to read the signs and notices on one of the vessels.

Esme married Charles Edwin Whitworth and lived in Oakfields Avenue, Knebworth, Hertfordshire. Charles Whitworth had graduated from the London School of Economics specialising in Transport Studies. He also spoke German, French and Italian, and had travelled widely in Europe before the war. He worked for British Railways and eventually became assistant general manager for the then Eastern Region. During the war, he was seconded to the Special Operations Executive, and was a special Constable in Knebworth.

Beryl and Esme were both teachers. Beryl taught at St. Nicholas School in Stevenage next to the then Alleyn's Grammar School. Esme taught at Hitchin Girls Grammar School where she had been a pupil. She also was active in the local Girl Guide movement.

I am afraid that the only records I have of my mother and her family are a few photographs and her wedding certificate. She married Percy at the Parish Church in West Ham, London on 22nd June 1935 by which time Percy had joined the Metropolitan Police becoming a sergeant. His love of cars and motor cycles led to him being seconded into the newly formed flying squad.

Then Percy, my father, volunteered to join the Royal Air Force when war was declared and became a navigator in bomber command mostly in Lancasters from a base in Lincolnshire.

When I was born, my parents were living in Catford, London. Dad went to Canada for his RAF training being based near Lake Ontario with training flights over the Great Lakes. Each recruit practiced piloting, navigation, gunnery and wireless operation.

Dad being 26 was deemed too old to be a pilot and became a navigator. He lived with a family called Drummond who he visited after the war. At the time, on completion of the

training, he had to leave at night without saying goodbye and board a train out in the countryside for transport to a troopship. These precautions were due to the fact that the

Germans had infiltrated fifth columnists into the USA and Canada who were alerting the German submarines operating off the Atlantic coast of North America.

When the London Blitz commenced, my mother and I were evacuated to Seafield Road, Rustington, near Littlehampton, Sussex. On 8th May 1942, bomb-carrying German fighters attacked Rustington with bombs, cannon and machine gun fire. The Friday 15th May 1942 issue of the Littlehampton Gazette records the raid.

Two people were killed. One of them was my mother who died later in hospital. I was badly wounded by shrapnel and I understood later that my life was saved by the Hospital staff including an unknown American Doctor. I still have three large scars on my left leg and thigh.

My mother is buried in Hither Green cemetery, Verdant Lane, London SE6.

With the life expectancy of bomber crews flying regular missions over occupied Europe being very short, Dad agreed with Esme and Charles Whitworth that I should go to live and be brought up by them as Guardians with a view to adoption. I have two letters from The Littlehampton and District Hospital to Esme. The first dated 1st June 1942 from the Matron Sister L. King confirmed that I could leave Hospital on Saturday 6th June 1942. The second dated 16th June is from Mr J. H. Goodwin the Hon Secretary to the Hospital. This was apparently in response to a letter of thanks from Esme although I have never seen that letter.

Dad and his crew survived several tours of duty and took part in flying British prisoners of war home following the Armistice.

The crew were about to be sent to the Far East theatre of war, when the dropping of the atom bombs brought the war with Japan to an end.

My first memories are from living in Oakfields Avenue, Knebworth, in the small bungalow with the rear vegetable garden and apple and plum orchard.

There was a small garage which housed a 1936 E type Morris car which was kept on blocks and under a canvas until the war ended. Much later on, I learned to drive in this car which was rudimentary compared to modern standards of car design. It had a starting handle and semaphore indicators which often stuck forcing hand signals out of the open driver's window. The dip switch for the headlights was foot operated on the floor and to prevent dazzle through the rear window into the interior driving mirror, the driver pulled a curtain ring attached to string which pulled a roller blind up over the rear window. There were no heaters in the car, and in fog and frost the driver had to wind open the windscreen which hinged upwards and outwards. This provided some degree of forward visibility albeit a cold experience. In those days, passengers used travelling rugs. I recall the car having regular three-monthly services at the then Stevenage Motor Company.

Food rationing was in force and vegetables and fruit came from the garden. Sweet rationing meant that the meagre ration had to last for weeks. As a result, I never developed any great desire for sweets, although I now indulge sometimes. It was towards the end of the war that I recall first seeing oranges, bananas and packaged chicken noodle soup. There were no fridges and milk was boiled to help it keep.

There was no central heating and I remember the blackout curtains and the gas masks ready. During the 1940's the small coal fires had to be properly laid using paper, some kindling and coal. Fire lighters were made from rolled up and folded newspapers. The ashes were taken next day and rolled into the garden path.

The local milk was delivered by horse and cart. The milkman's horse used to kick holes in the gravel road, resulting in many potholes in its surface.

I recall the army convoys led by motor cycle dispatch riders travelling along the Great North Road through Knebworth (now by-passed by the A1(M)). The concrete pill box guarding the railway cutting just north of Knebworth Station next to the span bridge, has now been demolished.

During the war, Knebworth Primary School where I started school in 1945 had underground air raid shelters and gardening was part of the curriculum. In the latter 1940's we still took a halfpenny a day for our one third pint of milk which was delivered in crates to the school gates. In the severe winter of 1947, the milk froze forcing the cream out of the tops of the bottles. We had to thaw the milk out on the classroom heating pipes. The toilets were open air brick buildings with limited roofing.

Later in the war the flying bombs came down close to Knebworth and in certain locations the circular former craters can still be seen where the soil texture was disturbed. On one occasion, I dropped a plate of toast I was carrying and sought refuge under the dining room table.

I remember being pushed in the pram by my grandmother through Woolmer Green past what was then a transport cafe where several army half track vehicles had stopped off. We returned to Knebworth and were in a queue at one of the shops in the high street, when the half tracks came round the corner by Barclays Bank. One vehicle took the corner too fast, skidded, over corrected and ploughed into the shopping queue. Several people including Gran were badly injured and my pram was missed by inches. Although her injuries healed, Gran never really got over the accident and nobody was ever prosecuted.

Although VE day was celebrated in Knebworth with flags outside every house, I cannot recall any such celebration of VJ day. I was formally adopted on 7th November 1947 at Hitchin County Court.

After the war, Dad rejoined the Metropolitan Police but found that those like him who had left to fight in the armed forces were overlooked for promotion. He resigned and became a self employed driving instructor. He died in Cornwall in 2000.

I have just retired (2005) following a career as a Chartered Surveyor. My wife Shirley who was born in Hitchin, attended the British School in Hitchin. Her photograph is displayed there in what is now the British Schools Museum — so I am pleased to submit this story through their pages on the BBC's People's War website.

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11.4 Phil Quinn Account

Retired engineer Phil Quinn, 76, from Seafield Road, Rustington, shed light on a photograph, labelled simply Rustington.

Although the amateur historian has lived in the area only since 1993, he has devoted himself to researching local history and the photograph sparked his curiosity.

He said: "I looked at it and thought, 'Where could that be?' Then it dawned on me."

Mr Quinn realised the photograph showed a house in his own road, at the junction with Seafield Close, which had been bombed in May, 1942.

His research into the area had uncovered a Littlehampton Gazette report of the bombing from the time.

It told how the attack had claimed the life of 32-year-old Irene Wood and seriously injured her two-year-old son, Rodney.

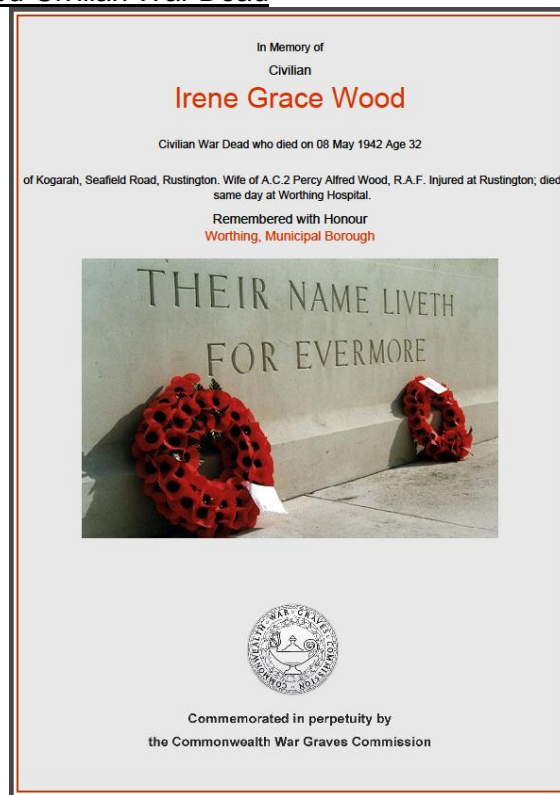
A woman described as Madame Jadot, aged 73, also died in the bombing.

11.5 Rootschat

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/>

hi, i don't know if your still teaching the topic but the seafront was cordoned off with barbed wire there was a blockhouse at the bottom of sea lane the foreshore was full of land mines sometimes if the sea was rough it would set them off. in 1940 twelve high explosive bombs were dropped on the village damaging 50 houses, the village was frequently being disturbed by low flying enemy aircraft nuisance raids appearing suddenly from over the sea with machine guns blazing.the worst raid of the war occurred on 8th may 1942.A bomb demolished a house in Seafield Road.Two people were killed,five seriously injured and many others had minor wounds,most of the large houses and all the hotels were taken over by the armed forces.In1941 the Canadian troops arrived where they stayed for three years.In 1945 a mosquito night fighter from Ford airfield crashed into a house in Chaucer Ave, killing the crew and three civilians, a baby was badly burnt but survived with her mother (sic)

11.6 Irene Grace Wood-Civilian War Dead



Note different spelling of house name

11.7 Wood-Civilian Dead

Civilian

WOOD, IRENE GRACE

Died 08/05/1942

Aged 32

Civilian War Dead

of Kogarah, Seafield Road, Rustington. Wife of
A.C.2 Percy Alfred Wood, R.A.F. Injured at
Rustington; died same day at Worthing Hospital.



11.8 Walliner. F. St. Wilfred's Cemetery

County: SUSSEX GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM Schedule No. : 1

PLACE OF BURIAL: ANGERING (ST. WILFRED'S) R.G. CEMETERY UNITED KINGDOM DISTRICT

Controlling Authority:

The following are buried here: SIGNATURE *R. H. H. H.* DATE 5/6/57

Certified complete and correct.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name and Honours	Unit	Date of Death	Details of Grave marking including Screen Wall	By whom maintained, if at Commission expense state fee payable	Ownership of Grave	REMARKS
<u>Gr. No.</u>		<u>ROW L</u>						
<u>3</u>	<u>71028-47</u> <u>Uoff</u>	<u>F. WALLNER</u>	<u>German Air Force</u>	<u>25. 3. 41</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Priest 5/-</u>		
	<u>B.I.A.</u>							
<u>8</u>	<u>6405315</u> <u>Pte.</u>	<u>A.J. GALLOWAY</u>	<u>30th Bn.</u>	<u>6. 1. 43</u>	<u>C.H.</u>	<u>Relatives</u>		
			<u>Q.R.R.</u>		<u>Portland Korb</u>			
		<u>ROW M.</u>						
<u>9</u>		<u>UNKNOWN SAILOR</u>	<u>R.N.</u>	<u>21. 1. 43</u>	<u>C.H.</u>	<u>Priest 5/-</u>		

11.9 St. Wilfred's Cemetery



11.10 Civilian Dead-Jadot

Civilian

JADOT, JOSEPHINE MARIE LOUISE

Died 08/05/1942

Aged 74

Civilian War Dead

Belgian subject; of Bramfield, Seafield Road, Rustington. Widow of Georges Jadot. Injured at Rustington; died same day at Worthing Hospital.



11.11 Crew of JU87 Forced Landing Ham Manor 18th may 1940

4	Geiger, Willi	Ofw	8/30/1914	Mannheim		5/StG-77	Ju 87B-1 Werk # 5167 "S2 + UN" (lost)	Dive Bomber Operational Clasp	KIA 18 August, 1940 during aerial combat, crashing at Ham Manor Golf Course, Angmering, Sussex. Buried Cannock Chase, Block 4, F, Gr 18. Source: M. Croft.
5	Schweinhardt, Kurt	Ofw				5/StG-77 (Channel)	Ju 87B-1 Werk # 5167 "S2 + JN" (or UN) (lost 8/18/40)	Wound Badge Dive Bomber Operational Clasp	POW 18 August, 1940 after being shot down with wounds at Ham Manor Golf Course, Angmering, Sussex, by P/O Whall of No. 602 Sq.. His unnamed R/O KIA. Ju 87 Loss List. Added: His R/O-Gnr, Ofw Willi Geiger, buried CC, Block 4, Row F, Gr 18 (D. Drury).

Kracker Luftwaffe Archive

12.0 Acknowledgements (Alphabetic)

- 12.6 Carruthers. J. N. 1930
- 12.5 Father David Rae. R.C. Priest, East Preston (responsible for Angmering Cemetery)
- 12.4 Jane Dore and staff – Worthing Reference Library
- 12.3 Mary Taylor M.B.E Local Historian
- 12.2 Gail Custden. Independent Researcher
- 12.1 Jules (Julie) Covey Rustington Museum

13.0 Other Sources

- 13.1 DEFRA (MaGic) Maps
- 13.2 Ordnance Survey 2018
- 13.3 Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (CWGC)
- 13.4 Angmering Village Web Site.
- 13.5 Littlehampton Fort Website
- 13.6 Graves Registration
- 13.7 Littlehampton Gazette
- 13.8 Wikipedia
- 13.9 Kracker Luftwaffe Archive
- 13.10 Neil & Rita Rogers-Davis, September 2006 (Cemetery Plan)
- 13.11 Google Earth
- 13.12 West Sussex County Council (W.S.C.C.)
- 13.13 Families Search

- 14.0 Apologies. For such a short article, there seems to me, to be an inordinate amount of research required to attempt to check the most innocuous details .This not how it was envisaged. Things, after a while, start taking on a life of their own.

Where possible, I have attempted to identify links to further research, which I have used. They are not intended to be exhaustive, nor should they be. Where is the fun in that?

I, therefore, take the cowards way out and apologise for leaving out any individual or organisation, which should have been included, but were overlooked. As the saying goes, 'Any faults are entirely my responsibility' P.H. Skilton