

Charles (Charlie) Hargreaves (1898 – 1981)

Charles Hargreaves – or Charlie as he was usually known – was born in Farnhill and was one of three brothers, and cousin to two others, who saw active service in World War 1. From a family of eight children, Charlie worked from a young age – when he was aged 12 he was already working in a worsted mill.



Photograph courtesy of Keighley and District Digital Archive

Commencing his active service in October 1916 in the artillery, he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps the following year. After serving in France and Italy, he returned to Farnhill at the end of the war. He became involved in local sport, the Oddfellows Lodge and he was a member of Kildwick Church's Men's Brotherhood.

He married and lived in Sutton-in-Craven with his wife and only son Brian, who would become a professional artist.

Charlie worked as a weaving overlooker and may have run a baker's shop. He predeceased his wife by two years – dying in 1981, aged 83.

Pre-war life

Charles (Charlie) Hargreaves was born in Farnhill on 27th February 1898 and was baptised at St. Andrew's Church, Kildwick, six weeks later. He was the seventh child, and third son, of John and Annie (nee Dean). His father was from Farnhill and his mother from Threshfield.

The 1901 census records John Hargreaves as being a "cattle-man", which presumably means he worked on one of the local farms. The family – mother, father and seven children (four girls and three boys) – were living at 10 Main Street, Farnhill.

Civil Parish	Ecclesiastical Parish	County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District	Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District	Rural District	Parliamentary Borough or Division	Town or Village										
of <i>Farnhill</i>	of <i>Kildwick</i>	of	of	of <i>Skipton</i>	of <i>Skipton</i>	of <i>Farnhill</i>										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
ROAD, STREET &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	In tenement	HOUSES			Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday or	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead	(2) Blind	(3) Lame	(4) Invalid
		Uninhabited	In Occupancy	Not in Occupancy												
10 Do.	1				3 John Hargreaves	Head	M	43	Cattleman on Farm	Worker		Yorkshire Farnhill				
					Annie Do	Wife	F	35				Do Threshfield				
					Eliza Do	Daughter	F	14	Woolen Spinner	Worker		Do Farnhill				
					Frederick Do	Son	M	12	Woolen Spinner	Worker		Do Do				
					Edith E. Do	Daughter	F	11				Do Do				
					Margaret A. Do	Daughter	F	9				Do Do				
					John Do	Son	M	7				Do Do				
					Anthony Do	Son	M	5				Do Do				
					Charles Do	Son	M	3				Do Do				

Extract from the 1901 census return for Farnhill – the Hargreaves family living at 10 Main Street
Used under licence from the National Archive

Charlie's father died, in Farnhill, on 22nd February 1902, aged 44, shortly after the birth of the family's last child, a fourth son, Lambert Edward. He was buried in Kildwick graveyard.

By the time of the 1911 census, taken when he was 12, Charlie was working as a Doffer in a worsted mill. All eight children were still living with their mother, in four rooms, at 10 Main Street, Farnhill.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.								Nation (To be filled in)
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.								
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for than the preparation of Statistical Tables.								
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATION of every person. Foreign
1 Annie Hargreaves	Head	26	Widow	Married			Sheffield, Yorkshire	
2 Eliza Hargreaves	Daughter	24	Single		Cotton Weaver 250	Worster 4	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
3 Sarah Jane Hargreaves	Daughter	22	Single		Cotton Weaver 7	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
4 Edith Eleanor Hargreaves	Daughter	21	Single		Cloth Weaver	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
5 Margaret Annie Hargreaves	Daughter	19	Single		Worsted Ribbon Weaver 844	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
6 John Hargreaves	Son	17	Single		Cotton Weave 253	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
7 Anthony Dean Hargreaves	Son	15	Single		Looms Assistant 847	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
8 Charles Hargreaves	Son	12			Doffer in Worsted Mill 843	Worster	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
9 James Edward Hargreaves	Son	4					Sheffield, Yorkshire	

Extract from the 1911 census return for 10 Main Street, Farnhill
Used under licence from the National Archive

It is likely, although not certain, that the mill may have been Woodrow's at Junction. Many men from Farnhill worked there and a man with the name Charles Hargreaves was subsequently included in the mill's recently found WW1 Roll of Honour.



The Roll of Honour

EMPLOYEES OF
JOHN WOODROW & SON.
JUNCTION MILLS, CROSSHILLS.

KILLED

Fred Simpson
Tom Allsopp
Harold Wilson
William B Naylor

Walter Dawson
Harry Walmsley
Seth Laycock
John W Wellock

Harry Holmes
Birch Holmes
Cecil Tindall
Miles Fearnley
Richard Dickenson
John Whitham
Tom Hargreaves
Joshua Clough
George Walmsley
Richard Inskip
Edward Parkinson
George B Smith
Frank Pollard
John Helliwell
Walter Hargreaves
James Bottomley
Walter Shalloworth
John Spencer
Harry Riddiough
John Hargreaves
James Pollard

Arthur Greenwood
Robert Brown
Albert Kilson
Walter Smith
Alec Hargreaves
Anthony Hargreaves
Harry Kilson
Ernest Armistead
John Stoll
Thomas Clarkson
Harry Mallinson
Sydney S Smith
Frank Mosley
Charles Wilkins
Alfred Daw
Harry Thompson
Rhodes R Crossley
Sam Holmes
Perry Kilson
John W Preston
Charles Hargreaves
John W Holgate

James Pelly
John C Jackson
David Tillotson
John Tillotson
Tom Tillotson
Joseph Smith
John W Barrell
Walter Wilson
Charles Forl
Robert Thompson
Walter Smith
Harry Foster
Fred Brown
Thomas Spencer
Arthur Wilcock
Harold Greenwood
David Coleman
William Hey
Edward Walworth
John Stephens
Charles Green

1914 — 1919

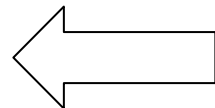
WW1 service

It is not known when or where Charlie attested his willingness to serve, but if he had already done so when the Farnhill Parish Council drew up its Roll of Honour at the end of January 1916, he would have been less than 18 years old.

Charlie's service documents suggests that he commenced his active service with the army on 9th October 1916.

The earliest news report that mentions Charlie dates from less than a week later (West Yorkshire Pioneer, 13/10/1916), when his brother John had been wounded and another, Anthony, had just started his service. It notes that he is already serving "in the motor transport", which probably means the artillery. (The Royal Field Artillery had separate Motor Transport and Horse sections.)

KILDWICK.
WOUNDED SOLDIERS. — Information has been received that Private Tom Hargreaves, of the West Riding Regiment, has been wounded and is now in hospital in France, suffering from a bullet wound in the shoulder. Previous to joining the forces, he was employed at Messrs. John Woodrow's, Junction Mills, as a warp-dresser. His younger brother, Private Alec Hargreaves, is also in the army in camp in Suffolk. He has been on furlough during the week, and attended the funeral of his mother on Tuesday. Information is also to hand that Private John Hargreaves has been wounded. He is attached to the West Riding Regiment. He went out to France in August last. He, too, was employed at Mr. Woodrow's as a warp twister. His brother, Charlie Hargreaves, is in the motor transport, and another brother, Anthony, has joined the forces during the week.



By kind permission of Craven Herald

On 27th February 1917, his 19th birthday, Charlie transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

CURRENT ENGAGEMENT IN H.M. FORCES :—

(a) State whether in Army, Navy or R.A.F. Army.

(b) Period :—

Boy Service

Man Service

Date Current Engagement commenced	Age at that Date	Duration of Period of Engagement
9.10.16	18 $\frac{7}{12}$	20/11

(c) Date of actual entry into { R.F.C. 27.2.17
R.N.A.S. _____
R.A.F. 1.4.18

(d) Period engagement extended for _____

(e) Period re-engaged for _____

An extract from Charlie Hargreaves' service record, showing his transfer into the Royal Flying Corps
Used under licence from the National Archive

He was given the service number 65337 and the rank of Air Mechanic 3rd Class / Assistant Armourer, and was assigned to 34 Squadron.

At this time, 34 Squadron was equipped with RE8s, a two-seater biplane reconnaissance and bomber aircraft.



A Royal Aircraft Factory RE8
Photograph from Wikipedia – [Public Domain](#)

In February 1917 the squadron were based in France, but a news report from May of that year (West Yorkshire Pioneer 11/5/1917) suggests that Charlie did not join them immediately. It recorded that he was “attached to the Royal Flying Corps and is still in England”.

In November 1917 the squadron was transferred, by train rather than flying, to Italy. Charlie Hargreaves' service record and local news reports confirm that he served with the squadron there.

In September 1918, Charlie was admitted to hospital in Italy. This was subsequently reported in all the local press.



Extract from a report in the Craven Herald (1/11/1918)

By kind permission of Craven Herald

He remained in hospital until 19th November.

Charlie's service record suggests that his service ended on 2nd March 1919, when he was transferred to the RAF reserves. However, a single line entry, written faintly, records that he started service with 249 Sea Squadron on 13th April 1919. This squadron, originally a coastal patrol based in Dundee, moved to Killingholme, on Humberside, in April 1919 – without its aircraft. It was disbanded in October 1919 and Charlie Hargreaves' role within it remains unknown.

Post-war life

After the war, Charlie returned to Farnhill and continued living at 10 Main Street with his mother and various siblings.

This is confirmed by the 1921 census, which also records him as being an overlooker at Woodrow's Mill in Eastburn.

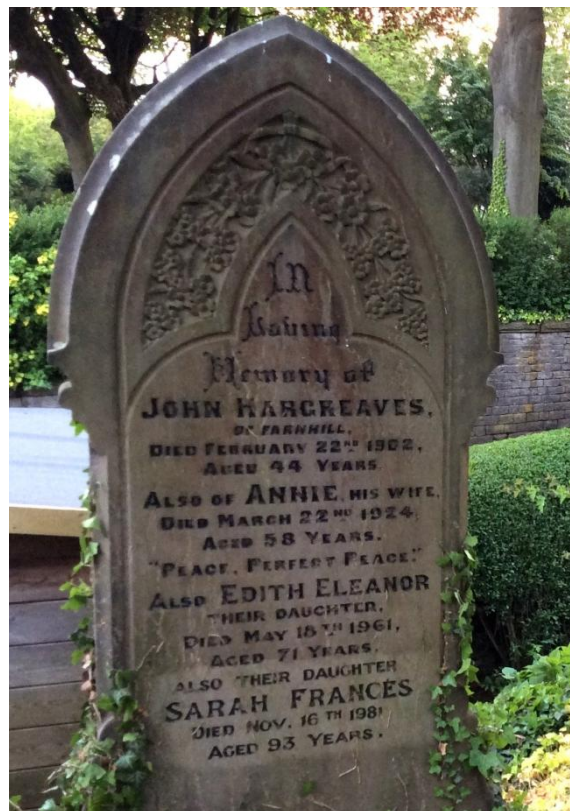
Like all his other brothers he became a member of Kildwick Albion Cricket Club and was in the team for the 1922 season, when they won the Wilberforce Cup. In the photograph below, Charlie is on the left of the front row (cross-legged); his brother Anthony is the player at the far left of the back row; brother Edward is to his left (in a suit); and the umpire (far right, in a white coat) is his brother John.



Charlie Hargreaves, front row, far left, cross-legged.

Photograph by kind permission of Keighley and District Digital Archive

Charlie's mother Annie died on 22nd March 1924 and was buried in Kildwick churchyard, with her husband. (Two of John's sisters, Edith Eleanor and Sarah Frances, neither of whom married, would later be buried in the same family plot.)



Hargreaves family grave – Kildwick old graveyard

On Easter Sunday, a month after his mother's death, the family presented a pulpit cloth to the Church in memory of John (senior) and Annie (Craven Herald 25/4/1924).

KILDWICK.

VICAR AND GOOD FRIDAY EMPLOYMENT.

The usual Eastertide services were held at St. Andrew's Church last week-end. On the morning of Good Friday a service for children was held, and in the afternoon the Rev. A.W. Armitstead (rector of Marton) conducted a three hours' service. In the evening the Rev. C. E. V. Hodge (vicar of Kildwick) gave an address on "The Man of Sorrows," illustrated by lantern slides showing the last hours of the Saviour. In the course of his address the Vicar said he regretted to see that several of the factories in the district were not closed. This was a great error, as it kept people away from worship on a day which should be given up to oblation and prayer. The offertory was for the Bishop of Jerusalem's Mission to the Jews in Palestine.

On Easter Sunday a large number of communicants attended the two early morning services and also the Eucharist. The interior of the Church had been beautifully decorated with lilies and daffodils. The family of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Hargreaves, Farnhill, had presented a pulpit cloth to the Church and, after the singing of the processional hymn, this was dedicated by the Vicar "to the Glory of God and in memory of John and Annie." The cloth is of black leather and in the centre is a cross of white and gold, and embossed in gold round the cross are the words "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations." The service concluded by the choir singing the "Te Deum" at the altar rails. There was a large congregation at evensong, special music comprising the anthem "Glorious is Thy Name, Almighty God." The whole of the services on Sunday were conducted by the Vicar of Kildwick (Rev. C. E. V. Hodge) to whom, as is usual on this day, the offertories were given.

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In the latter part of the 1920s, Charlie took an active role in the Oddfellows lodge based in Farnhill. In February 1927 he was one of the coffin bearers at the funeral of fellow lodge-member Richard Green Kitson (the father of WW1 Volunteers Albert and Harry Kitson). Shortly after, he was elected one of the lodge officers (Craven Herald, 25/2/1927).

He was also a member of the Kildwick Church Brotherhood, a men's society connected to the church.

Charlie appears to have taken part in debates and discussion groups put on by both organisations. His views appear to have been forthright, although hardly what might be termed politically correct in today's climate. Here's a news report of one such meeting from March 1929 (Craven Herald 29/3/1929) – extracts only.

KILDWICK.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT APPROVED.

An interesting debate on "Should capital punishment be abolished?" took place at a meeting of the Kildwick Church Brotherhood in the Parish Room on Thursday evening week. Mr. E. S. Hollings presided.

Mr. T. Addy, speaking for the affirmative, submitted that the death penalty was not a deterrent,

The negative side was taken by Mr. C. Hargreaves. He said that in the underworld in our towns there was a type of criminal who was only kept in order by the fear of death. When brutal murders had been committed in these districts and the culprits had been hanged it had made those places safer for the community. Should such murderers of the type of those concerned in the Gutteridge crime be allowed to serve a few years in goal and then be let loose on society? The abolition of capital punishment was neither more nor less than weak-kneed Christianity.

after a lengthy discussion a vote was taken, the negative view being carried by a majority of three votes.

and another, also from 1929.

Brotherhood Debate.—There was a good gathering of the members of the Kildwick Church Brotherhood in the Parish Room on Thursday evening week. Mr. Joseph King presided. A debate was held on Mr. C. Hargreaves's resolution: "That in the opinion of this house primitive races should not receive Western education." He was seconded by Mr. T. Addy. The opposition was led by Mr. E. S. Hollings and the Rev. C. E. V. Hodge. Many strong points were presented by both parties and a lively discussion followed. On being put to the vote the opposition won with a majority of one.

On 12th November 1932, Charlie married the 30 year old Eastburn woman Lois Smith, at Eastburn Methodist Church.



Charlie Hargreaves' and Lois Smith's wedding group
Photograph courtesy of Christine Reape

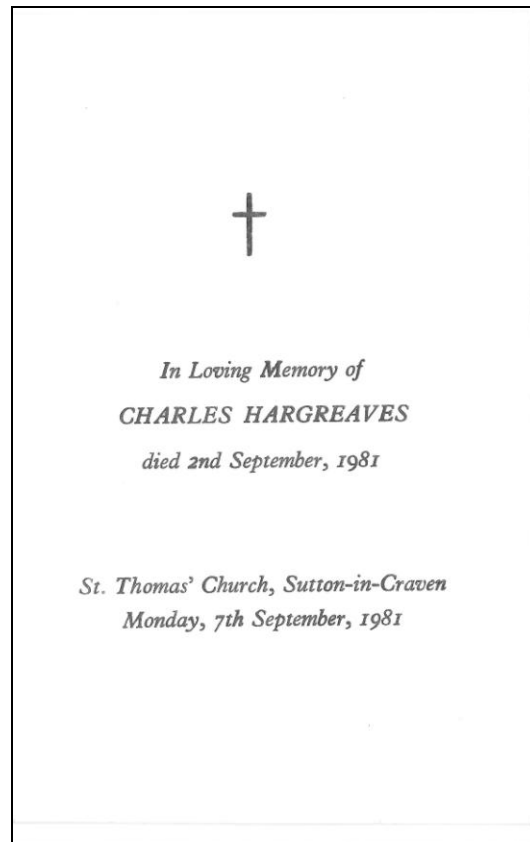
The couple set up home in a house in Boundary Avenue, Sutton – which would be their home for the rest of their lives.

Their only child, a son named Brian, was born in 1935.

The 1939 Register, compiled at the start of WW2 when wartime ration cards were being issued, recorded the family living in Boundary Avenue. Charlie was a “Weaving Overlooker” in a mill producing artificial silk – this was Rayon, used during WW2 in the production of parachutes and barrage balloons.

Note: A family member believes that after WW2 Charlie ran a baker's shop in Utley.

Charlie Hargreaves died on the 2nd September 1981 and buried in the graveyard of St. Thomas's Church, Sutton. He was aged 83.



Charlie Hargreaves' funeral Order of Service
By kind permission of Christine Reape

Postscript

Charlie's wife, Lois, died on 10th November 1983. She was also buried in the graveyard of St. Thomas's, Sutton.

Brian, Charlie and Lois's son, was a talented professional artist. He painted the reredos for St. Thomas's Church, Sutton.

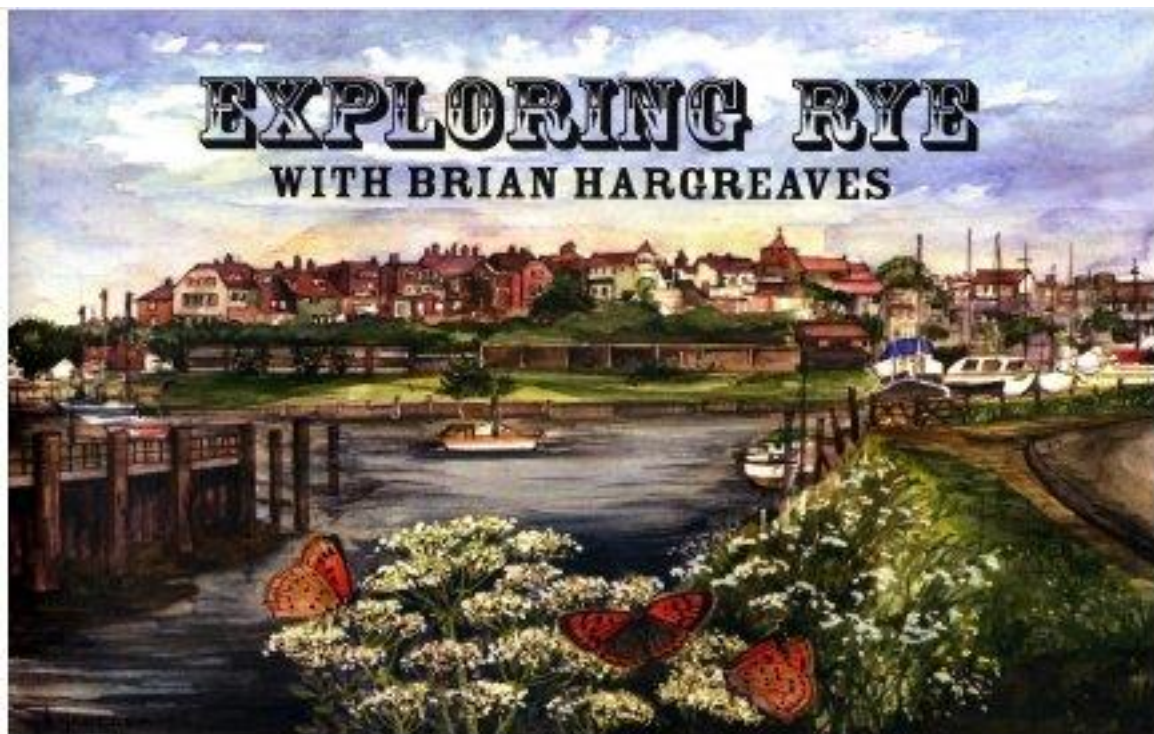




Four examples of Brian Hargreaves' artwork in St. Thomas' Church, Sutton
Photographs courtesy of Isobel Stirk

Brian trained at Keighley and at Camberwell School of Art. After working at various locations in London, including the Natural History Museum, the Houses of Parliament, and St. Paul's Cathedral, he settled in Rye, in East Sussex, where he became well known as a local artist.

His work was included in a number of wildlife books. He also published a book of local scenes.



The cover of one of Brian Hargreaves' books

He became one of the UK's foremost illustrators of insects and worked on the "Collins Guide to Butterflies of Britain and Europe", which was published in nine languages. Brian was also commissioned by the Royal Entomological Society to paint butterflies in the grounds of Buckingham Palace – his work was presented to the Queen on her Silver and Golden wedding anniversaries.

His illustrations grace postage stamps all over the world.



Brian Hargreaves' two-spot ladybird design for a 1985 UK postage stamp

Brian Hargreaves died in 2011.

Charles Hargreaves – a life in summary

Born: 27/2/1898, Farnhill

Baptised: 17/4/1898, Kildwick

Died: 2/9/1981

Aged: 83

Home address: Fernleigh, 37 Boundary Avenue, Sutton-in-Craven

Parents

Father: John; b. 26/8/1857, Farnhill; bapt. 27/9/1857, Kildwick; d. 22/2/1902, Farnhill;
buried 26/2/1902, Kildwick

Mother: Annie (nee Dean); b. 1865, Threshfield; bapt. 30/6/1865, Linton; d. 22/3/1924, Farnhill;
buried 24/3/1924, Kildwick

Married: 1886, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

Eliza; b. 25/11/1886, Farnhill; m. Hedley Broadbent, 19/7/1919, Kildwick;
d. 1958, Nelson (Registration district)

Sarah Frances; b. 26/4/1888, Farnhill;

d. November 1981, Skipton; buried 20/11/1981, Kildwick St. Andrew's

Edith Eleanor; b. 30/8/1889, Farnhill; d. 1961, Staincliffe (Registration district)

Margaret Annie; b. 26/5/1891, Farnhill;

m. Ernest E. Longbottom, 6/4/1935, Kildwick; d. 19/7/1950, Farnhill

John; b. 16/4/1893, Farnhill; m. Sarah Elizabeth Wagstaff, 13/12/1926, Sutton;

d. 22/12/1961, Crosshills

Anthony Dean; b. 11/10/1895, Farnhill; m1. Alice Thompson, 23/7/1927, Kildwick;

m2. Eva Shepherd (nee Rushworth, divorced), 28/3/1959, Skipton Register Office

d. 16/2/1975, Staincliffe (Registration district)

Lambert Edward; b. 9/11/1901, Farnhill; m. Ida Clegg, 20/9/1930, Skipton (Registration district);

d. February 1989, Blackpool

WW1 service

Service period: 9/10/1916 to 2/3/1919 (possibly later)

Unit: Motor Transport Section (Royal Field Artillery / Royal Garrison Artillery ?)
34 Squadron RFC (later RAF); Air Mechanic / Armourer, no. 65337
249 Sea Squadron (?)

Home address: 10 Main Street, Farnhill

Relationship to other volunteers

John – brother

Anthony Dean – brother

Note: The three brothers, Anthony, John and Charles, were cousins to Alec and Tom Hargreaves, who volunteered from Kildwick. However, there appears to be no relationship between these three brothers and the other Hargreaves family of Farnhill.

Marriage

Wife: Lois Smith; b. 9/3/1902, Eastburn; d. 10/11/1983, Sutton

Date: 12/11/1932, at Eastburn Methodist Church

Children

Brian, b. 23/6/1935; baptised at Kildwick church, 27/5/1936;

m. Joyce Soar, 1959, Balham, south London; d. 30/9/2011, Rye, E. Sussex

