

TRANSCRIPT OF AN ARTICLE ABOUT JACK RIDGLEY
ROWLEDGE REWIS OF ST. JAMES CHURCH November 2020

Jack RIDGLEY. 1908-1944
Warrant Officer Class II Company
Sergeant Major. Royal Engineers.
1863136

Jack RIDGLEY was born in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, South Africa in 1908 at the time his father's Royal Field Artillery regiment was stationed there.

Jack's parents were Ernest Alfred James RIDGLEY and Emily RIDGLEY, nee TRUSLER. Father Ernest was born in Buckinghamshire in 1874 and mother Emily TRUSLER in Rowledge in 1878. They were married in St. James, Rowledge in 1905.

Jack's father Ernest fell in September 1914 during WW1 at the Battle of the Aisne and he too is remembered on the Rowledge Memorial. I featured his history in the April 2019 edition of the Rowledge Review. Jack was just six years old at the time his father fell.

At the outbreak of WW2 Jack's mother, Emily was living at Bankside, Recreation Road, Rowledge. Jack had one sister, Kate who was born in Rowledge on 24th September 1913.

There is no easily accessible record to show when Jack RIDGLEY joined the Royal Engineers but his death record shows that at that time he had a regimental service number of 1863136 and was with the 987th Port Artillery Company on the Isle of Wight.

The service number indicates an enlistment in the late 1920's or early 1930's so he likely enlisted prior to his marriage in 1932.

This may possibly have been as a result of a recruitment campaign during the depression.

Jack RIDGLEY married Gwendoline Vera PARSONS at Portsmouth in the autumn of 1932. She was born there on August 31st 1913.

The couple had one daughter who was born on the Isle of Wight in 1933 and a son born in 1939, also on the Island.

Jack RIDGLEY seems to have served his time with the Royal Engineers on the Isle of Wight and was still stationed there when he fell ill with serious appendicitis complications and died in the I.O.W. General Hospital on April 18th 1944. He was 36, married with two children.

Jack RIDGLEY's headstone is engraved with the words:

**'UNTIL THE DAY BREAKS AND
THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY'**

Jack is buried in the Ryde Borough Cemetery where his grave is marked with a Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial headstone.

Jack's widow, Gwendoline remained on the Isle of Wight and married there again in 1958 and 1980.
