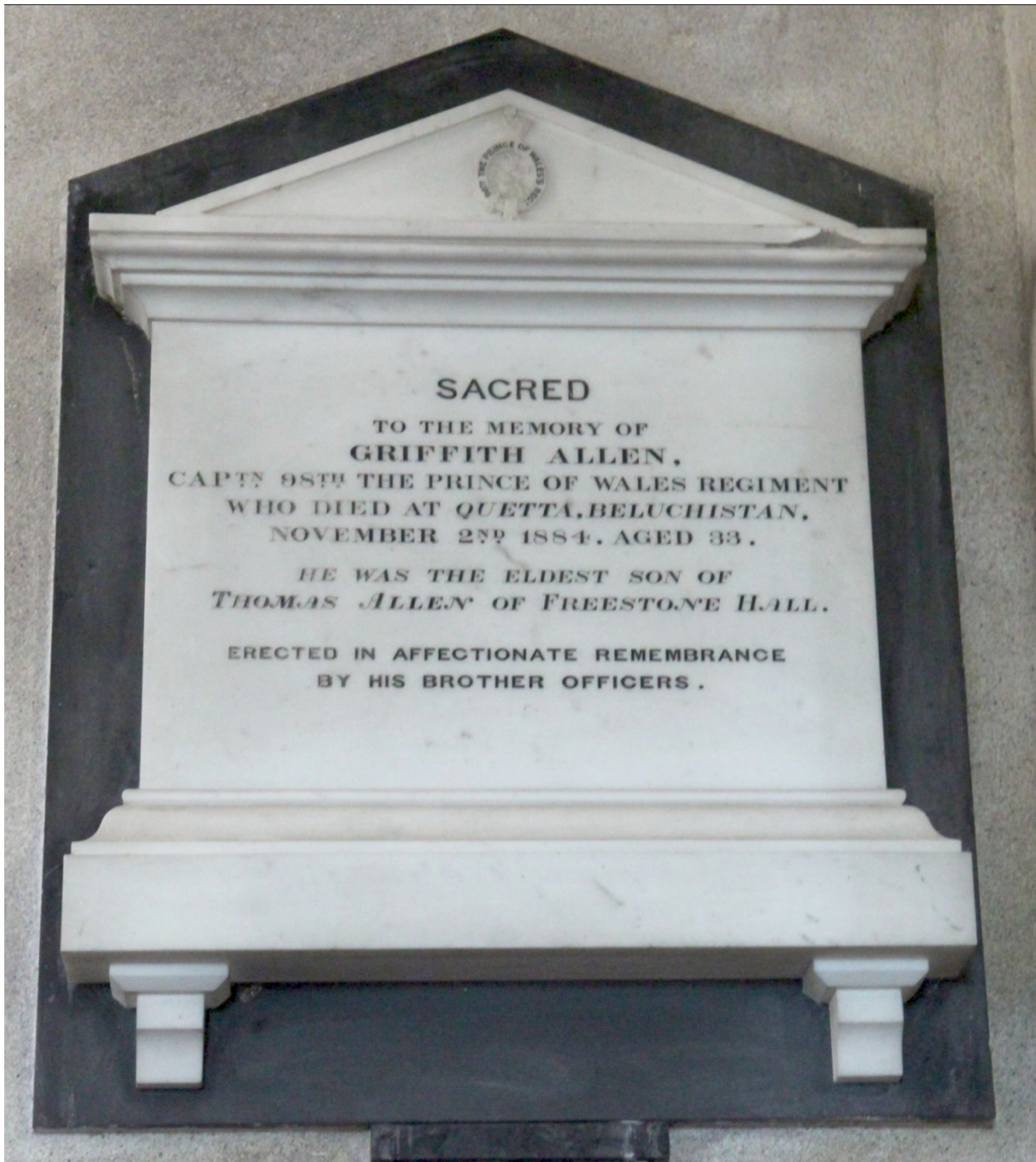


St Mary's Church War Memorials.

Captain Griffith Allen (1851-1884) 



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF GRIFFITH ALLEN, CAPTAIN 98TH THE PRINCE OF WALES REGIMENT, WHO DIED AT QUETTA, BELUCHISTAN, NOVEMBER 2, 1884. AGED 33.
HE WAS THE ELDEST SON OF THOMAS ALLEN OF FREESTONE HALL.
ERECTED IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE BY HIS BROTHER OFFICERS.

Born in 1851, Griffith Allen dedicated his life to military service with the 98th The Prince of Wales's Regiment, stationed in Quetta, Baluchistan, a pivotal outpost of the British Empire in South Asia during the Great Game era.

His duties included maintaining security and order in the region, patrolling borders to safeguard British interests against neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran, conducting rigorous training exercises to uphold readiness, and contributing to the construction and maintenance of vital military infrastructure.

His steadfast commitment extended beyond military operations to diplomatic engagements with local authorities and tribes, crucial in managing regional relations amidst the strategic rivalry with the Russian Empire in Central Asia.

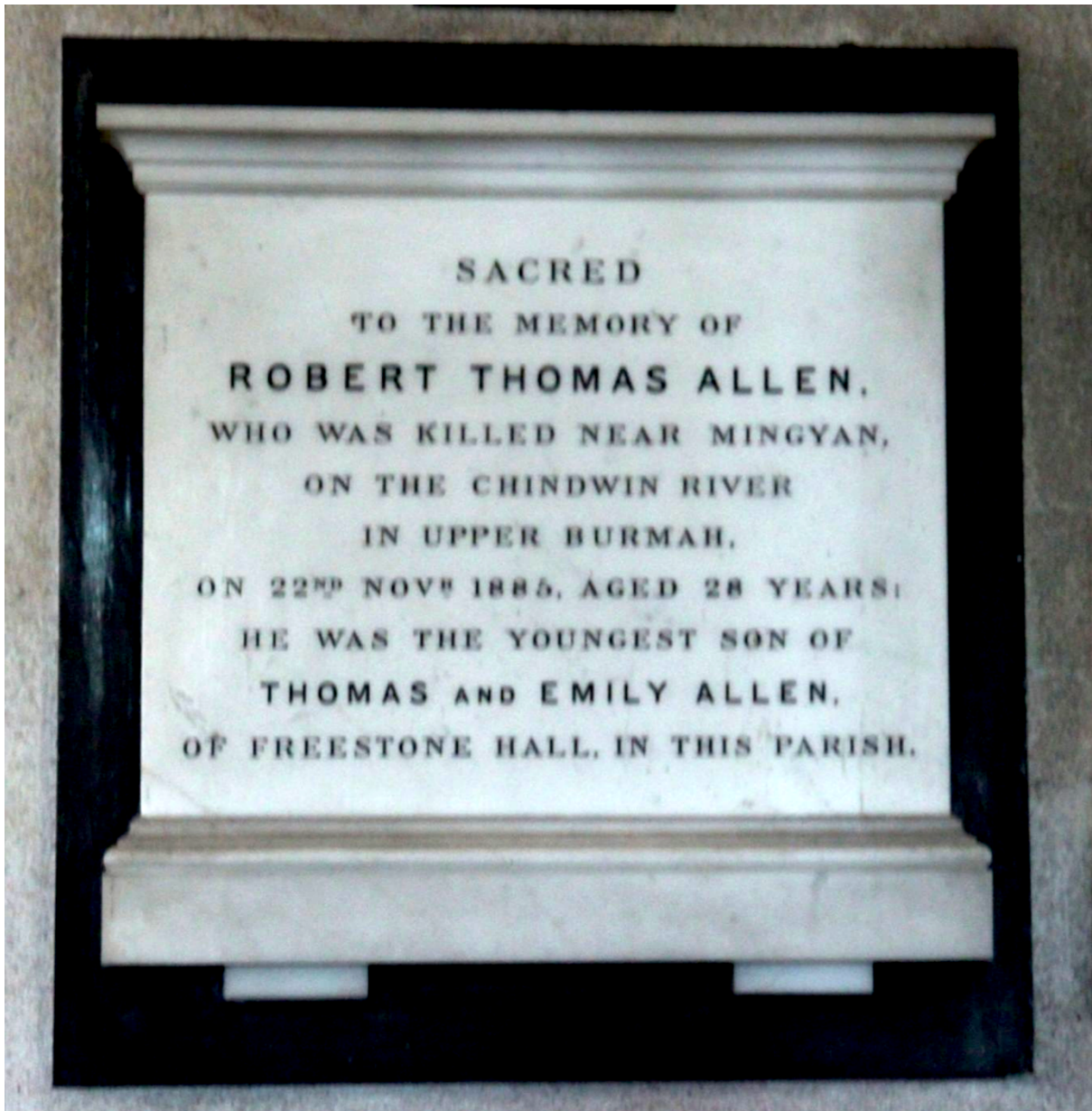
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/242822896/griffith-allen>

His brother Robert Thomas Allen also died on November 22, 1885, at the age of 28.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/242804585/robert-thomas-allen>

He was killed near Mingyan on the Chindwin River in Upper Burma. His death occurred during a perilous time when British forces were engaged in securing the river and advancing towards strategic locations such as Mandalay.

Robert Thomas Allen (1857 – 1885) 🇬🇧



Robert Thomas Allen was born in 1857, the youngest son of Thomas and Emily Allen of Freestone Hall, located in a parish in England. He grew up in a family with deep roots in their local community, known for their strong values and dedication.

Robert joined the British Navy and became a part of the Naval Brigade, a specialised unit formed from sailors and marines of the Royal Navy. His service was distinguished by his participation in the Third Anglo-Burmese War, a significant conflict that ultimately led to the British annexation of Burma.

The war began on November 14, 1885, between the British Empire and the Burmese Kingdom. The Naval Brigade played a critical role, providing artillery support, operating machine guns, and engaging in direct combat. The Brigade's responsibilities included patrolling the Chindwin River, securing key strategic points, and ensuring safe passage for British forces.

On November 22, 1885, at the age of 28, Robert Thomas Allen was killed near Mingyan on the Chindwin River in Upper Burma. His death occurred during a perilous time when British forces were engaged in securing the river and advancing towards strategic locations such as Mandalay. The memorial erected in his honour at his parish church serves as a testament to his bravery and sacrifice.

Robert's involvement in the Third Anglo-Burmese War highlights the dangerous and crucial role of the Naval Brigade in riverine warfare, logistical support, and direct combat. His sacrifice is remembered as part of the broader British military efforts that led to the annexation of Burma on January 1, 1886.

Robert Thomas Allen's memory is preserved with a dedicated memorial in his parish church, where his bravery and service are honoured. The inscription reads:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ROBERT THOMAS ALLEN
WHO WAS KILLED NEAR MINGYAN,
ON THE CHINDWIN RIVER IN UPPER BURMAH,
ON 22 NOVEMBER 1885, AGED 28 YEARS.
HE WAS THE YOUNGEST SON OF
THOMAS AND EMILY ALLEN,
OF FREESTONE HALL, IN THIS PARISH.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/242804585/robert-thomas-allen>

Robert was brother to Captain Griffith Allen (1851-1884 who also has a memorial in the Church who was serving with with 98th The Prince of Wales Regiment in Quetta, Baluchistan.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/242822896/griffith-allen>

Pilot Officer Anthony Leon Victor "The Ant" Barnes (1918 - 1940) 🇬🇧



Anthony Leon Victor Barnes, affectionately known as "The Ant," was born on October 2, 1918, in Muswell Hill, a suburb in the London Borough of Haringey, Greater London, England. He grew up in a period marked by significant social and political changes, which undoubtedly influenced his decision to join the military.

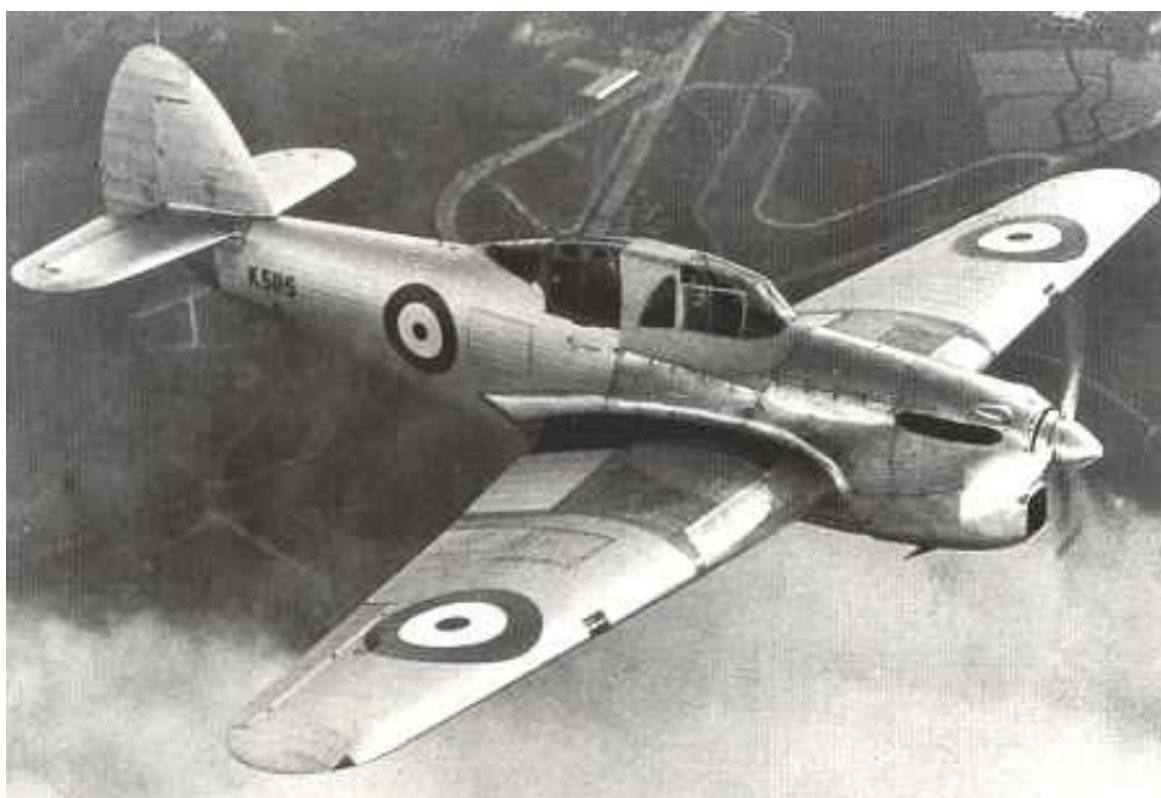
Barnes enlisted in the Royal Air Force, where he earned the rank of Pilot Officer (service number 40071). He served with B Flight, 1 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit

stationed at RAF Carew Cheriton in Pembrokeshire, Wales. This unit was responsible for simulating aerial attacks to help train anti-aircraft gunners, a crucial role in the defence strategy of the time.

On April 23, 1940, at the young age of 21, Pilot Officer Barnes tragically lost his life when the aircraft he was piloting, a Hawker Henley (L3427), crashed near Nash Villa in Pembroke Dock, Dyfed. The crash also claimed the life of his Observer/Navigator, Sergeant Richard Edmund Wilson.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593567/richard-edmund-wilson>

The incident marked a sombre day for the Royal Air Force and all who knew Barnes.



At the time of his death, Barnes was a resident of 30 Sandown Road, Edgbaston. His loss was deeply felt by his family, friends, and colleagues. He was laid to rest in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where his grave serves as a poignant reminder of his service and sacrifice.

Pilot Officer Anthony Leon Victor Barnes is remembered for his dedication to his duty and his contributions to the Royal Air Force during a critical period in history. His legacy lives on through the memories of those who knew him and the records that honour his service.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593554/anthony-leon-victor-barnes>

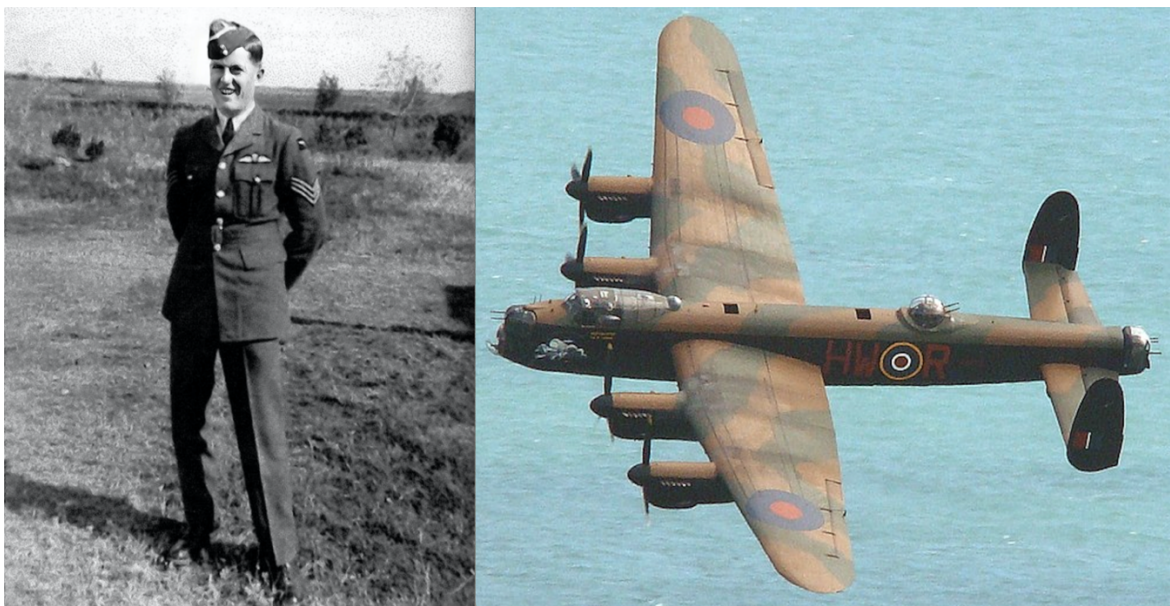
Pilot Officer Howard Earl Dabbs (1922 - 1942) 🇨🇦



Howard Earl Dabbs was born on April 28, 1922, in Forestburg, Wainwright Census Division, Alberta, Canada. He was the son of William L. Dabbs and Florence D. Dabbs, of Daysland, Alberta. Growing up in the prairies of Alberta, Howard displayed a sense of adventure and dedication that would later define his military career.

Howard enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, demonstrating his commitment to serve his country during a time of global conflict. He was posted to the 101 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, based at Holme Upon Spalding Moor. As an experienced pilot, he flew in eight raids in Wellington bombers and an additional four in Lancaster bombers.

Howard's exceptional skills and bravery earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross (D.F.C.), which was awarded just four days before his final mission. The citation, published in the London Gazette on December 15, 1942, commended his courageous actions during a mission to Frankfurt. Despite being hit by anti-aircraft fire and losing one of the aircraft's engines while held in a cone of searchlights, he managed to fly on to the target. Although the bomb release mechanism was unserviceable, he skilfully navigated his damaged aircraft back to the UK without the assistance of wireless aids and made a masterly landing in poor visibility, carrying a full bomb load. His determination and airmanship under adverse circumstances were praised as exemplary.



Tragically, on the night of December 6, 1942, Howard took off in his Lancaster, Serial ED322, on a mission to Mannheim. During the return leg on the following morning, the aircraft became lost over the Pembrokeshire coast and crashed into the sea off Tenby, resulting in the loss of the entire crew.

The crew members who perished alongside Pilot Officer Dabbs were:-

Flight Sergeant Leonard Roy Anderson

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15244454/leonard-roy-anderson>

Sergeant Stefan Franchuk

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15252889/stefan-franchuk>

Sergeant James Hughes

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32503945/james-hughes>

Sergeant Robert John Middleton

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593560/robert-john-middleton>

Flight Sergeant Robert Gordon Smith

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593564/robert-gordon-smith>

Sergeant William Thomas Warren

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15265716/william-thomas-warren>

Howard Earl Dabbs was only 20 years old at the time of his death. He is buried in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where his grave serves as a poignant reminder of his bravery and sacrifice.

Pilot Officer Howard Earl Dabbs is remembered for his skill, courage, and dedication to duty. His legacy lives on through the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded for his gallant efforts and the memories held by his family, comrades, and countrymen. His service and ultimate sacrifice are honoured and commemorated, reflecting the highest ideals of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593555/howard-earl-dabbs>

Private Osborne William Griffiths (1881 - 1915) 



Osborne William Griffiths was born in 1881, the son of George Llewellyn Griffiths and Edith A. Griffiths of Pembroke. Prior to the outbreak of World War I, Osborne lived in Carew, Pembrokeshire. Motivated by a sense of duty, he enlisted at Hayward's Heath

into the prestigious Coldstream Guards, one of the oldest and most distinguished regiments in the British Army.

Osborne was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, which was part of the 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Division. This division was among the first to be deployed to France at the outbreak of the war in 1914, participating in the early and critical Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat to the Aisne. The Coldstream Guards were renowned for their bravery and were often at the forefront of the fighting in France.

On August 20, 1915, the 3rd Battalion transferred to the 1st (Guards) Brigade, Guards Division. Shortly thereafter, they took part in the Battle of Loos, which began on September 25, 1915. This battle was one of the largest British offensives mounted on the Western Front during the war. It was during this fierce and intense fighting that Osborne was wounded on September 30, 1915.

Following his injury, Osborne was evacuated back to the UK for medical treatment. Despite the efforts to save him, he succumbed to his wounds on November 16, 1915, at the age of 34. His death was a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by so many during the Great War.

Private Osborne William Griffiths is buried in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His grave stands as a testament to his bravery and the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country.

His memory is honoured and preserved by his family, his comrades in the Coldstream Guards, and the community of Carew. His service during a pivotal moment in history exemplifies the courage and dedication of the soldiers who fought in World War I.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/215360663/osborne-w-griffiths>

Flying Officer Charles Warner Jackson (1919 - 1943) 🇨🇦



Charles Warner Jackson was born in 1919, the son of John Warner Jackson and Ella Eugene Jackson of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He grew up in a supportive family environment that instilled in him a sense of duty and service.

Charles enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, earning the rank of Flying Officer (service number J/20125). He served as a pilot with the 420 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, a unit known for its bravery and skill in conducting bombing raids over enemy territory during World War II.

On April 11, 1943, during a mission against Frankfurt, Charles' aircraft, a Wellington Mk X (HE422), encountered difficulties. The aircraft became lost and low on fuel upon its return leg near the coast of South Wales. Demonstrating remarkable presence of mind and concern for his crew, Charles ordered them to bail out near Tenby, South Wales, ensuring their safety first. After setting the aircraft on autopilot, he followed suit and bailed out himself. Tragically, Charles landed in Carmarthen Bay and drowned, sacrificing his life to save his fellow crew members. He was 24 years old at the time of his death.

Flying Officer Charles Warner Jackson is buried in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. The inscription on his grave reads:

"Flying Officer C.W. Jackson Pilot Royal Canadian Air Force 11th April 1943 Aged 24 †
Greater Love Hath No Man Than This, That A Man Lay Down His Life for His Friends"

This epitaph reflects his ultimate sacrifice and the profound respect and admiration held for him by those who knew him and by the broader military community.



Charles Warner Jackson's legacy is one of courage, selflessness, and dedication. He is remembered not only for his service and sacrifice but also for the valour he displayed in the face of peril. His story stands as a testament to the bravery of the pilots of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force during World War II, exemplifying the highest ideals of military service.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593556/charles-warner-jackson>

Kapral Zenon Jurewicz (1918 - 1944) 



Zenon Jurewicz was born on December 4, 1918, in Górkki-Izabelin, located in the Grójec County of the Masovian Voivodeship, Poland. He grew up in a Poland deeply influenced by its rich history and cultural heritage. With the outbreak of World War II, Zenon felt a strong sense of duty to defend his homeland and joined the Polish Air Force, where he attained the rank of Kapral (equivalent to Sergeant).

During the war, Zenon served with the Royal Air Force (RAF) as part of the 595 Squadron, a unit based at RAF Aberporth in Ceredigion, Wales. The squadron was primarily involved in anti-aircraft co-operation duties, providing training and support for ground-based defences, which was crucial for the war effort.

Tragically, on July 4, 1944, Zenon was fatally injured when the Hawker Hurricane Mk IV (serial number LB650) he was piloting crashed in Pembrokeshire, Wales. His dedication to his duty and his bravery were evident as he served far from his homeland, fighting alongside the Allies.

Zenon Jurewicz was laid to rest on July 7, 1944, in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His grave stands as a testament to his sacrifice and the international effort to combat tyranny during World War II.



Zenon Jurewicz's life and service are remembered with great respect and honour. His journey from Górkki-Izabelin in Poland to the skies over Wales is a poignant reminder of the global nature of the struggle during World War II and the many who gave their lives in the pursuit of freedom and peace. His legacy is preserved in the hearts of those who remember his bravery and dedication.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593557/zenon-jurewicz>

Kapral Jerzy Kontny (1916 - 1941) 🇵🇱



Jerzy Kontny was born on October 2, 1916, in Katowice, a vibrant city in the Silesian Voivodeship of Poland. Growing up in a nation with a proud military tradition, Jerzy was inspired to serve his country and pursue a career in aviation.

During World War II, Jerzy Kontny served with the Polish Air Force and held the rank of Kapral (Corporal). As a skilled pilot, he joined the Royal Air Force, integrating into the Allied forces fighting against the Axis powers. Jerzy was assigned to No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit (AACU), a unit tasked with simulating enemy attacks to train anti-aircraft gunners, a crucial role in the air defence strategy of the time.



On July 18, 1941, at the age of 24, Jerzy Kontny tragically lost his life during a training flight. He was piloting a de Havilland Tiger Moth Mk II (T8207) when the aircraft crashed, resulting in the deaths of both Jerzy and Aircraftman 2nd Class Roy Secker who is buried at St Lukes Churchyard Kirklees West Yorkshire :-

Aircraftman 2nd Class Roy Secker.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163834781/roy-secker>

The accident was a poignant reminder of the dangers faced by those who trained and prepared others for combat.

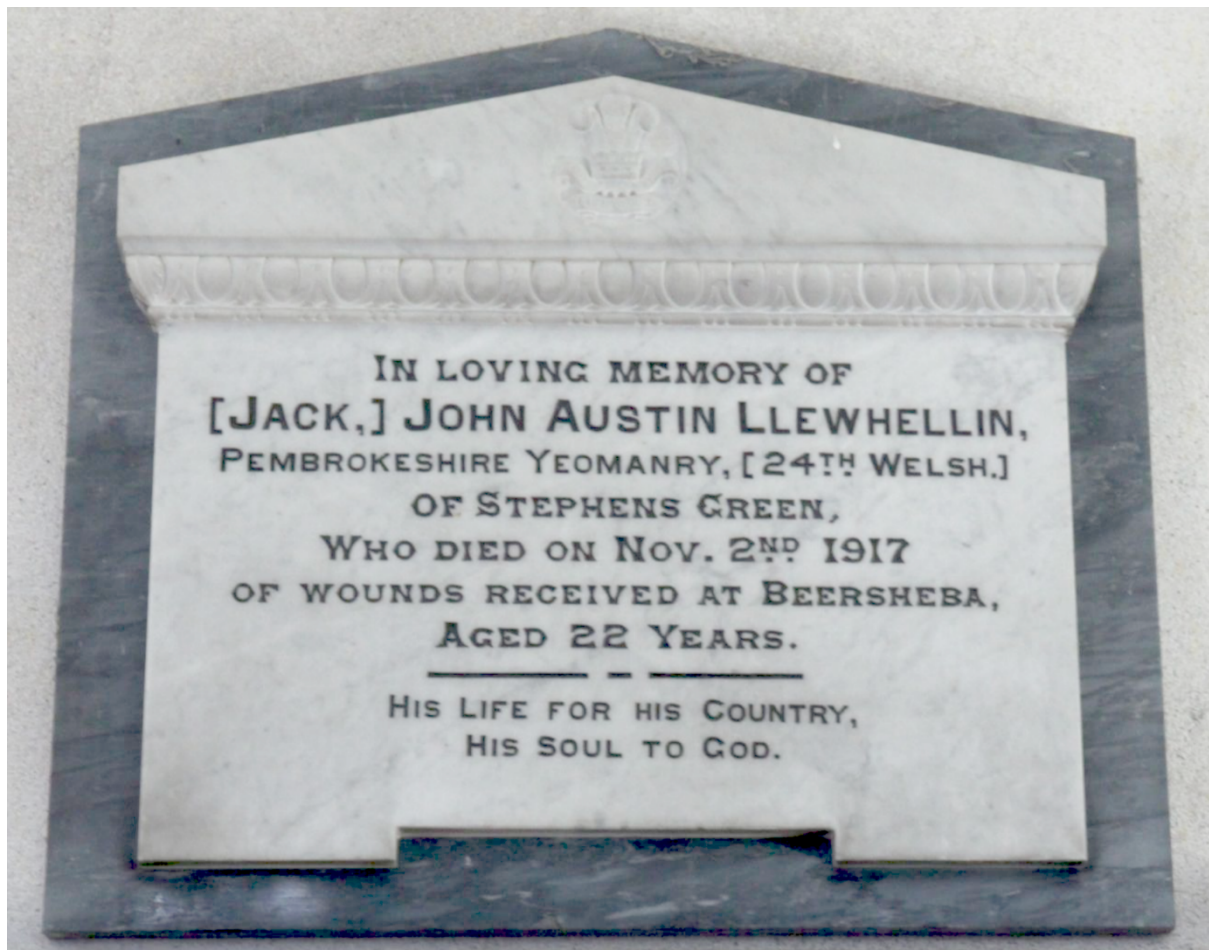
Kapral Jerzy Kontny was buried in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. The inscription on his grave honours his service and sacrifice:

"Kpl J. Kontny 1.A.A.C.U. 18th July 1941 Age 24 Polish Forces"

Jerzy Kontny's life and service symbolize the bravery and dedication of the many Polish airmen who fought alongside the Allies during World War II. His commitment to his duty, even in the face of great personal risk, exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and sacrifice that was vital to the war effort. Jerzy's legacy endures in the memories of those who honour the contributions of Polish forces during this pivotal period in history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593558/jerzy-kontny>

John Austin Llewellyn (1895-1917) 



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
[JACK,] JOHN AUSTIN LLEWHELLIN,
PEMBROKESHIRE YEOMANRY, [24TH WELSH.]
OF STEPHENS GREEN,
WHO DIED ON NOV. 2ND 1917
OF WOUNDS RECEIVED AT BEERSHEBA,
AGED 22 YEARS.
HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY,
HIS SOUL TO GOD.

John Austin Llewellyn, a valiant member of the Pembrokehire Yeomanry, 24th Welsh, who sacrificed his life for his country during the First World War. Born and raised in Stephens Green, Pembrokehire, John, known affectionately as Jack, embodied the spirit of courage and service from a young age.

John Llewellyn served with the Pembrokehire Yeomanry, a unit of the British Army's Territorial Force. During the First World War, the Pembrokehire Yeomanry became part of the 24th (Pembroke and Glamorgan) Battalion, The Welsh Regiment, and was

deployed to the Middle East to engage in crucial campaigns against the Ottoman Empire.

One of the pivotal battles in which John fought was the Battle of Beersheba, part of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. This battle took place on October 31, 1917, and was a significant turning point in the campaign. The Allied forces, including the British, Australian, and New Zealand troops, launched an attack on the Ottoman-held town of Beersheba. The capture of Beersheba was vital for securing a reliable water supply and for breaking the Ottoman defensive line, which stretched from Gaza to Beersheba.

During the intense fighting at Beersheba, John Llewhellin sustained severe wounds. Despite the valiant efforts of his comrades and medical personnel, he succumbed to his injuries on November 2, 1917, at the age of 22. His sacrifice was not in vain, as the successful capture of Beersheba paved the way for the eventual Allied victory in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.

John's legacy is a testament to his unwavering bravery and dedication. The inscription on his memorial reads: "His life for his country, his soul to God." This poignant tribute reflects the profound loss felt by his family, friends, and community. His commitment to duty and ultimate sacrifice are remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

John Austin Llewhellin's name is etched in the annals of history, and his memory continues to inspire future generations. He is commemorated not only in Pembrokeshire but also in the broader narrative of those who fought and fell during the Great War, ensuring that their contributions to peace and freedom are never forgotten.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/242804591/john-austin-llewhellin>

Sergeant Francis Mervyn McCaffry (1917 - 1941) 



Francis Mervyn McCaffry was born in 1917 to James and Eliza McCaffry of Bunnythorpe, Wellington, New Zealand. Raised in a supportive family in the vibrant region of Wellington, Francis grew up with a strong sense of duty and adventure, which led him to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force during World War II.

Francis served as a Sergeant with the 236 Squadron of the Royal Air Force. This unit was initially part of Coastal Command and was involved in reconnaissance and anti-shipping operations. The squadron played a crucial role in securing maritime routes and gathering vital intelligence, contributing significantly to the Allied war effort.

The 236 Squadron was part of Coastal Command and primarily flew Bristol Blenheim and later Bristol Beaufighter aircraft during their operations. These aircraft were used for reconnaissance, anti-shipping strikes, and coastal patrol missions.

Bristol Blenheim:

- A light bomber initially used for reconnaissance missions.
- It was a versatile aircraft that played multiple roles, including as a fighter and for anti-shipping strikes.



Bristol Beaufighter:

- A heavy fighter used for long-range roles, including night fighting and maritime strike operations.
- It was heavily armed with cannons, machine guns, and rockets, making it effective against shipping and submarine targets.



Given that Sergeant McCaffry served in 1941, it is likely that he flew the Bristol Blenheim or Bristol Beaufighter as part of his duties with the 236 Squadron RAF. His role would have involved challenging missions over hostile waters, demonstrating the courage and skill required of Coastal Command aircrew during the war.

On October 23, 1941, at the age of 24, Francis Mervyn McCaffry tragically lost his life. The details surrounding his death remain sparse, but it is known that he died while serving with the Royal New Zealand Air Force, a testament to his commitment and bravery.

Sergeant Francis Mervyn McCaffry is buried in St. Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His grave serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the airmen of the Commonwealth nations during World War II. His service and ultimate sacrifice are honoured and remembered by his family, comrades, and the community of Carew.

Francis Mervyn McCaffry's legacy is one of dedication, bravery, and sacrifice. As a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, he contributed to the global efforts against tyranny, embodying the spirit of cooperation and courage that defined the Allied forces during World War II. His memory endures in the hearts of those who honour the valour and service of those who fought and died for freedom.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593561/francis-mervyn-mccaffry>

SGT Jan Michels (1914-1941) 



Jan Michels was born on 15 October 1914 in Deventer, Overijssel, Netherlands. He served as a Sergeant Vlieger in the Marineluchtvaartdienst (Royal Netherlands Navy Air Service) and was stationed as a Pilot with R.A.F. Squadron 320 at R.A.F. Carew Cheriton, Wales during World War II.



Tragically, on 25 February 1941, at the age of 26, Jan Michels lost his life when the Lockheed Hudson Mk I aircraft (T9364; F - christened Ypenburg) he was piloting crashed during take-off in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

The crash also claimed the lives of

Stoker Franciscus Overdijk

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152591843/franciscus-overdijk>

Korporaal Telegrafist Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593562/cornelis-jacobus-rademaker>

Luitenant-Ter-Zee Marinus Renardus van Kooij

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593565/marinus-renardus-van_kooij



Jan Michels was laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His courage and sacrifice are remembered as a profound contribution to the Allied effort in World War II.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593559/jan-michels>

Flight Sergeant Robert John Middleton (1917-1942) 🇨🇦



Born on 19 August 1917 in Dundee, Scotland, Robert John Middleton served as a Flight Sergeant (sn: R/91294) in the Royal Canadian Air Force, specializing as an Air Gunner and Wireless Operator within 101 Squadron RAF during World War II.



Tragically, at the age of 25, Robert Middleton lost his life on 7 December 1942 when the Lancaster MkI aircraft (sn: ED322) he was aboard crashed in Carmarthen Bay off Tenby, Wales. The crash occurred upon the aircraft's return from a mission targeting Mannheim, Germany. Alongside him, the entire crew perished in the accident.

Formerly of 152 Oakwood Avenue, Toronto, Canada, Robert Middleton was the son of Nicoll Middleton and Mary (née McGuckin) Middleton, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He is interred at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where his headstone bears the poignant inscription:

Inscription:

R91294 Flight Sergeant
R.J. Middleton
Wireless Op/Air Gunner
Royal Canadian Air Force
7th December 1942 Aged 25

†

At the Going Down of The Sun
And In The Morning
We Will Remember Him
R.I.P.

Flight Sergeant Robert John Middleton's courage and sacrifice are honoured and remembered as a testament to his service to his country and the Allied cause during World War II.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593560/robert-john-middleton>

Franciscus Overdijk (1920-1941) 



Franciscus Overdijk was born on July 3, 1920, in Leiderdorp, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands. His early life was shaped by the close-knit community of Leiderdorp, where he grew up. With the onset of World War II and the subsequent German invasion of the Netherlands, Franciscus's life took a dramatic turn.

Originally serving as a Stoker in the Royal Netherlands Navy, Franciscus displayed courage and resilience. When the German forces invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, he was among the brave crew members of the Hr. Ms. Medusa who managed to escape to England. This daring escape was a testament to his determination to continue the fight against the Axis powers.



Once in England, Franciscus transitioned to the Royal Netherlands Navy Air Service (Marineluchtvaartdienst) and trained as an air gunner. He was assigned to RAF Squadron 320, a unit comprised predominantly of Dutch personnel who had fled their occupied homeland. Based at RAF Carew Cheriton in Wales, Squadron 320 played a crucial role in the Allied war effort, conducting maritime patrols and reconnaissance missions.

Tragically, on February 25, 1941, Franciscus Overdijk lost his life in a fatal aircraft accident. The Lockheed Hudson Mk I aircraft he was aboard, registered as T9364 and christened "Ypenburg," crashed during take-off. The crash claimed the lives of all four crew members: Sergeant Vlieger Jan Michels, Korporaal Telegrafist Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker, Luitenant-Ter-Zee Marinus Renardus van Kooij, and Franciscus himself. This loss was deeply felt by their comrades and families, symbolizing the high price of the fight for freedom.



Franciscus Overdijk was laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His bravery and sacrifice are honoured at this resting place, and his name is inscribed on the Leiderdorp Herdenkings monument in Kerklaan, Leiderdorp, Zuid-Holland, ensuring that his memory endures in his hometown. His legacy is a poignant reminder of the valour and dedication of those who fought for freedom during one of the darkest periods in history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152591843/franciscus-overdijk>

Corporal Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker (1911-1941) 



Corporal Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker, born on August 16, 1911, in Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, served with distinction as a Corporal Telegraphist in the Royal Netherlands Navy Air Service (Marineluchtvaartdienst). He was part of R.A.F. Squadron 320, which was stationed at RAF Carew Cheriton in Wales.

The outbreak of World War II and the subsequent German invasion of the Netherlands profoundly impacted Cornelis's life. In response to the occupation of their homeland, many Dutch servicemen, including Cornelis, joined the Allied forces in the United Kingdom to continue their fight against the Axis powers.

As a telegraphist, Cornelis played a critical role in maintaining communication and coordination during missions. His skills were integral to the operations of RAF Squadron 320, a unit formed by Dutch personnel operating under the Royal Air Force. This squadron was involved in a variety of missions, including maritime patrols and reconnaissance, which were vital for the Allied war effort.

On February 25, 1941, Cornelis Rademaker tragically lost his life in an aircraft accident. The Lockheed Hudson Mk I aircraft, designated T9364 and christened "Ypenburg," crashed during take-off from Pembrokeshire, Wales.



This tragic event also claimed the lives of his fellow crew members:

Sergeant Vlieger Jan Michels

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593559/jan-michels>

Stoker Franciscus Overdijk

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152591843/franciscus-overdijk>

Luitenant-Ter-Zee Marinus Renardus van Kooij

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593565/marinus-renardus-van_kooij

Cornelis was laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His bravery and dedication are commemorated not only at his burial site but also on the Noordwijk Oorlogs monument located on Rembrandtweg in Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland. This monument stands as a testament to his sacrifice and that of his compatriots, ensuring that their contributions to the fight for freedom are remembered by future generations.

Corporal Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker's service and sacrifice during World War II exemplify the courage and resilience of those who fought against oppression. His legacy endures as a symbol of the enduring spirit of resistance and the pursuit of liberty.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593562/cornelis-jacobus-rademaker>

Flight Sergeant Morris Ezra Shaw (1912-1942) 🇺🇸



R77481 Flight Sergeant
M.E. Shaw
Pilot
Royal Canadian Air Force
26th August 1942 Aged 29
Who Died
For His Mother's Country

Flight Sergeant Morris Ezra Shaw, born in 1912 in Utah, USA, was a distinguished pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Serving under Service Number R/77481, he was assigned to 152 Squadron RAF during the critical years of World War II.

Before enlisting in August 1940, Morris worked in office administration in New York. He was educated at schools in Danville and Victoriaville, which laid the foundation for his disciplined and dedicated nature.

His decision to join the RCAF was driven by a deep sense of duty, as he sought to contribute to the war effort for his mother's country, reflecting his Canadian heritage. On August 26, 1942, at the age of 29, Flight Sergeant Shaw's life was tragically cut short.

He was piloting a Spitfire Mk V, serial number EP164, when it collided with another Spitfire Mk V, serial number BM368, flown by Pilot Officer George Dean Woolrich. The mid-air collision occurred off the coast of Tenby, Wales, and both aircraft crashed into the sea. While Morris Shaw's body was recovered and he was subsequently laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, the body of Pilot Officer Woolrich was never found.



The official casualty list from the RCAF reported his death, noting the address of his wife, who resided at 412 Ontario Street West. Morris was the son of William Alben Shaw and Constance Edith May (née Minns) Shaw of Ogden, Utah, USA. His family and community remember him for his bravery and commitment to the Allied cause during World War II.

An inscription on his grave poignantly states: "Who Died for His Mother's Country," highlighting the personal and national significance of his sacrifice. His memory endures as a testament to the courage and dedication of those who served in the RCAF and the RAF during one of history's most challenging periods.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593563/morris-ezra-shaw>

Flight Sergeant Robert Gordon Smith (1917-1942) 



R93318 Flight Sergeant
R.G. Smith
Air Observer
Royal Canadian Air Force
7th December 1942 Aged 24
+
Greater Love
Hath No Man Than This,
That A Man Lay Down
His Life For His Friends

Flight Sergeant Robert Gordon Smith was born on February 18, 1917, in Athenry, County Galway, Ireland. The son of Robert Young Smith, an agricultural superintendent, and Mary Helen (née Wood) Smith, Robert moved to Toronto, Ontario, where he became a stock keeper. He resided at 131 Munro Street, Toronto, and his life took a significant turn when he married Isabelle Reta (née McPherson), daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles MacPherson. The couple were wed at Kingston Road United Church.



Driven by a sense of duty, Robert enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), where he served as an Air Observer with the rank of Flight Sergeant (Service Number: R/93318). He was assigned to 101 Squadron of the Royal Air Force (RAF), a unit renowned for its role in the strategic bombing campaigns over Europe.

On the night of December 6-7, 1942, Flight Sergeant Smith was part of a crew aboard a Lancaster Mk I, serial number ED322, on a mission targeting Mannheim, Germany. Tragically, as the aircraft was returning from the mission, it crashed in Carmarthen Bay off the coast of Tenby, Wales. The crash claimed the lives of all crew members aboard, including:



Flight Sergeant Leonard Roy Anderson

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15244454/leonard-roy-anderson>

Pilot Officer Howard Earl Dabbs

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593555/howard-earl-dabbs>

Sergeant Stefan Franchuk

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15252889/stefan-franchuk>

Sergeant James Hughes

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32503945/james-hughes>

Sergeant Robert John Middleton

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593560/robert-john-middleton>

Sergeant William Thomas Warren

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15265716/william-thomas-warren>

The loss of the Lancaster and its crew was a sombre reminder of the perilous missions undertaken by Bomber Command during World War II. Despite the challenges and dangers, these brave airmen continued to perform their duties with unwavering courage.

Flight Sergeant Robert Gordon Smith was buried at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where he rests alongside his fellow servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice. His commitment and bravery are also remembered by his family and community, who honour his memory and the significant role he played in the Allied war effort.

Robert's life, marked by dedication both to his family and his duty, serves as a poignant example of the personal sacrifices made during the war. His story continues to inspire, reflecting the enduring legacy of those who fought for freedom in one of history's most challenging conflicts.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593564/robert-gordon-smith>

Luitenant-Ter-Zee 2e Klasse Marinus Renardus van Kooij (1904-1941) 



Luitenant-Ter-Zee 2e Klasse (2nd Lieutenant) Marinus Renardus van Kooij was born on February 15, 1904, in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands. He was the son of Teuntje Andriaantje Hertoge and grew up in a country on the brink of historical upheavals. His dedication to his homeland led him to join the Royal Netherlands Navy Air Service (Marineluchtvaartdienst), where he served with distinction. Marinus van Kooij's bravery was notably recognized when he was awarded the prestigious Bronze Lion (Bronzen Leeuw), recipient number 5, on July 16, 1940. This award, given for acts of extreme bravery and leadership in battle favouring the Netherlands, was bestowed upon him for his victory in air combat on May 10, 1940, during the early stages of World War II.

With the German invasion of the Netherlands, Marinus and many of his compatriots fled to the United Kingdom to continue their fight against the Axis powers. He served as a Navigator with RAF Squadron 320, a unit composed predominantly of Dutch personnel and based at RAF Carew Cheriton in Wales. The squadron was involved in vital reconnaissance and maritime patrol missions, contributing significantly to the Allied war effort.

Tragically, on February 25, 1941, Marinus Renardus van Kooij was killed in an aircraft accident. The Lockheed Hudson Mk I, designated T9364 and christened "Ypenburg," crashed during take-off from Pembrokeshire, Wales.



The accident also claimed the lives of his fellow crew members: Sergeant Vlieger Jan Michels, Stoker Franciscus Overdijk, and Korporaal Telegrafist Cornelis Jacobus Rademaker.

Marinus van Kooij was buried with honour at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His grave stands as a testament to his courage and dedication, and his memory is cherished by those who knew him and by the Netherlands, the country he served so valiantly.

Marinus's legacy is further commemorated by his bearing of the Bronze Lion, reflecting his extraordinary bravery and leadership. His contributions to the war effort and his ultimate sacrifice are remembered with deep respect, symbolizing the enduring spirit of those who fought for freedom during one of the most challenging periods in history.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593565/marinus-renardus-van_kooij

Sergeant Archibald Gordon Willis (1920-1940) 



68341 Sergeant
A.G. Willis
Air Gunner
Royal Air Force

31st July 1949 Aged 20

Sergeant Archibald Gordon Willis, born in 1920 in Barham near Canterbury, Kent, England, served as an Air Gunner in the Royal Air Force. With the service number 568341, he was a member of 48 Squadron RAF, stationed at RAF Carew Cheriton in Wales. Archibald was the son of Archibald Frank Willis and Nellie Ward (née Flack) Willis of Chelsea, London.



On July 31, 1940, Sergeant Willis tragically lost his life at the young age of 20 during a supply mission on behalf of the Royal Dutch Navy. The mission took a devastating turn when his aircraft, an Avro Anson Mk I with the serial number K8829, collided with an RAF Fairey Battle, serial number N2050, during take-off.

The pilot of the Avro Anson, Flight Sergeant Sydney Pryce Tomley, also perished in the crash.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75844433/sydney-pryce-tomley>



The collision at Carew, Pembrokeshire, was a sombre reminder of the perils faced by RAF personnel during World War II. The dedication and bravery of those like Sergeant Willis, who served in crucial roles such as air gunners, were vital to the various operations carried out by the RAF during the war.

Sergeant Archibald Gordon Willis was laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His service and sacrifice are honoured at his burial site, providing a place of remembrance for his family, comrades, and future generations who reflect on the courage and dedication of those who served in the Royal Air Force during one of history's most challenging periods.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593566/archibald-gordon-willis>

Sergeant Richard Edmund Wilson (? -1940) 



Sergeant Richard Edmund Wilson served with distinction in the Royal Air Force, holding the service number 565833. As a Navigator/Observer, he was assigned to B Flight, 1 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit, based at RAF Carew Cheriton in Wales. His role was crucial in supporting the training and operations of anti-aircraft units, ensuring they were well-prepared for the threats posed by enemy aircraft during World War II.



Tragically, on April 23, 1940, Sergeant Wilson lost his life in an aviation accident. He was aboard a Hawker Henley, serial number L3427, performing his duties as Navigator/Observer when the aircraft crashed near Nash Villa, Pembroke Dock, Dyfed.

The crash also claimed the life of the pilot, Sergeant Anthony Leon Victor Barnes.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593554/anthony-leon_victor-barnes

The sudden loss of Sergeant Wilson was a significant blow to his unit and the broader RAF community. His dedication to his duties and his role in the critical operations of the Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit are remembered and honoured.

Sergeant Richard Edmund Wilson was laid to rest at St Mary New Churchyard in Carew, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His grave serves as a lasting tribute to his service and sacrifice, ensuring that his contributions to the war effort are not forgotten. His memory, alongside that of his fellow airmen, continues to inspire and remind us of the courage and commitment of those who served during one of the most challenging periods in history.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152593567/richard-edmund-wilson>

We honour these brave men who gave their lives during World War II and other campaigns. Their courage and sacrifice have secured the freedoms we cherish today. Though they are no longer with us, their legacy of bravery and dedication to duty remains. We are eternally grateful for their service and will always remember the profound impact of their sacrifice on our lives and our world.

Graham T Emmanuel 2024