RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
“Pre-WW2 Roll of Honour”

Pre-War Graduates of Flight Cadet Training

[Statistics believed correct at the time of issue]

In its electronic form, this document contains underlined, hypertext links to additional material, including alternative source data and archived video/audio clips.
[To open these links in a separate browser tab and thus not lose your place in this e-document, press control+click (Windows) or command+click (Apple Mac) on the underlined word or image]

Version 2.2 dated 30 November 2022 IBM Steward 6GE

Context

The Royal Air Force was formed on 1 April 1918, from the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service. Our founder, MRAF Viscount Trenchard, possessed the vision that extended beyond the formation of a strategic independent air force, the first of its kind, to include the creation of the requisite support infrastructure, including Officer training at RAF Cranwell, Apprenticeship training at RAF Halton and the RAF Staff College at Andover.

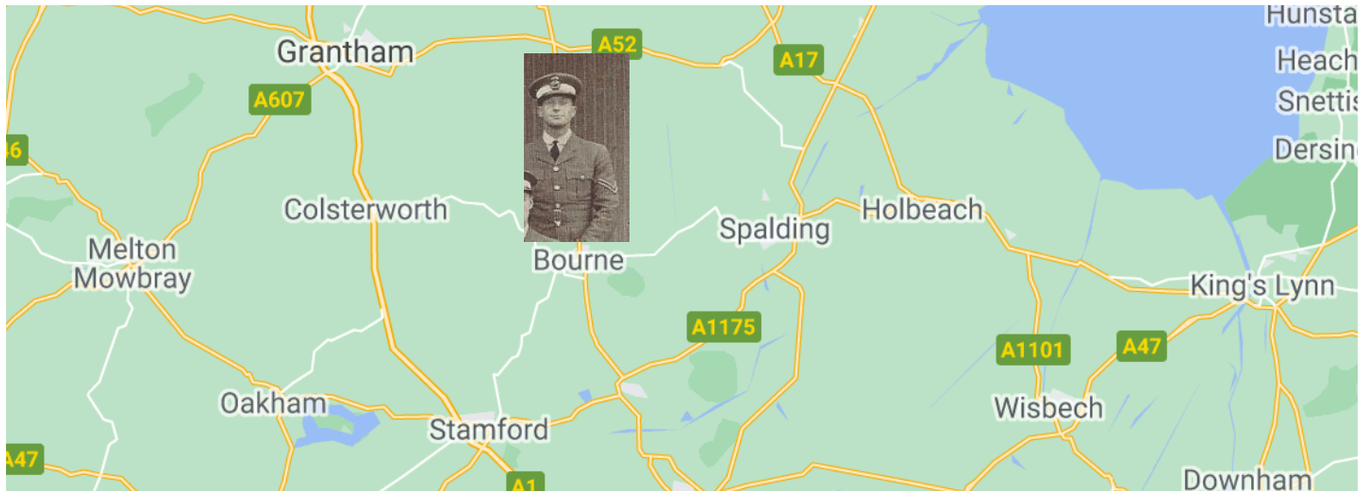
Implementing his vision, the RAF assumed responsibility for Officer training at Cranwell from the Royal Navy on 1 November 1919. On 5 February 1920, the RAF College was ‘open for business’ assembling its first officer training course, “F20”, from a cohort of Army and Navy ‘would be’ pilots. For the next two decades, all Entries would be referenced by month and year of entry, “MYY”, with two courses initiated each year, usually in January and September, and each officer training course lasting a period of two years.

By the outbreak of the Second World War, some 964 UK Flight Cadets had entered the RAF College on 36 Entries. Another 134 cadets from the next six Entries, however, had their training abruptly terminated, the College being closed for officer training as soon as war was declared. Some of these, like AH Humphrey (later MRAF Sir Andrew Humphrey), were enlisted as airmen u/t pilots to complete their flying training at the Service Flying Training School (SFTS) set up on the same eventful day at RAF Cranwell. Of the earlier graduates, many had already retired, withdrawn, died or been killed in the inevitable flying accidents of those pioneering days of flight. So, by 3 September 1939, there remained a total of 793 former Flight Cadets in the RAF, ready to serve their country.

For College 100, we created a definitive WWII Roll of Honour: Volume 1 covering flight cadet losses; Volume 2 covering the losses of airmen trained at the SFTS Cranwell during the war. Retrospectively, we analysed the records of pre-war flight cadets to establish a Roll of Honour (of sorts) for those who lost their lives before the Second World War. Throughout the 1920s and 30s, flight was still a comparatively new phenomenon with brave men and women exploring and testing the boundaries. Inevitably, many lost their lives in those exploits and it was no different for many pilots who trained at the RAF College during those two decades.

This booklet captures the names of flight cadets who lost their lives whilst in RAF service before WWII. The majority were killed in flying accidents (KFA), one died in combat (KIA) and some died in other accidents whilst serving in the RAF. Whilst we cannot be absolutely sure whether they were still in service or had retired, we also include a separate list of those flight cadets who had died of natural causes or were killed in road traffic accidents (RTA); we have added to this list those who retired from the RAF through ill health. During our research, we have managed to find some independent records and video clips that have thrown further light on the demise of Cranwellians pre-WWII; look out for underlined text and graphics, denoting the presence of a hypertext link which will provide you with more information.

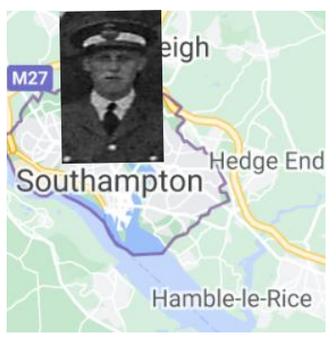
Founded on information gleaned from RAF College archived records and corroborated where we can with additional sources, we assemble this tribute to pre-WWII Cranwellian casualties - “lest we forget”. Very much WIP, more information will be added to this booklet when we find and verify it.

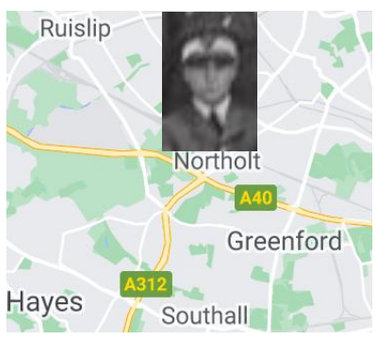


A

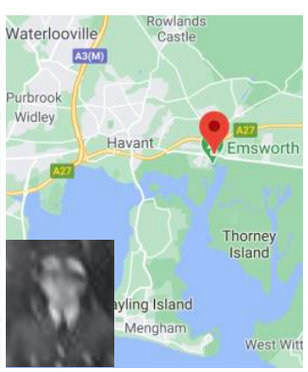
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Acton-Adams AM	S29	KFA Cranwell, crashed in Atlas aircraftdied of injuries same day	13/2/31
Agard Butler PH	J32	KFA IoW, crashed Fairey 111F aircraft of 822 Sqn FAA on HMS Furious	7/1/36
Angell DV	S28	KFA Bourne, spotted in difficulties, struck a tree and crashed Siskin of 29 Sqn	19/3/31
Armstrong GCA	F22	KFA	30/9/30
Ashton ND	S31	KFA Tangmere	27/6/35
Ashton PW	S32	KFA Hawkinge	23/5/36
Aspinall HH	S22	KFA	29/7/24

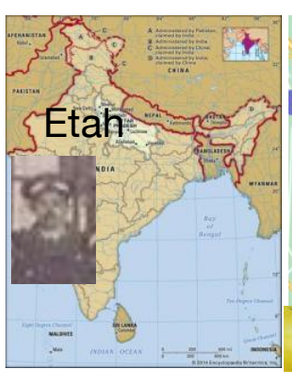
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Barlow RH	S22	KFA in Ecuador, after retiring as Wg Cdr on 6 March 1946	Dec 46
Bartlett RJO	S25	KFA Navenby; Buried in Cranwell Village	7/10/36
Beatty HL	F20	KFA Messina	15/2/35
Beddall RS	J26	KFA, died of injuries in RAFC Hospital	9/9/27
Bentley AC	S25	KFA	13/5/27
Berens RJ	S30	KFA Southampton	4/12/32
Berridge TD	F21	KFA Quetta, India	30/3/25
Berry P	S29	KFA Cranwell	30/10/30
Bertram HLJ	J31	KFA, died in RAF Hospital Cranwell the same day	13/5/31
Bett DLG	S20	Died RAF Hospital Halton	7/1/33
Brembridge CHG	S23	KFA Civilian Aircraft Accident	22/9/34
Broadway BDJ	S21	KFA Upper Caterham	14/5/26
Brook WAD	F20	KFA Stafford in Meteor that lost control	Sep 51
Brown R	J25	KFA Northolt	23/4/34

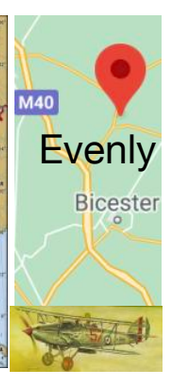


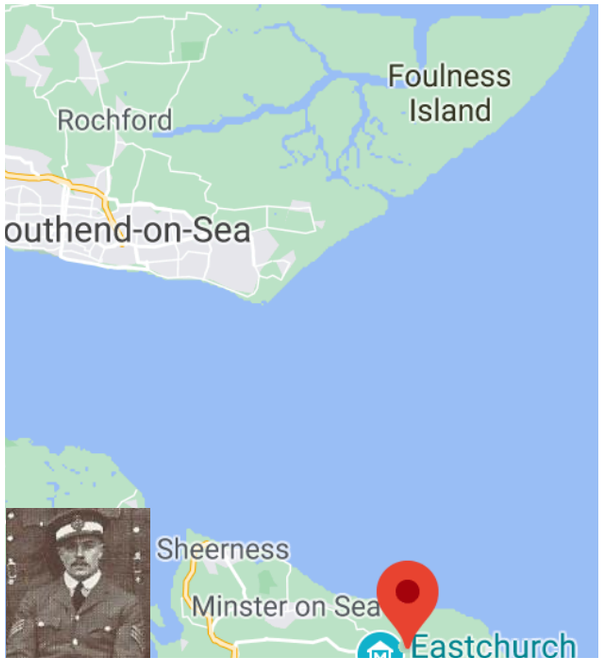


Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Carstairs JKL	J33	KFA Malta	15/7/36
Cazalet RT	J29	KFA Woodbridge	16/2/39
Chadd JS	J30	Died RAF Hospital Cranwell (Swimming accident - fractured spine)	15/7/30
Chalmers PJB	J26	KFA Emsworth	8/2/28
Chance JA	S28	KFA Catterick	19/11/30
Clarke J	J25	KFA Brough, Yorks	11/10/29
Cleland AG	S28	KFA Sudan	22/12/32
Collyns EA	J30	KFA Khormaksar	27/5/33
Conolly SG	F20	KFA Egypt	27/1/36
Coventry EB	S20	KFA Spitlegate DH9a crash	29/9/23
Cox AOD	J32	KFA Etahup	8/2/36
Craig Mooney MPA	J35	KFA Evenly, Oxon, crashed in Hawker Hind K5494 of 57 Sqn.	23/9/37



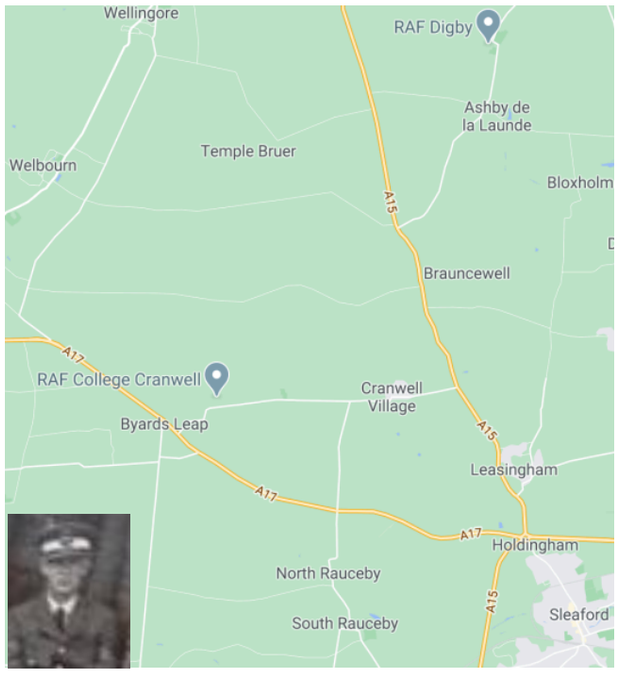






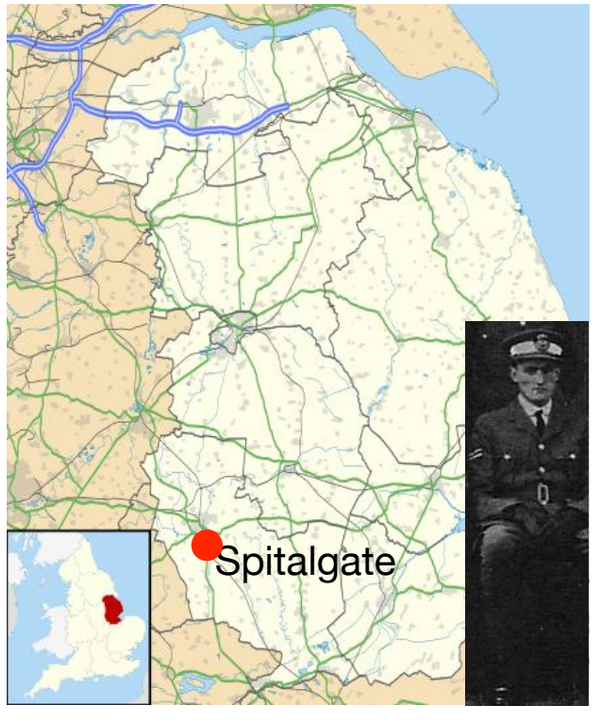
D

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Dathan NG	S30	Died (Aero Acc); buried in Cranwell Village	24/11/31
de Pentheny O'Kelly RE	S30	KFA India	14/12/33
Doran AM	J30	KFA Eastchurch (fell out of aircraft)	21/3/35
Douthwaite DJ	S27	KFA Digby	1/5/34
Du Port WO	S22	KFA Iraq	1/9/26



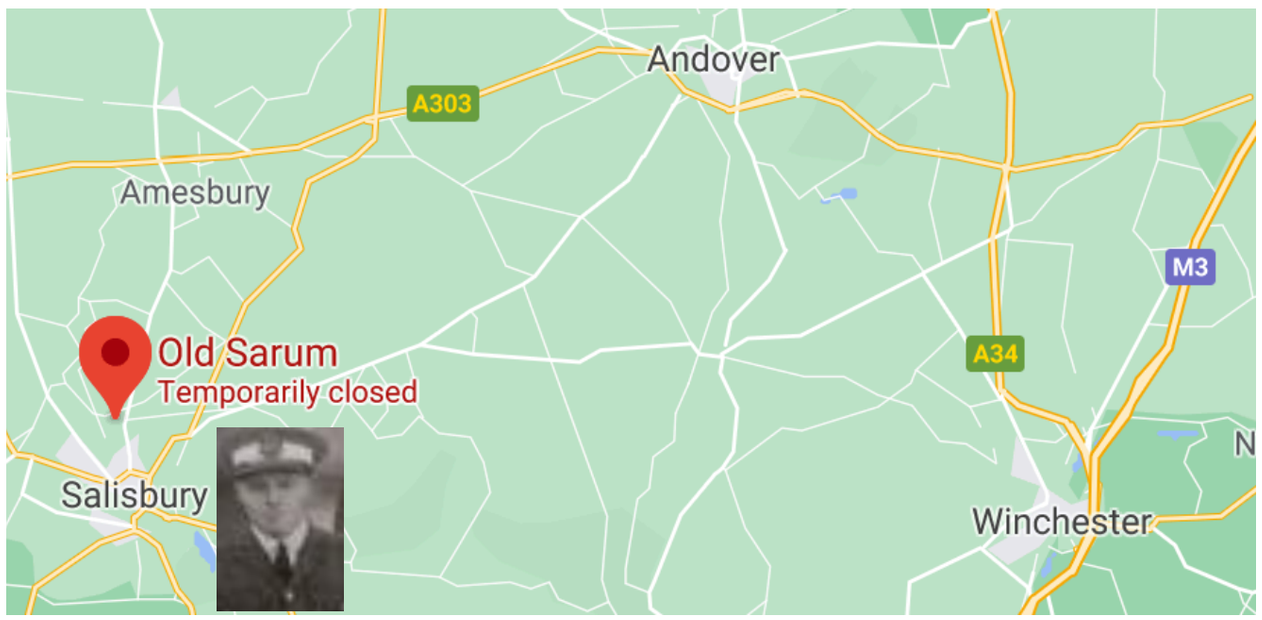
E

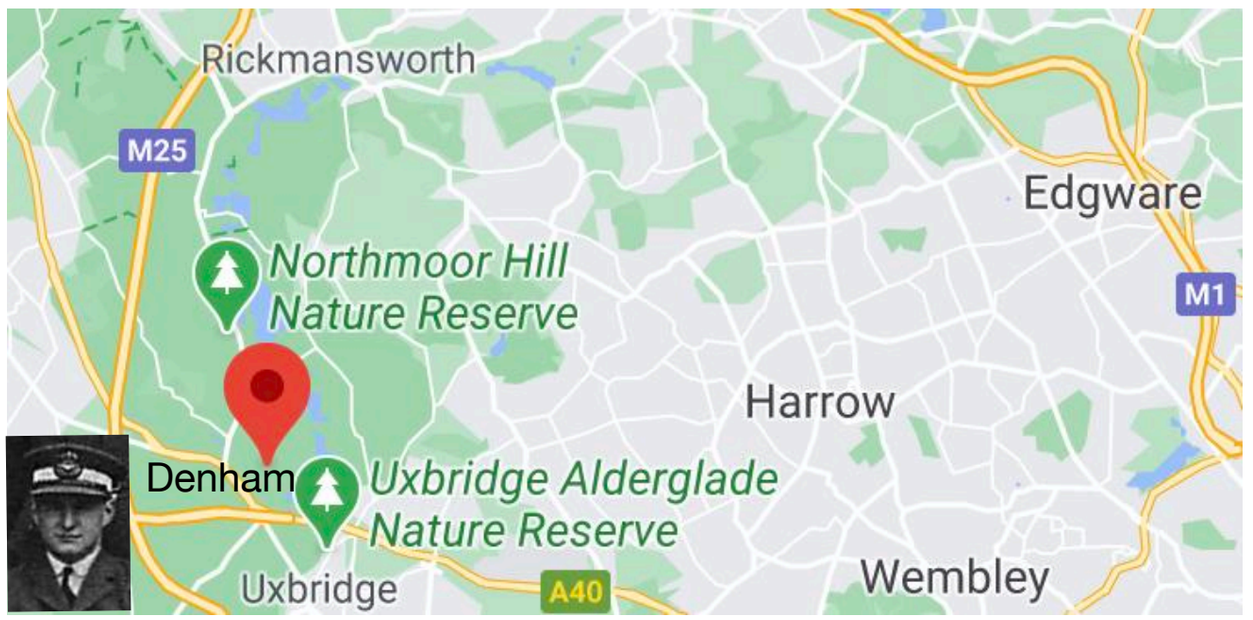
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Elsmie G	J34	KFA Risalpur India	17/5/39
Elsner LN	J30	KFA; drowned when aircraft crashed into sea Firth of Forth	5/10/34
Eve JT	S22	KFA Spitlegate	25/5/25
Eyre VO	J24	KFA Hendon - crashed in Siskin of 56 Sqn, died of injuries	27/6/29



F

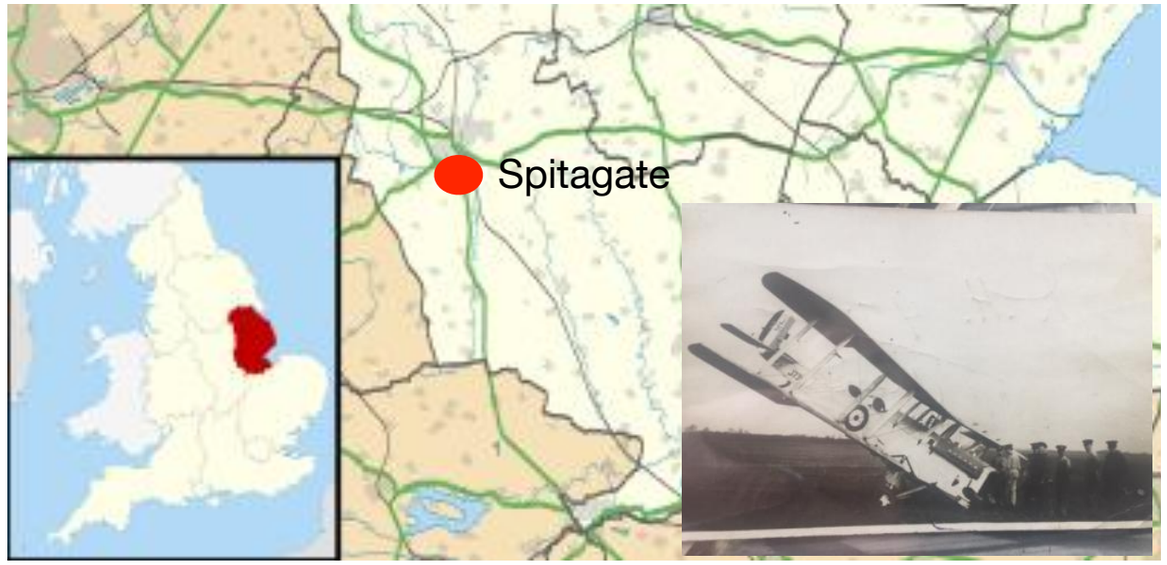
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Fawdry IJ	J35	KFA Godmanchester	10/5/38
Fawkes EH	S29	KFA Cranwell	16/10/30
Fitzmaurice MJ	F21	KFA crashed Biggin Hill	14/7/23
Forman DE	J30	KFA Singapore	2/12/32
Francis CC	J32	KFA Nairobi	29/12/35
Furze DH	J31	KFA Ambala, crashed on low turn, Wapiti of 28 Sqn	30/6/33





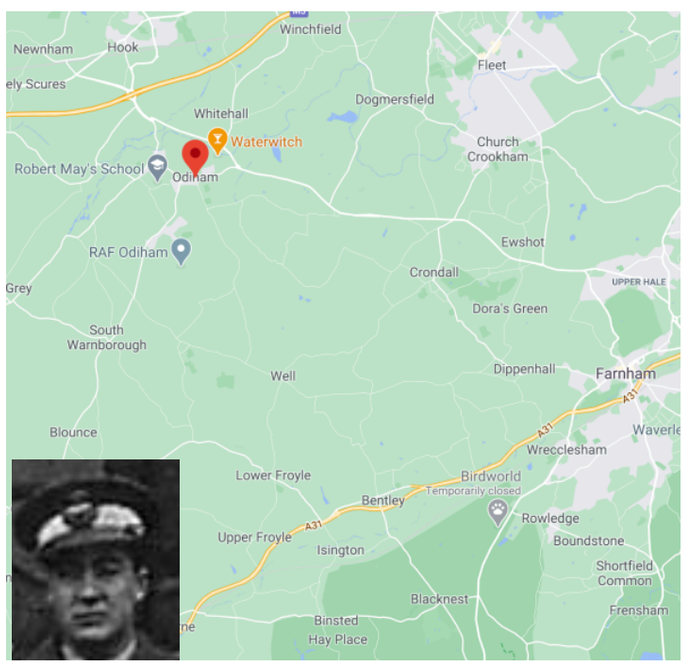
G

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Gard JW	J32	KFA Cranwell	15/6/33
Gillmore VO	F21	KFA, buried Cranwell Village	7/7/22
Goldsmid FFR	F21	KFA Old Sarum	8/4/24
Greville Bell D	S34	KFA Denham	28/4/39
Guille BR	S37	KFA Stubton, Lincs. [Collided with RAG Morgan?]	8/5/39
Gully BH	S30	KFA Guildford	7/10/32



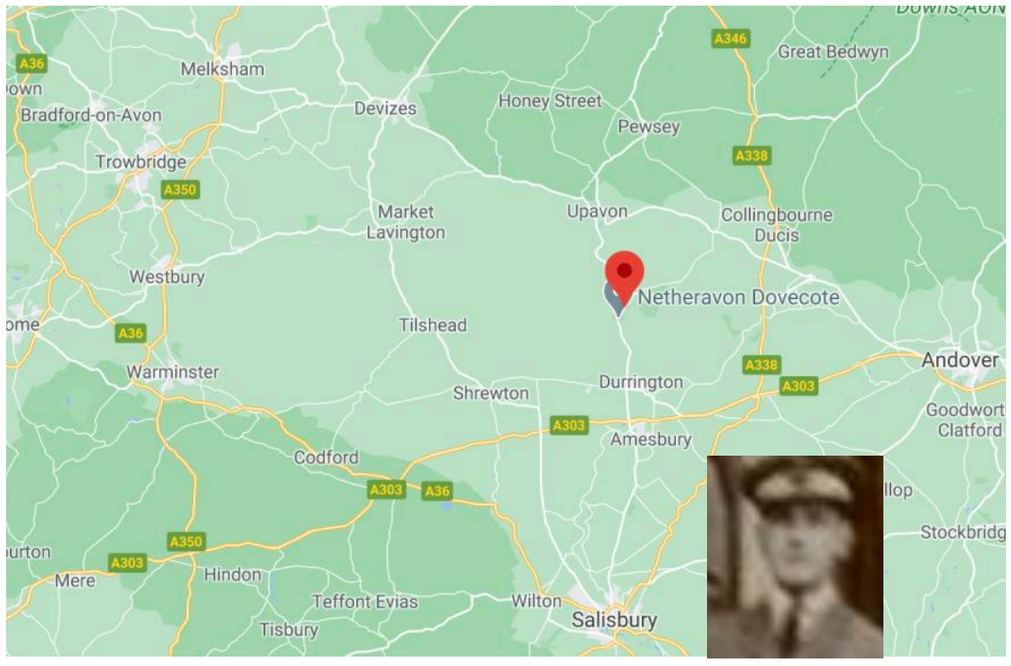
H/I

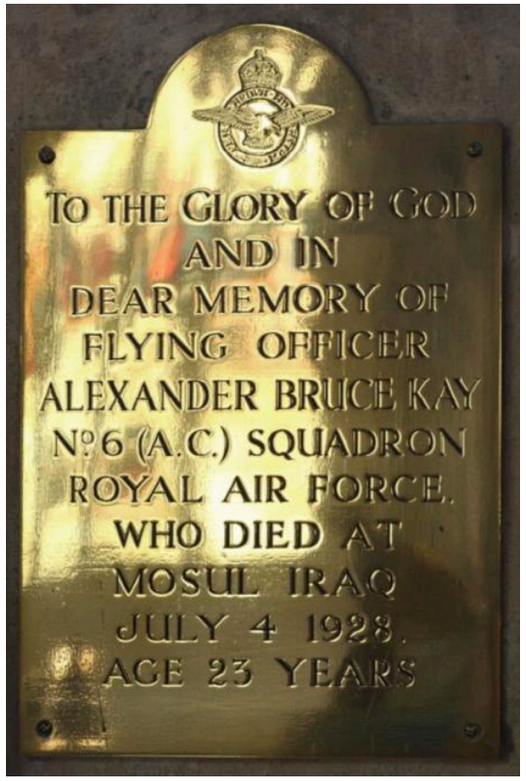
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Hale AWB	J24	KFA Hong Kong	3/4/28
Harcourt-Wood DG	J25	KFA Caistor Lincs	12/11/26
Harris FS	F21	KFA Spitlegate DH9a	24/4/23
Hayter MC	F20	KFA Kenley	24/10/22
Hayter-Hames NC	F20	KFA crashed in Waziristan, in a DH.9a of No.27 Squadron	21/3/25
Hodgkinson WH	J29	KFA crashed in a DH9a at Cranwell	1/4/30
Holden AL	J24	KFA Kenley - died of injuries	16/5/27



J

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Jackson NH	S29	KFA Shoreham-on-sea	26/5/32
Jackson RBH	F22	KIA Iraq	20/2/28
Jameson PFG	J36	KFA Odiham	30/1/39
Johnstone AC	S29	KFA Hartfield	26/4/32
Jorgensen JE	S26	KFA Netheravon	17/6/29





Following the Armistice of WWI, 6 (AC) Squadron transferred to Iraq, arriving in July 1919. Operating in the army co-operation role in Northern Iraq, it was equipped with Bristol Fighters. It was later re-equipped with Fairey Gordons and assumed the bomber role, Hawker Harts replacing these in 1935.

K

Bristol F.2 Fighter

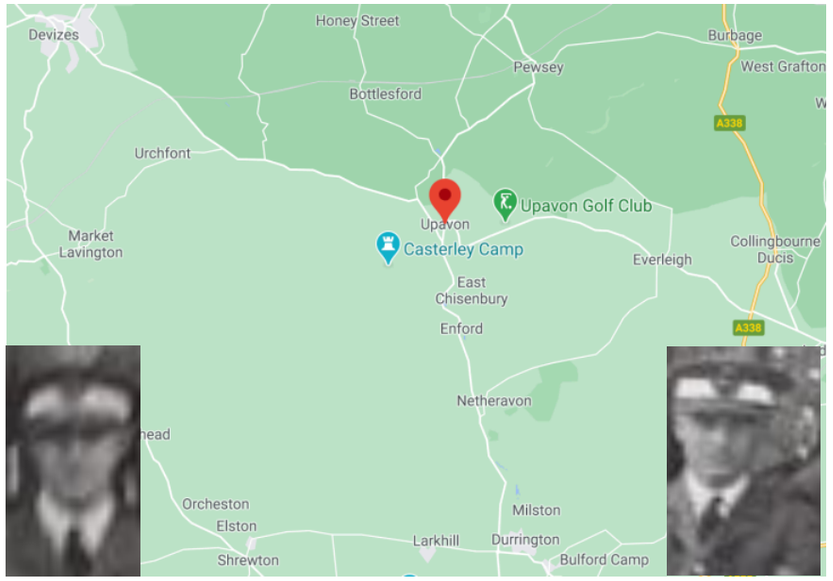
The Shuttleworth Collection's Bristol F.2B Fighter

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Kay AB	S22	Died in flying accident	4/7/28
Keey EC	S20	KFA Farnborough	15/10/23

THE PASSING OUT TERM—AUGUST 15th, 1922.

Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.

Back Row—M. W. Keey. W. L. Dawson. A. G. L. Johnson. J. C. Charlton. C. S. Riccard. E. Reid. B. J. Winmill. C. Guppy.
Middle Row—Cpl. C. B. R. Pelly. Cpl. V. Bruce-Bennett. C. H. Ratcliffe. R. R. S. Waller. G. H. Huxham. M. C. Hayter. S. G. Conolly. E. B. Forster. J. E. S. Caithness. R. G. A. Vallance. Cpl. C. F. Sealy.
Front Row—Cpl. C. H. A. Stevens. Cpl. C. B. B. Maturin. Sgt. D. L. G. Bett. Sgt. L. K. Barnes. U./O. D. Macfadyen. U./O. E. A. Hodgson. Sgt. N. Vintcent. Sgt. A. K. Lewis. Cpl. E. A. Healey. Cpl. E. C. Keey.



L

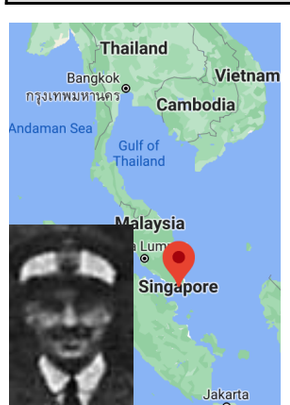
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Lacey EVS	F20	KFA Kenley	20/6/23
Lewes R	F21	KFA Malta	29/1/25
Lewis GF	J25	KFA Upavon	2/2/27
Longman JT	J30	KFA Cromarty	15/5/33
Lowden LW	J35	KFA Guisborough	11/9/37
Lucas LEJ	S27	KFA Upavon	10/9/29

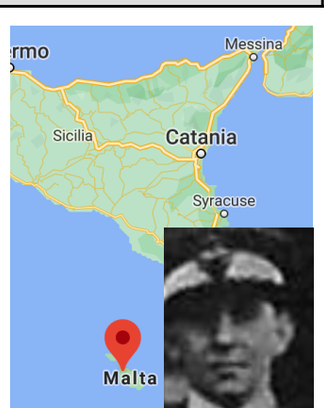
M/N/O

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Meakin PA	J26	KFA; died in RAFC Hospital Cranwell	27/4/28
Mills GHO	J30	KFA Jerusalem	3/2/39
Molyneux H	S32	KFA Wickham	11/8/36
Morgan RAG	S37	KFA Stubton; buried in Cranwell Village	8/5/39
Moss CW	S21	KFA Farnborough	9/4/24
O'Hanlon FS	F23	KFA Farnborough	13/6/33

P/Q

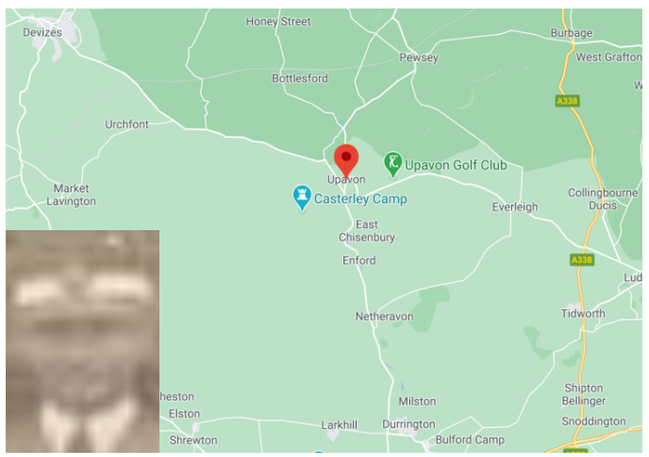
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Peck JG	F20	KFA Duxford	3/3/24
Pontifex RW	F20	KFA Iraq	18/4/25
Priestman F	S23	KFA Elham	18/3/27
Pilcher GN	J24	KFA Aden	26/7/30
Pickford PFM	S24	KFA Cranwell	15/7/26
Parish MJO	J31	KFA Singapore	6/6/34
Pearson-Rogers PJ	J31	KFA Malta	12/2/35
Plugge JA	S32	KFA Digby; buried in Cranwell Village	1/5/34
Pike PJK	J34	KFA Flamborough Head	1/11/38
Pearce JF	S35	KFA Digby	21/3/38





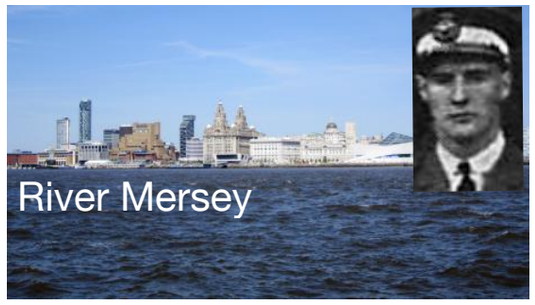
R

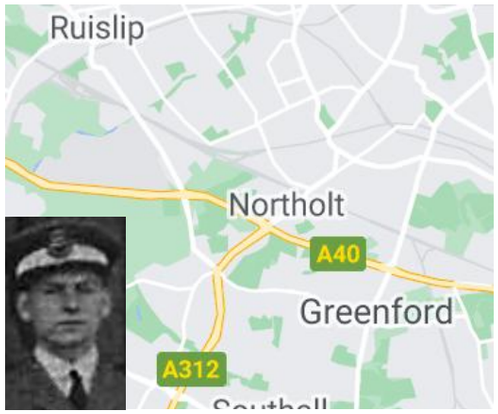
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Reedman RR	F22	KFA Tilshead	10/9/26
Reid E	S20	KFA Iraq	12/11/24
Ricks AWA	S23	KFA Khartoum	26/12/28
Rolph RV	J31	KFA Tangmere	28/2/33
Rowbottom WL	J34	KFA India, with 11 Sqn operating Wapiti, Hart and Blenheim 1	23/7/38
Rutherford JA	S32	KFA Digby; buried in Cranwell Village	1/5/34



S

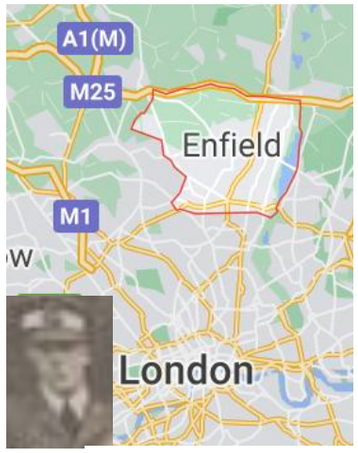
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Sawyer W	J28	KFA Grantham, hitting tree in a Siskin IIIa of 41 Sqn, Northolt	6/8/30
Scott IM	F23	KFA Kenley	25/3/25
Shearn AC	S29	Died at Upavon after Rugby match	20/1/32
Shelley BT	J27	Died of wounds	27/5/36
Simonds ER	S27	KFA; missing believed drowned, aircraft crashed off Felixstowe	22/7/37
Singh A	S30	KFA	4/9/33
Singh B	S30	KFA	4/9/33
Spencer DH	S31	KFA Khormaksar	18/7/36
Spurrier AF	S32	KFA civil aircraft dived into the Mersey	1/2/36
Stephenson GD	S28	KFA Eglin AFB USA in F100	**8/11/54**
Stephenson JR	J33	KFA Stokes Bay, Solent	1/10/35
Stevinson G	S24	KFA Tidworth	17/1/28
Steventon DW	J38	KFA Stubby; Vampire FB 5 VZ237; engine exploded after take off.	18/9/51
Stewart KA	S31	KFA Aboukir	13/7/36





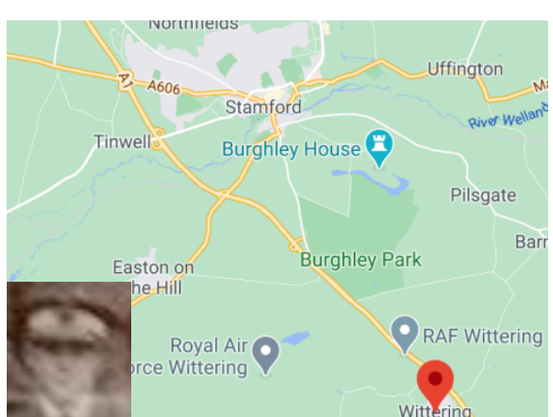
T/U/V

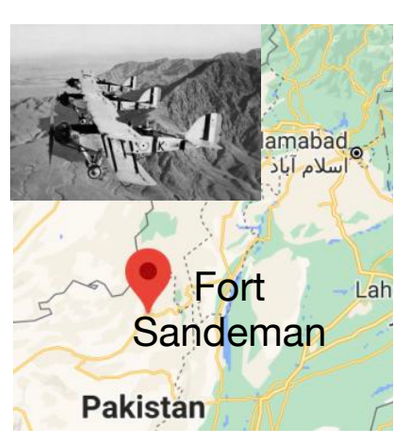
Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Talbot-Smith R	J31	KFA Singapore	13/6/35
Tanner WES	S30	KFA Northolt	23/4/34
Teale RP	J25	KFA Duxford	8/4/30
Teideman AG	J28	KFA Gosport	28/11/31
Thompson JG	A33	KFA Portsmouth	17/6/37
Treasure SJ	J33	KFA dying of injuries in RAF Hospital Cranwell on the same day	23/3/34
Tristem HHV	S23	KFA Khormaksar	26/2/36
Vaughan-Fowler DG	S28	KFA, night flying accident over Hawkinge	7/8/31
Vickery HC	J33	KFA Martlesham Heath	28/5/37
Van Someran NA	J37	KFA Andover	19/5/39



W/X/Y/Z

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Whelan RD	F20	KFA Enfield	3/12/27
Waller RRS	S20	KFA India - died of injuries	10/5/25
Waghorn HRD	**S22**	**Schneider Trophy winner; KFA Farnborough - died of injuries**	**7/5/31**
Woode CSM	S22	KFA Bircham Newton (99 Sqn)	27/2/25
Walker NC	F23	KFA Manston	7/4/25
White ER	J26	KFA Worthy Down	24/3/30
White NE	S26	KFA Wittering	6/5/32
Whillier AJ	J33	KFA Botley	25/8/37
Winter RH	S34	KFA Brauncewell	22/10/35
Worthington FR	S25	KFA Millom-Jurby Anson T20 collided poor viz into Snaefell, IoM	5/9/53
Yale WC	F20	KFA Fort Sandeman - crashed in Wapiti V of 31 Sqn, died of injuries	4/9/36





Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Waghorn HRD	S22	Schneider Trophy winner; KFA Farnborough - died of injuries	7/5/31

[By courtesy of "The Aeroplane."

F./Lieuts. GREIG, WAGHORN AND ATCHERLEY AFTER THE SCHNEIDER COMPETITION—SUMMER, 1929.

Editor's Note: Atcherley was to be the first flight cadet to become commandant of the RAF College

Name	Entry	Circumstances of Loss	Date
Armour JCD	F23	Retired ill health	27/5/33
Baxter HRF	S20	Died	17/2/31
Blain WN	J25	Died	1/7/38
Bradley J	J30	Killed RTA Sarafand	12/6/33
Brookman HG	F20	Died	22/4/36
Brown RJD	J25	Died	6/8/38
Eaton J	S23	Died	8/11/26
Elias AW	S22	Died	23/9/36
Fenton DMcD	J30	Died	14/4/37
Forster EB	F20	Died	26/5/28
Goring C	J30	Died (M/Cycle Acc) Buckden	5/9/30
Henry JH	S22	Died in Central RAF Hospital, Finchley, of Meningitis	15/10/24
Henzell FLP	J27	Retired ill health	1/9/38
Hicks JLO	A39	Killed (RTA) Newark	14/6/39
Horsfield DK	S24	Went on leave; presumed deceased pre-war.	(1927)
Jackson PH	J24	Retired ill health	15/2/28
Keep MW	S20	Died	15/7/37
Kelk WH	J34	Killed RTA Tarvin	29/3/34
Leech HH	J26	Retired ill health	17/9/38
McKinley-Hay EA	F22	Retired ill health	6/5/34
Middleton LM	S30	Retired ill health	5/4/33
Moon FJ	S24	Died	23/3/29
Newcombe JS	S28	Killed	26/2/31
Richards HG	J27	Retired ill health	20/9/38
Rowe FCT	F20	Retired ill health	14/8/33
Southby FA	J33	KFA RTA Caythorp Lincoln	13/1/34
Springfield CMOO	F20	Died after bizarre incident nearly freezing to death in the Scind Desert, contracting malaria in 1922	4/9/24
Tillard LRW	S22	Retired ill health	7/5/36
Vaughan EAO'S	J26	Died in RAF Hospital Cranwell	9/9/27
Weait AL	S26	Killed RTA	2/1/33
Williams RD	S26	Retired ill health	1/11/34

Cause of Death	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	After	Totals
KIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
KFA	2	5	5	9	5	6	6	4	9	7	8	9	9	8	13	6	4	8	5	128
Killed RTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	1	0	6
Died	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	*0*	2	2	2	0	N/A	17
Retired ill health	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	*0*	1	0	3	0	N/A	10
Totals	2	5	7	9	6	8	9	5	12	8	8	15	13	8	16	8	9	9	5	162