

Sevington

Second World War 1939 – 1945

OSBOURNE, CYRIL JAMES. Sergeant, 1295241.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 9 January 1943.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 160.

Cyril was a crew member of Halifax Bomber DT483 MH-F which was flown by 26 year old Sergeant, Robert A. Banks-Martin, of Martinborough, Wellington, New Zealand. The aircraft took off from R.A.F. Snaith, Yorkshire at 1634 hours on 9 January 1943 on a 'Gardening' (minelaying) operation in the area of Nectarines, Friesian Islands. A total of 121 bombers of which 76 were Halifax's, took part in the minelaying operation over the German Bight, Friesian Islands, and Kattegat on the night of 9/10 January 1943, with the loss of 4 Halifax bombers. All the crew of Cyril's aircraft are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. The aircraft and its seven crew were lost without trace, cause unknown, and in so doing had the sad distinction of being the first of the squadron's aircraft and crews to be lost since 51 Squadron, R.A.F. returned to Bomber Command, having been with Coastal Command from May to October 1942.

OWEN, ARTHUR STANHOPE. Squadron Leader 76117.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 12 December 1944. Aged 37.
Son of Ernest and Cicely Gertrude Owen.
Husband of Christina Baird Owen of Ashford, Kent. M.A., F.C.A.
Buried Sevington (St Mary) Churchyard, Ashford, Kent.
Arthur had been Mentioned in Despatches.

SMITH, ALFRED FREDERICK. Corporal, 5385870.
10th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment).
Died 16 February 1945. Aged 30.
Born and resided Kent.
Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Grave Ref: 45. A. 13.