

St. Peter's Aircraft Crash Sunday 27 April 1952



IN MEMORY OF
Mr & Mrs William Read,
Mrs Ellen Collier,
Capt. Clifford Fogarty USAF
who died as a result of an
aircraft crash here on
Sunday 27th April 1952

Stone work by Messrs
Andrews & Elliott Ltd Stonemasons
who once occupied premises here.

Part of St Peter's Village Tour

Although clearly not a war memorial, but the four people commemorated on the memorial photographed above died as the result of the military presence in Kent. On Sunday 27 April 1952, an American Thunder Jet F84E (Serial Number 49-2111), of 165 Fighter Bomber Squadron, 1323 Fighter Bomber Group, United States Army Air Force, that was based at Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent, crashed at St. Peter's at 1214 hours resultant of an engine fire. The tragedy occurred at the junction of the High Street and Ranelagh Grove at St. Peter's, when the jet crashed into Lloyds Bank and an Ironmongers shop. As a result of the crash, the pilot Captain Clifford Vincent Fogarty, U.S.A.A.F. was killed, as were St. Peter's residents Mr. and Mrs. William Read, and Mrs Ellen Collier. Fate or call it what you will, resulted in the Vicar preaching a somewhat longer sermon than was usual at the parish church, which doubtless saved many lives, as his sermon resulted in people being much later coming out of the church. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the tragic event of Sunday 27 April 1952, plans were put in place for a York stone memorial to be erected on the site of the accident, as a permanent reminder. On Tuesday 8 April 2003, the memorial was unveiled by the Mayor of Broadstairs and St. Peters Councillor Hazel Pinder-White, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Bernal, who was at the time the Marine Attaché at the United States Embassy in London. Lieutenant-Colonel Bernal brought with him a personal message of goodwill from the American Ambassador, William Stamps Farish III. The Memorial was dedicated by a former Vicar of St. Peter's, the Reverend Canon John Havilland Russell de Sausmarez.

