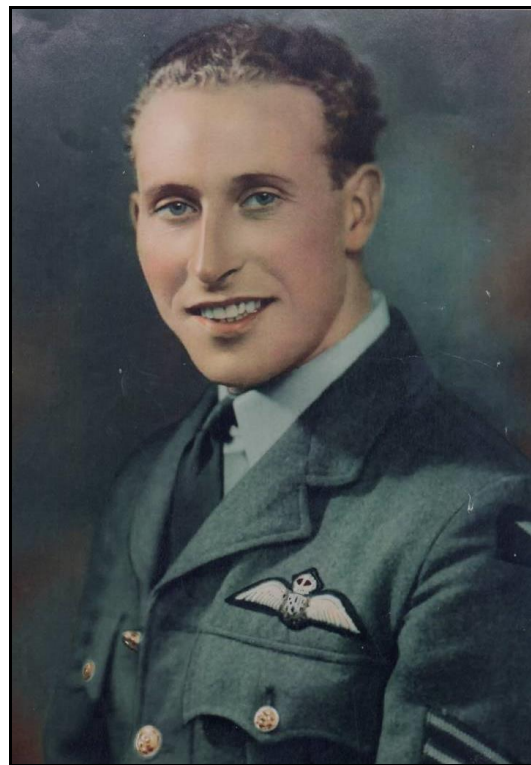


**IN MEMORY OF
SAMUEL BARTHOLOMEW ALBERT SMITH
1920-1943 OF OSGATHORPE
WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE WHILST
SERVING KING AND COUNTRY IN THE
SECOND WORLD WAR**



IN THE BRITISH ARMY



IN THE R.A.F

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2022
UPDATED MARCH 2023**

PREFACE

Samuel Smith was one of the thousands of British young men who lost their life at an early age in the Second World War. Sam joined the Guards originally and was one of the many rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk by the flotillas of ships and boats which went out to bring as many of our soldiers home when they were under attack from the Germans

The **Dunkirk evacuation**, codenamed **Operation Dynamo** and also known as the **Miracle of Dunkirk**, or just **Dunkirk**, was the evacuation of more than 338,000 Allied soldiers during the Second World War from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, in the north of France, between 26 May and 4 June 1940. The operation commenced after large numbers of Belgian, British, and French troops were cut off and surrounded by German troops during the six-week Battle of France.

Subsequently, Sam, as he was known by the family joined the R.A.F as a Spitfire Pilot, and it was during that time that he ironically lost his life in England during a mid air collision of two spitfires, having survived the Dieppe raids.

Hopefully the following account of his time defending King and Country will do justice to his memory.

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MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OSGATHORPE



2616076 GUARDSMAN SAMUEL SMITH - BIOGRAPHY

Samuel Bartholomew Albert Smith was born in Main Street Osgathorpe c.1920, to Samuel and Selina Smith. He was a former Coalville Broom Leys School boy and joined the Guards at the outbreak of the Second World War. Whilst in the Guards, he married Miss Beryl Eileen Smith of Main Street Osgathorpe. Having studied Samuel's cap, coloured band, and badge together with his uniform, it suggests he was a member of the Royal Scots Guards, although no official record has been located.



Samuel & Beryl Smith



LEFT TO RIGHT

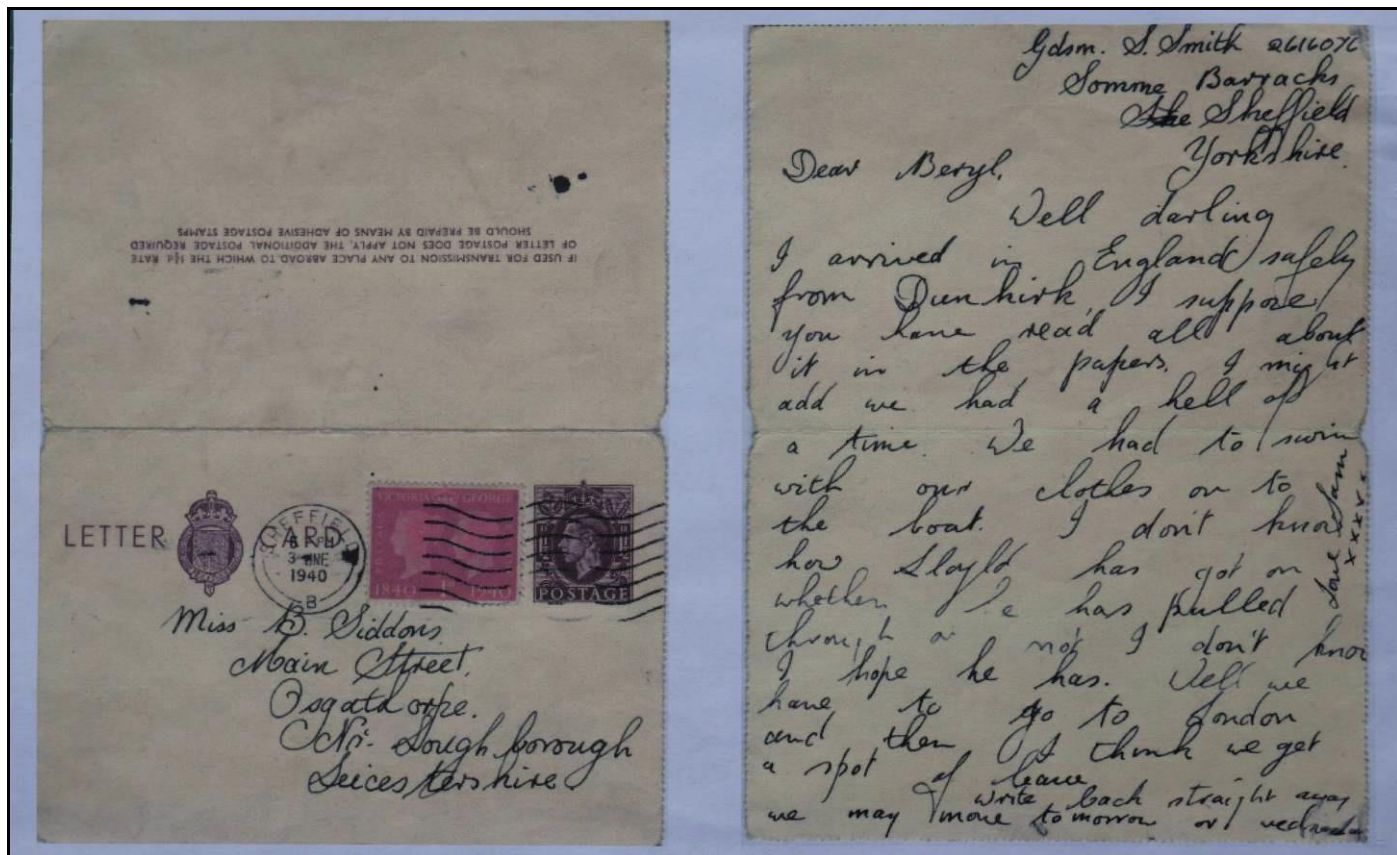
BACK ROW - Gwen Smith; Lena and Sam Smith (Sam's parents); ? ; ? ; Samuel Smith ; Eric Siddons ; Hilda Siddons ; "Granny" Elliot ; Freda King

FRONT ROW - ? ; Beryl Smith (nee Siddons) ; Freda Smith ; Edna Green

Following the declaration of war against Germany a British Expeditionary Force including Guards Battalions headed to France. During the so called 'Phoney War' they defended the French borders but there was no major fighting. However, in April 1940, a Guards Brigade went into action in the ill-fated Norway campaign, which failed to prevent German invasion. This first taste of fighting against the Germans showed how unprepared the allies were for the new tactics being used against them.

Within three weeks of the German invasion of Holland in May 1940 the British Expeditionary Force was evacuated from the beaches of France and Belgium. The Guards had mounted spirited defences at Boulogne, Arras and Dunkirk; upholding their tradition of discipline under fire in the face of tanks and air attack.

Going by the June 3rd 1940 date stamp on the following letter, Samuel Smith would have been one of the first batches of servicemen evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. The letter was sent to his then girlfriend Beryl at the age of 20 from Somme Barracks, Sheffield, after he had arrived back in England. In the letter he describes having to swim in his clothes to the boat that picked him up. Over 1,000 British servicemen died during the evacuation.



Guardsman Samuel Smith, without cap, thought to have been taken at Somme Barracks, Sheffield following the Dunkirk evacuation.



Dunkirk 26-29 May 1940. British troops lined up on the beach at Dunkirk to await evacuation whilst being strafed by German planes



Evacuated troops enjoying refreshments before boarding a train at Dover station

657263 SERGEANT PILOT SAMUEL SMITH OF THE ROYAL AIRFORCE - BIOGRAPHY



This scroll commemorates

Sergeant S. Smith
Royal Air Force

held in honour as one who
served King and Country in
the world war of 1939-1945
and gave his life to save
mankind from tyranny. May
his sacrifice help to bring
the peace and freedom for
which he died.

It is not known exactly when Sergeant Samuel Smith (657263) of 602 Squadron transferred to the R.A.F from the Guards, but it is unlikely it would have been prior to the 12th August 1940 when the original 602 City of Glasgow Auxiliary Squadron was re-sited to Westhampnett Airbase near Chichester, Sussex on the south coast to replace the 145 Squadron. This was right in the front line of action in the Battle of Britain. The Westhampnett airbase which was shared with the Americans' was opened in 1938 and closed in 1946. Sergeant Samuel Smith could have spent a period here before he was subsequently stationed at R.A.F Perranporth which became operational on 28th of April 1941, and where 602 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force which he was with was also stationed. The airfield was used by 21 different squadrons flying Spitfires, and was decommissioned in April 1946. It was whilst here on January 23rd 1943, that Sergeant Samuel Smith lost his life in a flying accident.



A Spitfire at Westhampnett Air Force base



Sam Smith in his Spitfire flying gear taken at Perranporth R.A.F. Station

The following newspaper report is important in that it confirms Samuel was a fighter pilot in the Dieppe Raids which he survived.

Leicester Daily Mercury - Thursday 28th January 1943

Sergeant Pilot Samuel Albert Smith, aged 23, of Osgathorpe has been killed on active service. A former Coalville Broom Leys school boy, he left the guards to join the R.A.F and was a fighter pilot in the Dieppe Raids.

THE DIEPPE RAIDS REFERRED TO ABOVE

Operation Jubilee or the **Dieppe Raid** (19 August 1942) was an Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during the Second World War. Over 6,050 infantry, predominantly Canadian, supported by a regiment of tanks, were put ashore from a naval force operating under protection of Royal Air Force (RAF) fighters.

The port was to be captured and held for a short period, to test the feasibility of a landing and to gather intelligence. German coastal defences, port structures and important buildings were to be demolished. The raid was intended to boost Allied morale, demonstrate the commitment of the United Kingdom to re-open the Western Front and support the Soviet Union, fighting on the Eastern Front.

Aerial and naval support was insufficient to enable the ground forces to achieve their objectives; the tanks were trapped on the beach and the infantry was largely prevented from entering the town by obstacles and German fire. After less than six hours, mounting casualties forced a retreat. The operation was a fiasco in which only one landing force achieved its objective and some intelligence including electronic intelligence was gathered.

Within ten hours, 3,623 of the 6,086 men who landed had been killed, wounded or became prisoners of war. The **Luftwaffe made a maximum effort against the landing as the R.A.F had expected, but the R.A.F lost 106 aircraft (at least 32 to anti-aircraft fire or accidents) INCLUDING 44 SPITFIRES against 48 German losses.** The Royal Navy lost 33 landing craft and a destroyer.

SERGEANT PILOT SAMUEL BARTHOLOMEW ALBERT SMITH KILLED - AGED 23

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 30th January 1943

Sergeant Pilot Samuel Albert Smith (23) of Main Street, Osgathorpe, has been killed in active service according to an official telegram received by his wife.

The accident was reported as follows on an RAF website:-

On the 23rd of January 1943 at 1541hrs., two Super marine Spitfire Mark Vc aircraft EE682 and EE633 of 602 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force RAF Perranporth collided in mid-air. EE682 crashed into the sea off Prussia Cove, 2 miles S.S.E. of Goldsithney Police House. The aircraft sank and the body of the pilot Sgt Samuel Smith 657263 was recovered from the sea. EE633 managed to land safely at Perranporth. (from an RAF website)

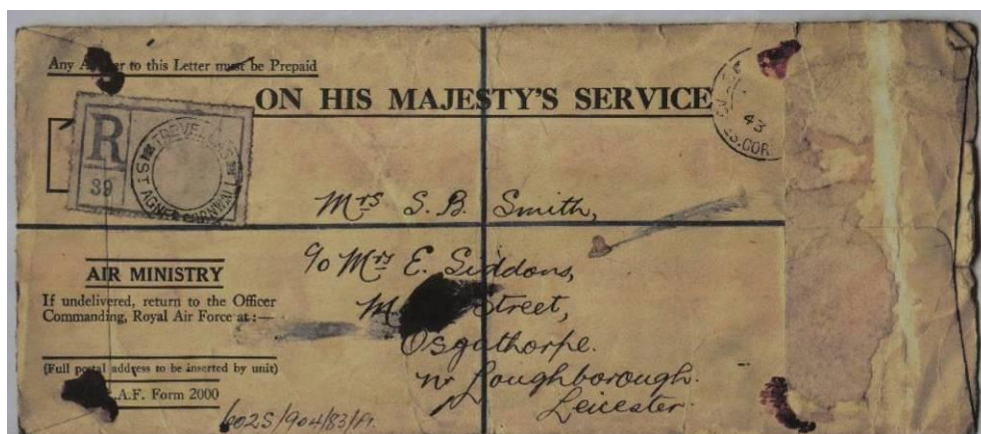
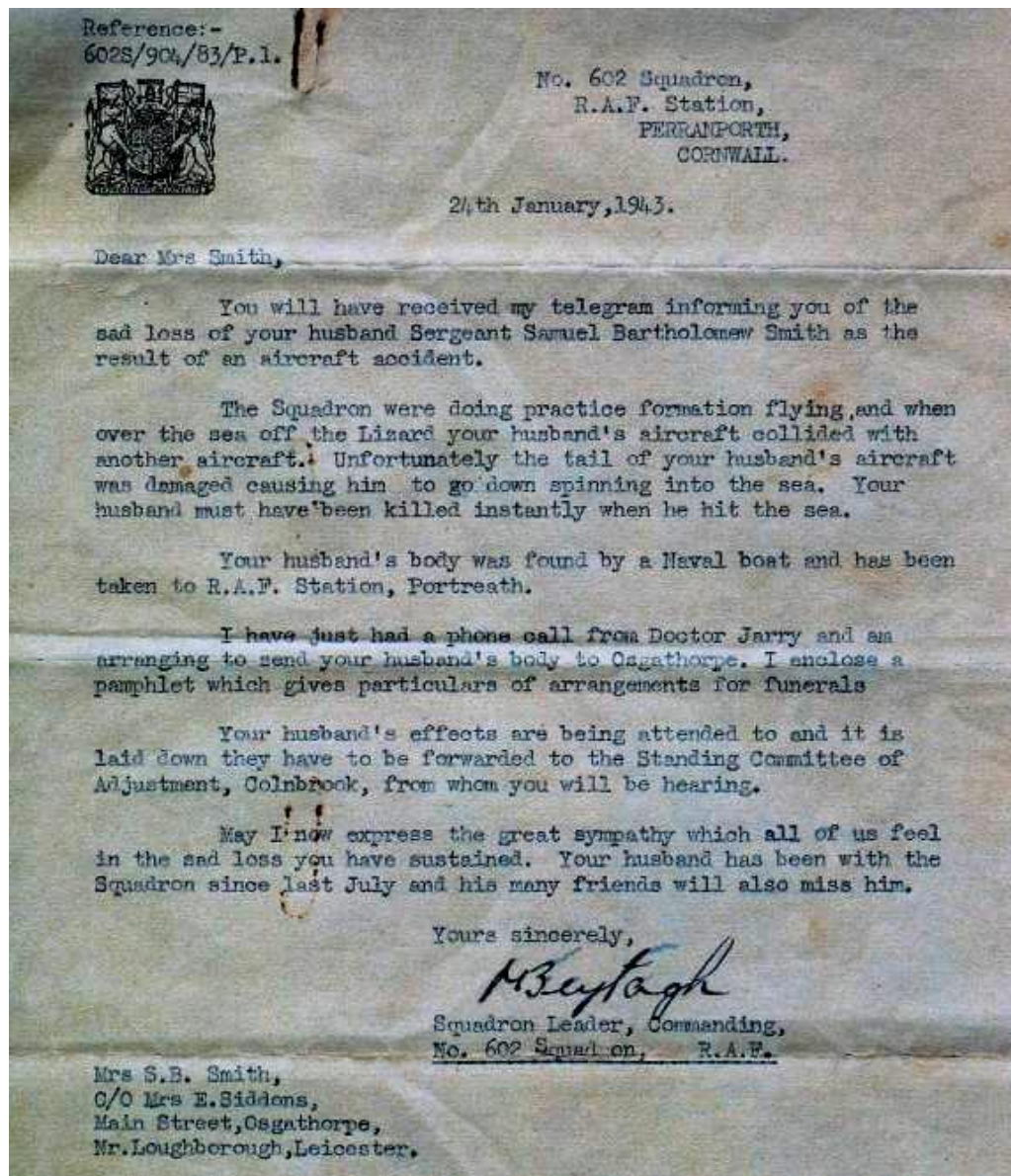
It is somewhat ironical that Sergeant Pilot Samuel Smith lost his life in a mid-air collision between two Spitfires in British air space after surviving the Dieppe raids.

The Mark Vc Spitfire which Sergeant Samuel Smith was flying was built at Westland and powered by the Merlin 46 Engine



Continued over page

There follows a copy of the letter sent to Sam's wife Beryl by the Squadron Leader, Commanding No. 602 Squadron, R.A.F. the day after she received the telegram informing her of his death.

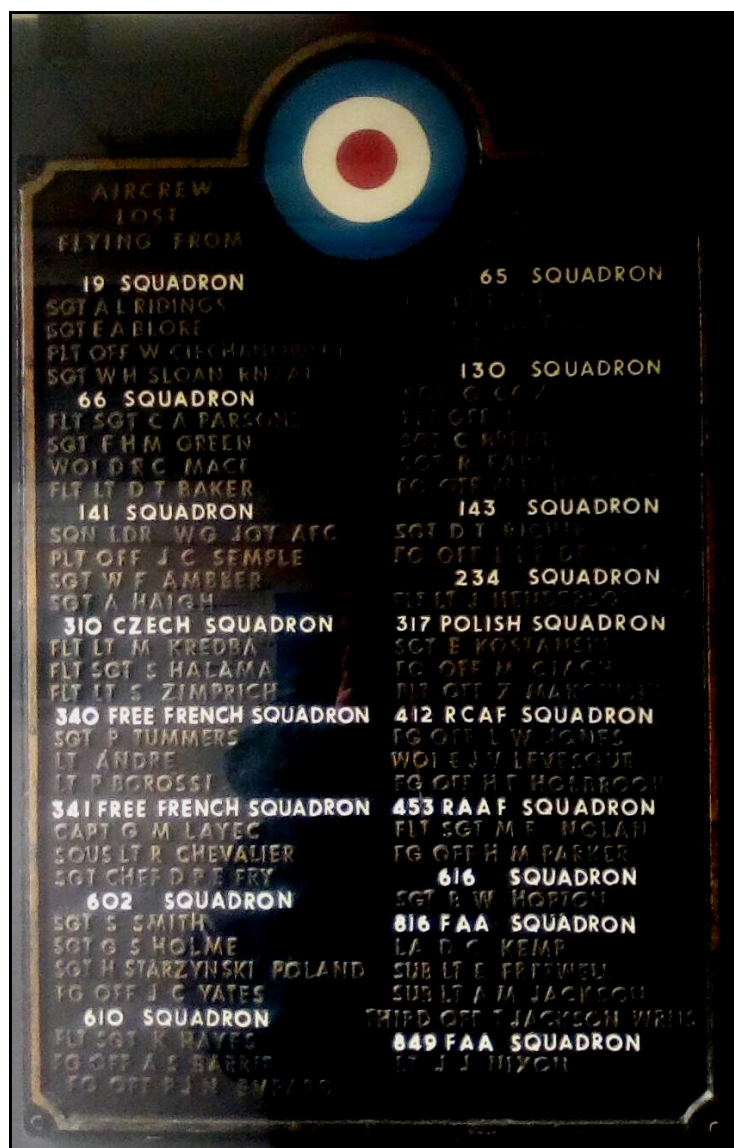




WORLD WAR TWO MEMORIAL AT PERRANPORTH AIRFIELD

Continued over page

PERRANPORTH WAR MEMORIAL HALL



PLAQUE DEPICTING ALL SQUADRON LIVES LOST AT PERRANPORTH.
SGT SAMUEL SMITH'S NAME IS UNDER 602 SQUADRON ON THE LH SIDE

**657263 SERGEANT PILOT SAMUEL SMITH
"COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVE COMMISSION"
GRAVESTONE IN OSGATHORPE NEW CEMETERY**



**HIS LIFE A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY
HIS ABSENCE A SILENT GRIEF
RESTING IN PERFECT PEACE
HE AWAITS US ALL**

**SEE THE CWGC GRAVE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION
AT END OF PUBLICATION**

VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE DAY) - 75th ANNIVERSARY



**657263 SERGEANT SAMUEL SMITH - PILOT ROYAL AIR FORCE
602 SQUADRON**

In 2020, the Royal British Legion called on the nation to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day from home. On Friday 8 May we paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of the entire Second World War generation, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front.

CWGC WEBSITE CERTIFICATE

In Memory Of
Sergeant

SAMUEL SMITH

Service Number: 657263

602 Sqdn., Royal Air Force who died on 23 January
1943

Son of Samuel and Selina Smith; husband of Beryl Eileen Smith,
of Osgathorpe.

HIS LIFE A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY HIS ABSENCE A SILENT
GRIEF. RESTING IN PERFECT PEACE HE AWAITS US ALL

Remembered with Honour
OSGATHORPE CEMETERY
Grave 2.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

CWGC GRAVE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

Contract No:- 1948/25		SCHEDULE "A"	Page No:- 1
Name & Address of Firm:- KNOWLES & SON LTD.		Name of Burial Place:-	
HERRIES RD.		OSGATHORPE CEM., LEICESTERSHIRE. NO.1	
SHEFFIELD 2			
1192/1/T/9	14	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 25/5/49 ✓ </div>	
657263 Sergeant	5		
S.Smith	11		
Pilot	13		
Royal Air Force	15		
23rd January 1943			
(Cross)			
His life a beautiful memory	33	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 4/22 8/6/49 </div>	
His absence a silent grief.	32		
Resting in perfect peace	31		
He awaits us all	13		
	<u>126</u>		

DG 58532/1(73)/R67 20 4/48 R

MELTON BRANSON, Flt. Lieut. (Pilot) RICHARD ARTHUR, MOWBRAY 162939. R.A.F. (V.R.). 31st August, 1945. Age 27. Son of Frederick Hartridge Branson, and CEMETERY Virginia Muriel Branson, of Kents Bank, U.K. 2179 Lancashire. Sec. W. Grave 4174.

* BROCK, Flying Off. (Nav.) FREDERICK ALBERT, 151684. R.A.F. (V.R.). 613 Sqdn. 19th November, 1944. Age 23. Son of Frederick and Alice Elizabeth Brock, of Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent. Grave 213.

BRYANT, Sjt. ARTHUR HENRY THOMAS, 4612494. A.P.T.C., attd. 3rd Bn. The Parachute Regt., A.A.C. 27th April, 1945. Age 30. Son of William George and Lilian Bryant; husband of Phyllis Joan Bryant, of Churt, Surrey. Sec. W. Grave 4173.

FLINT, Spr. GEORGE EDWARD, 1930118. Royal Engineers. 21st January, 1944. Age 27. Grave 3680.

FRENCH, Pte. LAWRENCE CECIL, 4104929. 156th Bn. The Parachute Regt., A.A.C. 1st May, 1944. Age 23. Son of George and Lizzie French; husband of Dulcie Margaret French, of Rushden, Northamptonshire. Sec. W. Grave 4169.

* GATHERCOLE, Gnr. LEONARD WILFRED, 952808. 515 Coast Regt., Royal Artillery. 25th February, 1941. Age 23. Son of Walter Robert and Maud Alice Gathercole, of Melton Mowbray. Grave 2151.

GRIEVE, Sgt. (Flt. Engr.) FRANCIS GEORGE, 577530. R.A.F. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn. 11th July, 1944. Age 19. Son of Robert Grieve, and of Jane Grieve, of Edinburgh. Sec. W. Grave 4172.

HALESTRAP, Flying Off. (Nav.) GEOFFREY GEORGE, 127308. D.F.C. R.A.F. (V.R.). 13th May, 1944. Age 22. Son of Fred Francis Henry and Gladys Mary Elizabeth Halestrap, of Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey. Sec. W. Grave 4171.

PRITCHETT, Cpl. GEORGE WILLIAM NOEL, 7518227. R.A.M.C. 2nd December, 1944. Age 31. Son of Frederick and Lucy Pritchett, of Melton Mowbray; husband of Elsie Pritchett. Grave 871.

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* SMITHERINGALE, A.C.2. ALFRED JOHN, 1028352. R.A.F. (V.R.). 5th March, 1941. Age 28. Son of Fred and Sarah Smitheringale, of Melton Mowbray. Grave 804.

STEANS, Sjt. GERVAISE JACKSON, 952484. Pioneer Corps. 6th August, 1944. Age 27. Son of John and Rhoda Steans, of Melton Mowbray; husband of Maisie Louisa Steans, of Melton Mowbray. Sec. A. Grave 245.

SUTTON, L.A.C. ALBERT EDWARD, 1022039. R.A.F. (V.R.). 12th October, 1944. Age 31. Son of Mrs. E. Sutton; husband of Doreen E. Sutton, of Melton Mowbray. Sec. C. Grave 841.

WOOLFENDEN, Flt. Sgt. (Nav./Radar) CYRIL, 1433251. R.A.F. (V.R.). 1st May, 1944. Age 23. Son of Allan and Evelyn Mary Woolfenden, of Leeds, Yorkshire. Sec. W. Grave 4170.

MOUNTSORREL CEMETERY (Index No. U.K. 2180)

LOVETT, Craftsman ALBERT THOMPSON, 14579147. R.E.M.E. 28th April, 1947. Age 23. Son of William and Rosetta Ann Lovett, of Mountsorrel. Plot C. Uncons. Grave 428.

THORNETT, Pte. ALBERT, 7634952, R.A.O.C. 30th October, 1943. Age 37. Son of James Alfred and Ann Thornett; husband of Catherine Elizabeth Thornett, of Mountsorrel. Grave 241.

MUSTON (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, BOTTESFORD (Index No. U.K. 2181)

WALKER, Flt. Lieut. (Pilot) VINCENT SYDNEY, 120936. R.A.F. (V.R.). 7th May, 1947. Age 27. Son of Richard Arthur and Bertha Lucy Walker; husband of Betty Patricia Walker, of Muston.

NAILSTONE (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2182)

FINDLEY, Pte. A., 4860308. 2/5th Bn. The Leicestershire Regt. 23rd October, 1939. Age 21. Son of Thomas and Mary Jane Findley, of Nailstone. Grave 91.

NEWBOLD VERDON CEMETERY (Index No. U.K. 2183)

MARRIOTT, Pte. PETER EDWIN, 4860962. 2/5th Bn. The Leicestershire Regt. 22nd December, 1941. Age 24. Son of Edwin and Edith Marriott, of Newbold Verdon.

OADBY CEMETERY (Index No. U.K. 2184)

APPLEBY, S. Sjt. GEORGE FREDERICK, 2038706. 28 Searchlight Regt., Royal Artillery. 22nd September, 1944. Age 37. Son of Frederick George and Vera Louise Appleby; husband of Rose Annie Appleby, of Oadby. Sec. B. Grave 107.

BAILEY, Pte. DONALD LEO, T/89658. R.A.S.C. 22nd September, 1943. Age 32. Son of William and Louise Mary Bailey; husband of Florence Lilian Bailey, of Oadby. Sec. C. Grave 27.

BAINES, Pilot Offr. (Pilot) JOHN LEWIS, 88686. R.A.F. (V.R.). 18th March, 1941. Age 27. Son of John Cecil and Eleanor Septima Baines, of Oadby; husband of Shirley Baines, of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Sec. A. Grave 43.

* DEXTER, Spr. PHILIP JOHN, 1946471. 19 Field Sqn., Royal Engineers. 10th October, 1942. Age 19. Son of Herbert William and Edith Allison Dexter, of Oadby. Sec. B. Grave 73.

MORAN, A.C.2 REGINALD JOHN, 1819299. R.A.F. (V.R.). 28th November, 1943. Age 18. Son of John and Mary Evelyn Moran, of Oadby. Sec. B. Grave 106.

* NOTLEY, Pte. WILLIAM FRANK, 4862314. 6th (H.D.) Bn. The Leicestershire Regt. 25th August, 1940. Age 25. Son of Alfred William and Elizabeth Notley, of Oadby. Sec. B. Grave 72.

OSGATHORPE CEMETERY (Index No. U.K. 2185)

SMITH, Sgt. (Pilot) SAMUEL, 657263. R.A.F. 602 Sqdn. 23rd January, 1943. Son of Samuel and Selina Smith; husband of Beryl Eileen Smith, of Osgathorpe. Grave 2.

PACKINGTON (HOLY ROOD) CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2186)

PARRY, Cpl. JAMES WILLIAM, 6986078. 5th Bn. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st January, 1946. South side of Church.

QUENIBOROUGH (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2187)

* BLACK, A.C.2 SIDNEY, 2214634. R.A.F. (V.R.). 9th March, 1943. Age 22. Son of Edwin and Polly Black, of Syston.

QUORN BAPTIST CHAPEL CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2188)

This burial ground contains the grave of an unidentified airman of the Royal Air Force.

QUORN (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2189)

MEE, Pte. STANLEY HERBERT, 10573293. R.A.O.C. 14th August, 1943. Age 31. Son of G.W. Mee, and Gertrude Mee; husband of Enid Mee, of Quorn.

STEVENSON, Gnr. REGINALD, 1621374. 425 Bty., 58 Searchlight Regt., Royal Artillery. 2nd December, 1941. Age 23. Son of Harry and Charlotte Stevenson, of Quorn.

THOMPSON, Gnr. RICHARD, 986656. 154 (The Leicestershire Yeomanry) Field Regt., Royal Artillery. 19th February, 1941. Age 27. Son of Richard and Gertrude Thompson, of Quorn.

RATBY (SS. PHILIP AND JAMES) CHURCHYARD (Index No. U.K. 2190)

WORTH, Gnr. GEORGE WILLIAM, 1584345. 368 Bty., 42 (7th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derby Regt.)) Searchlight Regt., Royal Artillery. 4th August, 1941. Age 21. Son of John Alfred and Amelia Worth, of Markfield; husband of Phyllis Worth, of Ratby.

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BJW

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM

Schedule No. : 1

County : LEICESTERSHIRE

PLACE OF BURIAL : OSGATHORPE CEMETERY

Controlling Authority :

The following are buried here :

UNITED KINGDOM DISTRICT

Certified complete and correct.

SIGNATURE *Edithy MMS* DATE *13.9.58*

Easton Green

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)
P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name and Honours	Unit	Date of Death	Details of Grave marking including Screen Wall	By whom maintained, if at Commission expense state fee payable	Ownership of Grave	REMARKS
2	657263 Sgt. (Pilot)	S. SMITH	602 Sqdn. R.A.F.	23.1.43	C/H	ReIs.		<i>PI</i>