

Mark's crew were:

Sgt Norman James Calcraft (1801478) - Air Gunner - Son of John Richard & Maud Ethel Calcraft, Winchmore Hill, Middlesex. He is buried in Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery - Grave 4 E 17. Norman was born in 1922 in Edmonton. His mother's maiden name was Maud E Thiell born 5th Oct 1889. His Dad John Richard was born 15th March 1889 in Hackney, London.

In 1939 the family were living at Charbottom Way, Southgate, Middlesex. Norman's father worked for the Civil Service as a Sorter. (He died in 1962 in Eastbourne, Sussex) Norman was their only child.

During WW1 John Richard Calcraft served as a private (No 318156) in 5th Londons Regt. Then later 1/12th Bn with service no. 485007. Later in the Rifle Brigade from 30th Jan 1918. He enlisted 3/1/1917. His religion was Church of England. His height was 5ft five and a half inches. Weight 130lbs. His occupation was sorter for the GPO. Next-of-Kin Mrs JR Calcraft 103 Warren Rd, Harringay, London. John sailed for Le Havre 19/3/1917. He was posted missing 28/3/1918, then reported as captured 28/4/1918 at Gavrelle on the Western front.

In 1901 Norman's Dad John had been living at 108 Cassland Rd, Hackney, London. His father John had been born in London 1857 and was a Boot Clicker. His mother Julia was also born in London, in 1862. His sisters, Norman's aunts were Eveline and Maud.

F/O Robert John Massie (134543) - Navigator - 24yrs - Son of James & Johanna B Massie, Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire. He is remembered at Runnymede on Panel 126

Aberdeen Press & Journal 3rd April 1944

Oldmeldrum RAF man killed.

Flying Officer Robert John Massie previously reported missing last August, is now presumed to have lost his life in air operations over Germany. He was a grocer to trade, having served his apprenticeship with his uncle Mr George Rumbles, Hatton. Before joining up he was a vanman with Mr George Taylor, Auchnagatt. He served for eighteen months in the Gordon Highlanders before being transferred to the RAF. Flying Officer Massie who was 24yrs of age was unmarried and was the youngest son of Mr & Mrs James Massie of Whitefield, Oldmeldrum and grandson of Mrs James Patterson, 39 High St, Fraserburgh.



F/Sgt Phillip Francis Stanley (1286323) - Wireless Op/ Air Gnr - Husband of Lois Nellie Stanley of Southall, Middlesex. Phillip is buried in Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery Grave 4 E 18. Phillip was born in 1912 St George Hanover Square (Mother née Lawrence)

In 1911 his parents Thomas born 1873 in Wolverhampton, an Engineering LGOC and Rosina born 3 Oct 1877 Wolverhampton (d. 1969), were living at 5 Effingham St, Pimlico S/W, St Georges Hanover Square, London. Children living with them were:- Thomas 1897 Wolverhampton, Kathleen 1899 Redditch, Mary 1905 London, Geoffrey 1901 London and Bernard 1902 London.

Then in 1939 the family were living at 40 Hammond Rd, Southall, Middlesex. At that time Phillips's mother was a widow. Phillip born 13th April 1912 a Baker's Roundsman is living with her along with his twin sister Rosina W Stanley a factory engineer.

Phillip married Lois N Barnard in the 3rd quarter of 1943 in Uxbridge, Middlesex. Sadly when he died she was not pregnant.

His twin sister Rosina died in the 4th quarter of 1944 in Wolverhampton.

F/O Ronald James Widdecombe (124521) - Pilot - 22yrs - Son of Alfred Stanley Horrell (1888-1957 St Germans) and Eva Jennie Widdecombe, Saltash, Cornwall. Ronald is remembered at Runnymede Panel 130. Ronald was born in 1921 in St Germans, Cornwall (mother née Smith). His elder brother Jack had been born there in 1919. Their parents had been married the same year in Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Widdecombe was posted into 199 Squadron in July 1943.

In 1911 Dad Alfred was living with his sister Mabel Louise (b.1880) and brother-in-law Ernest W E Moorman, an architectural draughtsman at 1 Hamoaze Tce, Saltash Cornwall. Alfred was a drapers assistant.

During WW1 pilot F/O Widdecombe's Dad served in 3/4th Royal Berkshire Regt - Service No. 6014 and enlisted in 1916 when his occupation was a Breadmaker. His next of kin was listed as Alfred James Widdecome - father - living at 1 Hamoaze Tce.

F/O Widdecombe's brother **Jack Widdecombe RN** was killed whilst serving in the Royal Navy as a Shipwright 4th Class on H.M.S. Prince of Wales on the 10th December 1941. His Service No. D/MX51878. The Prince of Wales had been launched from Cammel Laird, Birkenhead in 1939. The Prince of Wales and Repulse became the first capital ships to be sunk solely by air power on the open sea. The wreck lies upside down in 233ft of water near Kuantan in the South China Seas. 327 Royal Navy sailors perished with her. Jack is listed on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 54 Column 2.

A British flag flies at the wreck site. It is attached to a buoy which is attached to a propeller shaft. The flag is periodically renewed. The wreck site is protected. In 2002 British divers, with the blessing of the MOD and veterans raised her ship's bell. After careful restoration it was presented to the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool.

Both brothers have no known grave and had no siblings.

London Gazette publ 8 Oct 1937, "16 Sept 1937 Admiralty: Departmental Clerical Class: Ronald James Widdecombe."

Ronald is also remembered on the memorial for Saltash County Grammar School

Sgt Ivor George Williams (1414532) - Flight Engineer - Ivor is rembered at Runnymede Panel 170.

Sgt A E Nixon (1383072) - Rear Gunner - POW No. 222754 held in Stalag 4B Muhlberg 30 miles north of Dresden. The camp was liberated by the Soviets on the 15th April 45. 30,000 prisoners of these 7500 were British. Approximately 3000 had died from TB and Typhus.

Operations of this crew whilst serving in 199 Squadron

9th/10th August 1943 - Stirling EF 455 EX-B Mk III Sea Mining - Frisian Islands Up 2205h Down 0114h. Mines dropped on G-Fix. (Gee) Parachutes seen dropping.

13th/14th August 1943 Stirling EE 917 EX-L Sea Mining (Brittany Coast ?) - Up 2040h Down 0310h. Mines dropped at 0016h. 4 parachutes seen.

15th/16th August 1943 - Stirling EE 913 EX-F Target Turin. Up 2000h Down 0445h Bombs released at 0027h from 16000ft 090 degrees magnetic. Visibility en route good. Target identified by green TI's (Target indicators). TI's green in bomb sights when bombs dropped. Several concentrated fires seen.

23rd/24th August 1943 - Stirling EH 927 Target Berlin Took off RAF Lakenheath 2045h. Failed to return.

Mosquitos were used to mark the points on the route to Berlin, to help to keep the main force on track. Despite this the main force arrived late to the target. The German defences both flak and night fighters were extremely vicious, and 56 aircraft were shot down.

Researched by Dorothy Ramser