

Brian Wilson



Rank: - Sub Lt

Regiment:-Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve "HMS Heron"

Died: - 27th May 1944 aged 20

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire T 599

Family Details

Brian was born in Batley in 1924 the son of Orlando Oscar and Clarissa Ethel Wilson (nee Armitage). The couple married at Batley Parish Church on 3rd January 1906 when both gave their occupations as assistant school teachers. Orlando Oscar did become headmaster of Purlwell School, Batley.

Their children were Ena 1906 followed by Frank in 1907, Gerald 1910, Phyllis 1912, Harry 1916, Nora 1917 and Brian 1924,

Brian attended Purlwell Council School and attained a County Minor scholarship to Batley Grammar School. He was employed by Messrs. Thomas Smith and Sons, Crane and excavators as a draughtsman. He took an engineering course at Dewsbury Technical College in the evenings. He had always been interested in flying and made scores of models. He was one of the founder members of Youth Flying Club in Batley. He was one of the first cadets to join the Leeds A.T.C. and when a squadron was formed in Dewsbury he joined that.

Brian was a member of St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell where he had been a choirboy.

In 1939 his parents and some of his family lived at 82, Purlwell Lane, Batley with his father giving his occupation as retired school teacher.

Service Details

Sub-Lieut. Wilson volunteered when he was 17 and would have completed two years service with the Fleet Air Arm at the end of June 1944. He received his "gold wings" after only five months training at Kingston, Ontario and was the youngest member of his class.

Brian may have been killed in a flying accident at Charlton Horethorne, Somerset although his great nephew believes it was in Canada. However they are certain that Brian was killed in Defiant N3455 on 27th May 1944, when he was collecting the aircraft for his unit, 794 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm.

[The Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton](#), or RNAS Yeovilton, (HMS Heron) is an airfield of the Royal Navy and British Army, sited a few miles north of Yeovil, Somerset

Brian was brought home and after a service at St. Andrew's Church conducted by Rev. A. Howell on the 1st June was buried at Batley Cemetery. There were many family mourners and friends which included Mr. E.F. Mettrick (B.G.S. O.B.A.) Mrs R.

Link represented Mr. Link and County Councillor J. Richardson, Mr. S. Stansfield (former head of Purlwell School), representatives from the Mother's Union (5 members), Home Guard, his former employers, and members of the Batley Grammar School 667 Squadron A.T.C. under the command of Flight-Lieut. W.R.M. Caff were Sgt. Speight, Cpls. Winfield and Collinson, Cadets Link, Smith, Brierley, Grace and Senior.

His occupation at the time of his death was given as Pilot Officer.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell, Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial.



Brian



Batley Grammar School 1939-1945

