

Warehorne

Second World War 1939 – 1945

CARMAN, THOMAS WALTER. Private, 10540301.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Died 6 June 1941. Aged 29.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of George and Annie Elizabeth Carman of Warehorne, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Warehorne (St Mathew) Churchyard.

GARNER, COLIN HENRY. Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner), 530348.

Royal Air Force, 35 Squadron, (Pathfinder Force).

Died 30 May 1943. Aged 25.

Son of Clarence and Beatrice Garner of Staplehurst, Kent.

Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.

Grave Ref : 6. A. 15.

Colin was an Air Gunner on Halifax bomber W7876 TL-K, which was flown by Sergeant (Pilot) A.R. Sargent. The aircraft took off at 2218 hours on 29 May 1943 from R.A.F. Gravelly, Huntingdonshire, in a mixed bomber force of 719 aircraft, which was comprised of 292 Lancasters, 185 Halifaxes, 118 Stirlings, 113 Wellingtons, and 11 Mosquitos. 33 aircraft failed to return from the mission, they being 10 Halifaxes, 8 Stirlings, 8 Wellingtons, and 7 Lancasters. The bombing raid was aimed at the Barmen half of the long and narrow town of Wuppertal on the river Wupper, some fifteen miles to the south east of Essen, Germany, and has been described as being the outstanding success of the 'Battle of the Ruhr.' Both Pathfinder marking and Main Force bombing was particularly accurate and a large fire area developed in the narrow streets of the old centre of the town. It is probable that this fire was so severe that the first, small form of what would later become known as a 'firestorm' developed. Because it was a Saturday night, many of Wuppertal fire and air-raid officials were not present, having gone to their country homes for the weekend, and the fire services of the town, in what was their first bombing raid, were not able to control the fires. Approximately 1,000 acres - possibly 80 per cent of Barmen's built-up area was destroyed by fire. 5 out of the towns 6 largest factories, 211 other industrial premises and nearly 4,000 houses were completely destroyed. Approximately forty percent of Wuppertal was destroyed by allied bombing raids during the Second World War. However, a large quantity of historic sites have been preserved such as the Ölberg ("Petroleum Hill") District, one of Germanys largest working class districts, and the so-called Briller Viertel, Germanys largest district of Bourgeois dwellings. After the cessation of hostilities, Wuppertal became a part of the British Occupancy Zone, and subsequently a part of North Rhine-Westphalia state of West Germany. Colin's bomber was shot down by an enemy night-fighter, killing Colin and the aircrafts Navigator, 20 year old Flight Sergeant

William Gray, from Linton, Northumberland who is at rest in the next grave to Colin, the other five crew were captured by the Germans. In addition to being the very first R.A.F. Squadron to use Halifax Bombers, 35 Squadron, R.A.F. had Leonard Cheshire V.C. amongst its aircrews and was also one of the initial Pathfinder Squadrons. In 1991 a memorial was erected at Gravelly to commemorate all those who served at the airfield between 1942 and 1945 with 35 Squadron Pathfinder Force, Royal Air Force, and 692 Light Night Strike Force, Royal Air Force. Colin's bomber was initially issued to the Telecommunications Flying Unit (T.F.U.) before joining No.35 Squadron, R.A.F., and was one of four of his squadrons Halifaxes lost on the raid on Wuppertal.

JONES, REGINALD SIDNEY. Driver, 2017259.

573 Army Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 14 July 1941. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Mr and Mrs W A Jones of Warehorne, Ashford, Kent.

Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XXX. H. 24.

STALKER, CLIFFORD NEIL. Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1893122.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 5 July 1944. Aged 31.

Son of Neil and Annie E Stalker of Warehorne, Ashford, Kent.

Buried St Denis Churchyard, Poix-de-Picardie, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Row C. Grave 33.

Poix, where Clifford is at rest, was known as Poix-de-la-Somme prior to 1965. Clifford was an Air Gunner on Lancaster bomber JB486 DX-F, which was flown by 25 year old Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), Anthony E. Grubb, of New Malden, Surrey. The aircraft took off at 2324 hours on 4 July 1944 from R.A.F. East Kirby, Lincolnshire, in a force of 231 Lancasters and 15 Mosquitos, mostly from No 5 Group but with some Pathfinder aircraft. The bombers were tasked with a continued the attack on the underground flying-bomb store at St Leu d'Esserent with 1,000lb bombs, in order to cut all communications to the site. The bombing during the raid was notably accurate, but during which, 13 Lancasters were lost when Luftwaffe night fighters engaged the force, one of which shot down Clifford's aircraft at approximately 0200 hours on 5 July 1944. The Lancaster crashed just to the north of Cormeilles, Oise, which is approximately five miles from the town of Breteuil. Clifford's Lancaster was delivered to his squadron on 21 October 1943, and taken part in a number of major raids, primarily to Berlin, Germany. When lost his aircraft had a total of 397 hours. JB486 was one of two of 57 Squadron's Lancasters lost on this operation.

WAREHORNE MISSING LADY

HARDEN, MILDRED BURGESS.

Died 26 September 1940. Aged 28.

Daughter of Mr and Mrs Harden of The Green, Warehorne, Ashford, Kent.

Mildred died at 15 Regents Place, Ashford, Kent.

