



**Overloon War Chronicles Foundation**  
presents:

## **FACES FROM THE PAST**

(episode 14)

*Author: Arno van Dijk*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Overloon, popularly known as the English cemetery, contains 281 graves. Each with its own story. In this report series, the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation highlights such a special story every time. This time

**Known unto God (? – 1943?)**  
grave number 4, section IV, row A

**Known unto God (? – 1943?)**  
grave number 5, section IV, row A

**Known unto God (? – 1943?)**  
grave number 6, section IV, row A

*The mystery of the three airmen*

*“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing a prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

*(Source: King James Bible, Paul’s letters to the Philippians, chapter 4, verse 6)*

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## 1. Introduction

One of the mysteries at the Overloon War Cemetery concerns three British airmen buried next to each other in section IV.

But the identities of these three men remain unknown.

As far as is known, they crashed near the German city of Mönchengladbach in 1943.

It is also known that these three men were temporarily buried at the American cemetery in Margraten (South Limburg) and that they were transferred to Overloon after the war.

The story goes that the names, and therefore the identities, of these three men were known when they were buried in Margraten, but that something went wrong during the transfer to Overloon, so the names were not linked to their respective graves. As a result, the words "Known unto God" can still only be found on their headstones.

Who are these men? Can their names be traced somewhere? Where exactly did they crash and under what circumstances? And why did things go so wrong with the administration during their transfer to Overloon?

Reason enough to make a final attempt to solve this mystery. Because somewhere in the UK, there are still three families whose father, brother, uncle, or cousin died in this crash in 1943. Three families who, after more than 80 years, still don't know that their relative lies in one of these three unmarked graves.

Arno van Dijk

(Researcher/biographer/author Overloon War Chronicles Foundation)





*The graves of the three unknown airmen at the Overloon War Cemetery, section IV, row A. From left to right, grave 4 with the code X1067, followed by grave 5 with the code X1066A and on the right grave 6 with the code X1066B.  
(Photo: Collection Arno van Dijk)*

## 2. “Known unto God”

"Known unto God" is a phrase used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on the gravestones of fallen British soldiers who cannot be identified.

Worldwide, some 212,000 gravestones in CWGC cemeteries bear the inscription "Known unto God", representing an enormous number of unidentified soldiers.

The text "Known unto God" is inscribed on the lower part of the gravestone.



*(Photo: Collection Arno van Dijk)*

At the top of the stone is the text “A soldier of the Second World War” when nothing at all is known about the soldier. If, for example, the date of death is known, that date will also be mentioned. The insignia of the regiment may also be engraved if the regiment is known. The centre of the gravestone contains a cross, even though the actual religion of the buried soldier is unknown.

In this case, the following is engraved on the stone of the three airmen:



*(Photo: Collection Arno van Dijk)*

The origin of the text “Known unto God” lies with Rudyard Kipling (30 December 1865 – 18 January 1936), a British writer, poet and journalist. The best-known book he wrote is undoubtedly “The Jungle Book” from 1894. In 1907, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He selected the text "Known unto God" in 1917 during the First World War when he was working as a literary adviser for the then Imperial War Graves Commission.

The exact origin of the text is unknown, but it is linked to the King James Bible (named after King James I, 19 June 1566 – 27 March 1625), a translation of the Bible into early modern English for the Church of England, published in 1611.

Incidentally, it was already the third translation of the Bible into English, after the Great Bible (published in 1535) and the Bishop's Bible (published in 1568).

It is not known why Kipling recommended this particular text. It is possible that he was influenced by his grief over the death of his son John Kipling, who was killed in action in 1915 during the Battle of Loos (25 September 1915 – 8 October 1915).

The text "Known unto God" appears twice in the King James Bible, as part of the New Testament:

- in Philippians (or, in full: Paul's Letters to the Philippians) in 4:6 (chapter 4, verse 6): *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing a prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*
- In Acts of the Apostles (or simply Acts, which together with the Gospel of Luke is attributed to the evangelist Luke) in 15:18 (chapter 15, verse 18): *"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world."*

Kipling often quoted phrases from the King James Bible in his works. A well-known phrase is "Lest we forget" (from Deuteronomy, the fifth and last book of the Torah and Hebrew Bible, in chapter 6, verse 12), which Kipling uses in his poem "Recessional" (1897, composed for the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria) and is a phrase traditionally used regularly in memorial services.



*Rudyard Kipling, the author who selected the phrases "Known unto God" and "Lest we forget" from the King James Bible.*

*(Photo: Portrait in the biography of Rudyard Kipling by author John Palmer, published on 15 June 15 1895, reprinted in 1907. Elliot & Fry Photography Studio)*

### 3. The investigation

We start our investigation in 2022, knowing that it will be a complicated journey and that it is completely unclear whether we will ever find out who the three men are who lie buried anonymously in Overloon.

We will start in Margraten, where the three were temporarily buried before being transferred to Overloon.

#### 3.1 Margraten

The village of Margraten is located in the extreme south of Limburg on the Margraten Plateau, an area consisting of limestone (marl) covered with loess soil.

The Margraten cemetery, where the three airmen were temporarily buried after their deaths, is an American war cemetery located on the N278 motorway between the villages of Margraten and Cadier en Keer. Officially, the cemetery is called Amerikaanse Begraafplaats Margraten, in English it is called The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial. The cemetery was created at the request of Major Joseph Shomon, commander of the 611th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company (611th GRC), in October 1944 to the municipality of Margraten (which had just been liberated) to make an area available as a cemetery for the high numbers of American casualties expected during the advance on Berlin. The Americans preferred not to bury their dead on German territory. The municipality of Margraten immediately made an area of 30 hectares available. Construction began in November 1944.

In 1947, the Dutch government of the time ceded the land to the United States for perpetual use out of gratitude to the American liberators and respect for the American fallen. At that time, 18,000 Americans were buried in Margraten, which called for a redesign of the cemetery. During that process, the remains of some 10,000 of those buried in Margraten were transferred to the United States and reburied there.

Since then, Margraten has been home to 8,301 graves with 8,302 American soldiers buried there. Two soldiers who remain unknown are buried in one grave.

The men of the 611th GRC were attached to various units of the American Ninth Army. Their task was to recover the remains at the sites, record the details of the fallen and transport them to Margraten via collection points. They were also responsible for sending personal belongings to the families and establishing military cemeteries throughout Europe.

When the remains arrived in Margraten, they were stripped of ammunition and personal belongings on the so-called stripping line. The remains were then buried there by the 960th Quartermaster Service Company. From mid-December 1944, this task was taken over by the 3136th Quartermaster Service Company.

Both companies consisted of African-American soldiers, some of whom were stationed at Neder-Canne Castle. For many residents of South Limburg, these were the first African-American people they had ever seen in their lives.

During their stay at Neder-Canne Castle, these soldiers sometimes fired their guns at German V1 rockets launched from Germany towards England.

We put our questions about this case of the three airmen to Frenk Lahaye, director of the Netherlands Visitor Centre Margraten. On 24 October 2022, he replies that the story cannot be confirmed.

This is because the organisation has no documents whatsoever concerning the temporary cemetery that was established by the American grave service of the American army. In 1949, the American army transferred the cemetery to Margraten and took all the archives relating to the fallen soldiers back to the USA.

### 3.2 The CWGC and the Graves Registration Report Forms

Before we move on to the American archives, we first want to check what information is available on the British side. This brings us first to the Report Forms of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

On the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which manages British war cemeteries worldwide, we find the original Graves Registration Report Form dated 3 March 1954, containing the following information about these three men buried in Overloon in section IV, row A, graves 4, 5 and 6:

**ORIGINAL**

**Graves Registration Report Form.**

COUNTRY. **HOLLAND.** REPORT No. : SCHEDULE No. : **18**  
 COMMUNE. PLACE OF BURIAL : **OVERLOON WAR CEM., MASSHEES--EN--OVERLOON.**  
 Land belongs to  
 The following are buried here :—

Certified complete and correct.  
 Signature *[Handwritten Signature]* Date **3 - MAR 1954**

P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name & Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
IV.A.2.	4699060 L/Cpl.	P.G.H.W. BADGER	Parachute Regt. Army Air Corps	7. 5.45.	H.S.
IV.A.3.	201559 Capt.	K.C. MASTERS	Royal Army Service Corps	30. 5.45.	H.S.
IV.A.4.		BRIT UNKNOWN AIRMAN		1943	H.S.
IV.A.5.		BRIT UNKNOWN AIRMAN		1943	H.S.
IV.A.6.		BRIT UNKNOWN AIRMAN		1943	H.S.

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

All three are described as 'UNKNOWN AIRMAN', with the word 'Brit' added in pen next to all three, and only the year 1943 is given as the date of death in the Date of Death column.

In search of the source of this information, we come across an earlier Graves Concentration Report Form, dated 1 May 1947. This is the official date of the transfer/reburial of British servicemen to the then new Overloon War Cemetery. This form contains the names of a number of servicemen who had been temporarily buried at Margraten until then. It also includes the three unknown servicemen:

**GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM**

The following has been concentrated here -

(Name of Cemetery) OVERLOOK BRITISH QUARTERS E 753326  
 (Full Map Reference) HILLAND SH 2A/3A 1/250,000 E 758326

8103  
Report No. B/55001/87  
8104  
Nat. Burial

(1) Serial No.	(2) Regt. or Corps	(3) Army No.	(4) Name & Initials	(5) Rank	(6) Date of Death	(7) K/A, D/W or Died	(8) Plot	(9) Row	(10) Grave	(11) Date of Burial	Previous location of grave	
											Place & Map Ref.	Report Number
1	R A	883581	✓ GRAY J.H.	Inf	11.5.45	K/A	IV	A	1	1.5.47	BARHAYN AMERICAN MIL. CEM. SH 9 1/100,000 655431	12470
2	R A F (VR)	160715	✓ EDWARD A.	P/O	5.12.44	*	III	A	7	*	ODD 2 33 ODD 6 145	12470
3	R A F (VR)	2204350	✓ EDWARDS E.C.	Sgt	*	*	III	A	11	*	ODD 6 146	*
4	2 PARA REGT	4599060	✓ BACCHIE F.D.W.R.	Inf	7.5.45	UNK	IV	A	2	*	ODD 11 251	*
5	AIR CORPS UNKNOWN	UNK	UNKNOWN X1067	Inf	est. 43	K/A	IV	A	4	*	ODD 12 263	2043
6	R A S.C.	201559	✓ MATTERS E.C.	Capt	29.5.45	Died	IV	A	5	*	ODD 5 106	18914
7	R A F	532757	✓ MURRAY H.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	1	*	ODD 12 262	3011
8	R A F (VR)	1553565	✓ FRENCHLAND H.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	2	*	ODD 2 28	*
9	R A F	155192	✓ SMITH E.C.	P/O	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	3	*	ODD 4 91	*
10	R A F (VR)	1378617	✓ BEARD O.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	4	*	ODD 4 90	*
11	UNK	UNK	UNKNOWN X1066A	UNK	UNK	UNK	IV	A	5	*	ODD 4 93	2043
12	UNK	UNK	UNKNOWN X1066B	UNK	24.3.44	UNK	IV	A	6	*	ODD 4 96	*

Date: 1.5.47

(Signed) *[Signature]* CAPT

Rank & Appointment Commanding 55 G.C.U.

\* Where a grave has not already been registered, a Registration Report on A.F.W. 1372 will be prepared and attached to this FORM.

PSS 2273. 20.14. 6/41

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

The three have a code that begins with the letter X. That letter was assigned when, at the time of burial, the body was either completely unknown or there was insufficient evidence to establish the identity of the remains.

A number of things stand out in this Graves Concentration Report form:

Column Name & Initials:

- the three unknown soldiers are listed in the Name & Initials column, each with a separate code, respectively:  
 UNKNOWN X1067 (buried in Overlook in section IV, row A, grave 4)  
 UNKNOWN X1066A (buried in Overlook in section IV, row A, grave 5)  
 UNKNOWN X1066B (buried in Overlook in section IV, row A, grave 6)
- The soldier with code X1066B is the only one in this column with a surname written in pen: "King", with the initial "T".  
 However, this name is later crossed out and replaced by hand with the previously assigned code X1066B.

Column Regiment or Corps:

- for the soldier with code X1067, the word "Air Corps" is written in pen in the Regiment or Corps column. For the other two, the word "Air Corps" is missing.

Date of Death column:

- For X1067, the date is listed as "est. 1943", or "estimated 1943" in full.  
 For X1066A, the column contains "UNK", or "Unknown".  
 X1066B is the only one of the three to have a real date listed in this column: 24.3.44, i.e. 24 March 1944. However, because the name King has been crossed out, it is now unclear whether the date of death 24.3.44 specifically refers to King, or whether that date applies to soldier X1066B.

Column K/A, D/W or Died. In full: Killed in Action, Died of Wounds or Died:

- X1067 is the only one with a cause of death, namely K/A (Killed in Action), while the other two are marked "Unk", or "Unknown".

Column Place & Map ref. (place and map reference):

- This column refers to the burial location at Margraten, here:  
X1067 section EEE, row 12, grave 283  
X1066A section GGG, row 4, grave 93  
X1066B Section GGG, row 4, grave 94  
Remarkable here is that X1067 was buried at Margraten in a completely different location than X1066A and X1066B.

Column Report Number:

- All three have the number 2043 written on them.

There is a second Graves Concentration Report Form, dated 9 August 1947, three months after the aforementioned form. On this second form, soldier X1067 is now officially typed as "AIR CORPS" and the line relating to X1066B appears to be the only one on this form that has been crossed out in red pen.

**GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM**

Report No: *Holland 49E-37* REGRE/L/COG 8103

The following has been concentrated here:—  
(Name of Cemetery) OVERLOOK BRITISH CEMETRY  
(Full Map Reference) HOLLAND Sh2a/3A 1/250,000 B758326  
*(In E. COORD.)* NATIONALITY BRITISH

(i) Serial No.	(ii) Regt. or Corps	(iii) Army No.	(iv) Name & Initials	(v) Rank	(vi) Date of Death	(vii) KIA, D/W or Died	(viii) Plot	(ix) Row	(x) Grave	(xi) Date of Reburial	Previous location of grave	
											Place & Map Ref.	Report Number
1	R A	883381	GRAY J.H.	Sdr	11.5.45	K/A	IV	A	1	1.5.47	MARGRATEN AMERICAN CEM.	HOLLAND Sh9 1/100,000 655481 12470
2	PARA REGT	1609060	BADGER BERN	L/Cpl	7.5.45	Unk	IV	A	2	"	"	"
3	AIR CORPS	Unk	UNKNOWN X1067	Unk	est 43	K/A	IV	A	4	"	"	2043
4	R A S C	201539	MASTERS K.C.	Capt	30.5.45	Died	IV	A	3	"	"	E.9972 1881A
5	UNKNOWN	Unk	UNKNOWN KING T.	Unk	est 43	Unk	IV	A	6	"	"	2043
6	UNKNOWN	Unk	UNKNOWN X1066A	"	Unk	"	IV	A	5	"	"	"
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												

Date: 9.8.1947 *Phyllis Clarke* Rank & Appointment: *Col.* D.D.C.B.S.

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

The statement in the Graves Registration Report Form of 3 March 1954 that all three unknown soldiers died/were killed in action in 1943 cannot therefore be traced back to the Graves Concentration Form drawn up on 1 May 1947, nor to the form of 9 August 1947. The basis for this conclusion in 1954 cannot be traced in these respective forms and may even be considered premature.

**3.3 T. King**

For the soldier with code X1066B, the Graves Registration Report Form of 1 May 1947 is the only one in this column with a surname written in pen: "King", with the initial "T.". However, this name was later crossed out and replaced by hand with the previously assigned code X1066B.

7	LINK	LINK	LINK: 01 X1066A	LINK	LINK	LINK	IV	A	5	"	GGG	4	93
12	LINK	LINK	LINK: 01 X1066B	LINK	LINK	LINK	IV	A	6	"	GGG	4	94
Date: 1.5.47													
* Where a grave has not already been registered, a Registration Report on A.F.W. 3372 will be prepared and attached to this FORM													
											Rank & Appointment		Commanding 55 G.C.U.
													PSS 2270, 20 M. 6/45

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

The T. King can be traced. He is Thomas King, corporal in the Royal Engineers, 1 Field Squadron, who was reburied in Overloon in section IV, row B, grave 1. His date of death is written in pen on this form as 24 March 1944.

But Thomas King actually died on 23 or 24 March 1945, a year later. He was taken prisoner by the Germans on 12 June 1940 during the evacuation of Dunkirk and spent the rest of the war in various prisoner-of-war camps. He died of pneumonia and dysentery in the final phase of the war while still a prisoner of war.



Corporal Thomas King  
(Photo: Collection Overloon War Chronicles Foundation)

In the Graves Concentration Report Form below, dated 23 July 1947, King's full name is listed. The cause of death is listed in the column K/A, D/W or Died: there, in red, it says D/P/W, or Died Prisoner of War. This form also mentions his grave number IV.B.1 in Overloon, proving that King is not the unknown X1066B.

It should be noted that the form below, dated 23 July 1947, contains King's incorrect date of death, 24 March 1944, copied from the earlier form dated 1 May 1947, where it is written in pen. In the form below, that incorrect date has now been corrected in red pen to 23/24 March 1945.

## GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM

The following <sup>has</sup> been concentrated here:—  
 have

*Holland 49E - 33.*

Report No. WE/RE/L/COHQ  
8026.

(Name of Cemetery) OVERLOOK BRITISH CEMETERY

(Full Map Reference) HOLLAND Sh2A/3A 1/250,000 E758326

NATIONALITY BRITISH

(1) Serial No.	(2) Regt. or Corps	(3) Army No.	(4) Name & Initials	(5) Rank	(6) Date of Death	(7) R/A, D/W or Died	(8) Plot	(9) Row	(10) Grave	(11) Date of Reburial	Previous location of grave	
											Place & Map Ref.	Report Number
1	(X) I R F	6478652	JONES S BSB	Fus	15.4.45	D/W	III	A	12	1.5.47	MARGRATH AMERICAS CEM. HOLLAND	18914
2	(X) UNKNOWN (POW)	Unk	GALESWORTHY C.F.	Unk	16.4.45	"	III	A	11	"	"	"
3	(X) UNKNOWN	2764046	HOPKINS W.	Unk	17.4.45	"	III	A	13	"	"	"
4	(XX) C M P	7686605	REDFORD AGR	Sjt	2.4.45	"	III	A	14	"	"	"
5	(XX) PNR CORPS	13015608	ROWNTREE J.	Pte	16.4.45	"	IV	A	14	"	"	"
6	(XX) QUEENS R.R.	14388155	LAGGETT H.C.	"	27.4.45	"	IV	A	7	"	"	"
7	(X) UNKNOWN	14565201	JAMES W.C.	Unk	15.12.44	"	III	B	10	"	"	"
8	(X) UNKNOWN	Unk	KING T.	Unk	24.3.48	"	IV	B	1	"	"	"
9	(XX) R A	126234	CROUCH (M.C.) R.L.	Maj	26.6.45	"	IV	A	8	"	"	"
10	(XX) R A	14370835	THARBY W.	Gnr	25.6.45	"	IV	A	9	"	"	"
11	(XX) H L I	5910763	MULH R.	Pte	25.8.45	"	IV	A	10	"	"	"
12	(X) GHQ 2nd Echelon unable to trace											

Date 23 July 1947.

(XX) Service Particulars not been checked GHQ 2nd Echelon.

(Signature) *W. Howard King* Col.

\* Where a grave has not already been registered, a Registration Report on A.F.W. 3892 will be prepared, and attached to this FORM.

Rank & Appointment

D.D.G.R.E.

FORM 424/11-47 (REV)

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

## 4. Air Corps

Back to soldier X1067. In the Graves Concentration Report Form dated 1 May 1947, the column Regiment or Corps now specifically mentions "Air Corps" for the first time next to his code X1067.

1	AIR CORPS	UNL	X1067	UNL	pat:43	K/A	IV	A	4	"	SEE 12 263	2043
---	-----------	-----	-------	-----	--------	-----	----	---	---	---	------------	------

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Air Corps refers to the Army Air Corps (AAC).

This corps was established in 1942 on the orders of Winston Churchill as the aviation branch of the British Army.

The AAC is therefore different from the Royal Air Force, which was established in 1918 and is the air and space force of the United Kingdom, the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies.

The Army Air Corps was established to group together the various airborne units of the British Army.

The AAC initially consisted of:

- the Glider Pilot Regiment (responsible for crewing the British Army's military gliders)
- the Parachute Battalions (later renamed the Parachute Regiment)
- the Air Landing Regiments
- the air observation post squadrons.

In March 1944, the SAS Regiment (Special Air Service, with special methods of warfare, often small-scale operations behind enemy lines) was also added to the corps.

In mid-1941, the War Office and the Air Ministry began compiling specifications for the design of new gliders. This eventually resulted in the following types:

- General Aircraft GAL.48 Hotspur
- General Aircraft Limited GAL.49 Hamilcar (Hamilcar Mk. I)
- Airspeed AS.51 Horsa and AS.58 Horsa
- Slingsby Hengist



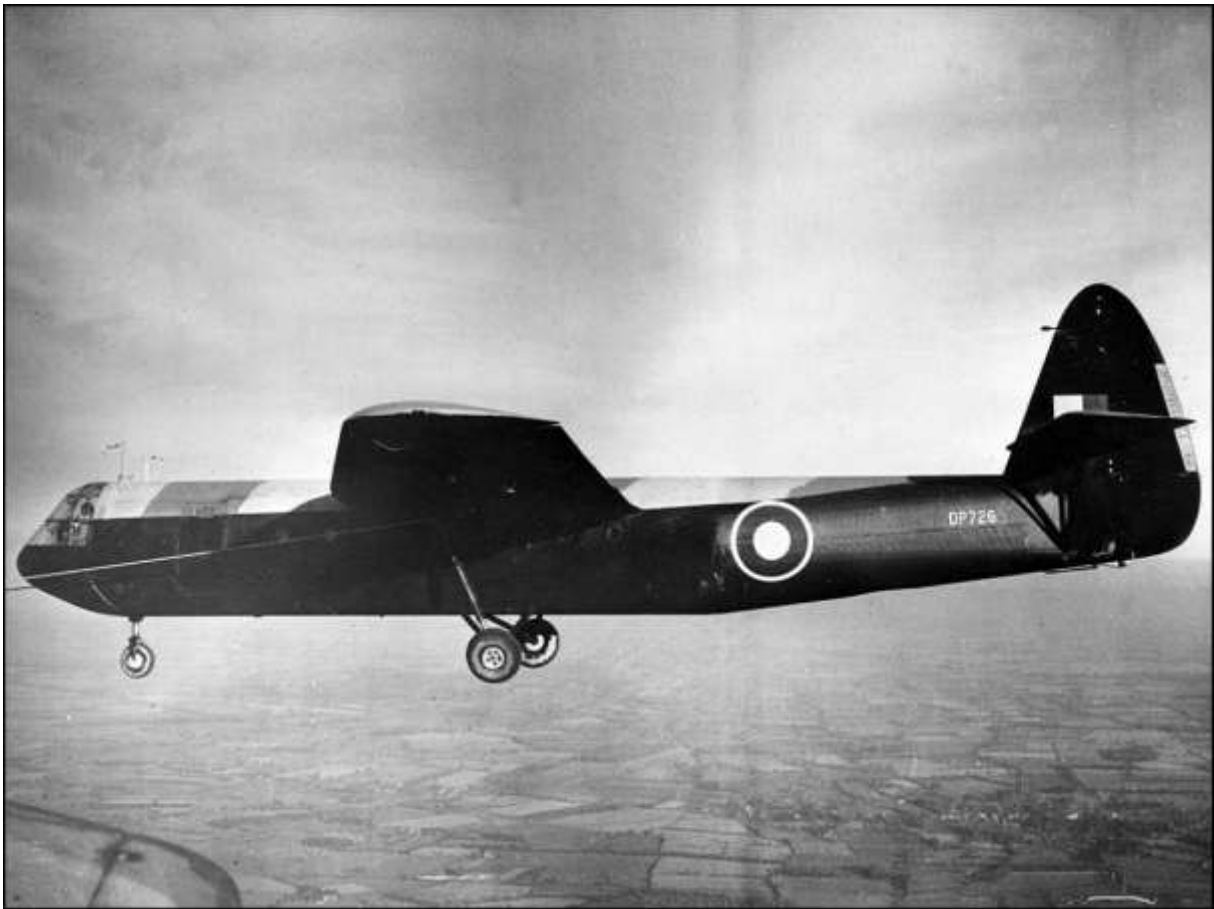
*Two Hotspur Mark IIs (BT551 'L' nearest) of No. 2 Glider Training Unit based at Weston-on-the-Green, in free flight over the Oxfordshire countryside, 24 juni 1942.  
(Photo: IWM / CH 006030 / Forward (Flying Officer) Royal Air Force official photographer)*



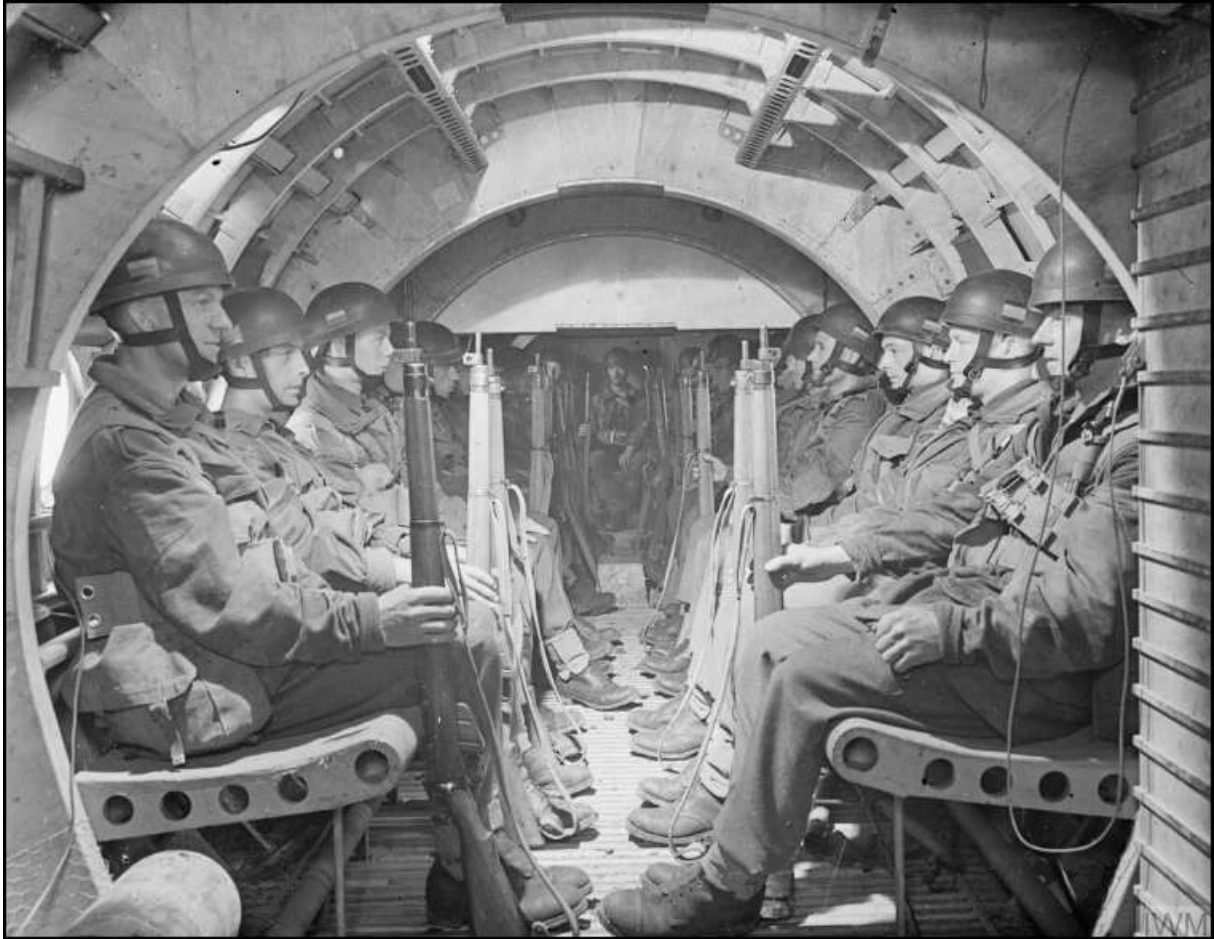
*Paratroop training at Netheravon Airfield, Wiltshire, 12 November 1942.  
(Photo: IWM / TR 276 / Malindine, Edward George William War Office official photographer)*



*General Aircraft Hamilcar Mk. I, May 1944.  
(Photo: IWM / CH 018849 / Royal Air Force official photographer)*



*Airspeed Horsa  
(Photo: Royal Air Force via raf.mod.uk)*



*Airborne troops seated in an Airspeed Horsa of the Heavy Glider Conversion Unit at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, ready for take off  
(Photo: IWM / CH10208 / Goodchild A (P/O), Royal Air Force official photographer)*



*Slingsby T.18 Hengist Mark I, DG676, on tow while being tested by the Airborne Forces Experimental Establishment based at Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorkshire, 25 April 1943.  
(Photo: IWM / MH 5123 / R.S. Punnett Royal Air Force Film Production Unit)*

The first deployment of gliders came during Operation Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily (9 July 1943 – 17 August 1943). Glider infantry from the British 1st Airborne Division 1st Airlanding Brigade were tasked with capturing landing zones inland.

However, poor planning and bad weather caused the gliders to scatter across the sky. Several aircraft were also forced to land at sea, resulting in the drowning of 200 men. In addition, dozens of gliders and tow planes were damaged or even shot down by friendly fire. Few gliders reached their intended landing zones on the island. Only 73 men (most of one brigade) reached their intended target, the Ponte Grande bridge south of the city of Syracuse.

However, this setback did provide a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding the use of gliders in combat. Knowledge and experience that was put to good use in the next deployment of gliders. On D-Day, almost a year later.

One of the most successful feats of the Army Air Corps and the gliders during the war was the capture of the bridges over the Caen Canal and the Orne River, which took place in the early morning of 6 June 1944, even before the landings in Normandy.

But how could soldier X1067, who served in the Air Corps and who, according to the Graves Concentration Report Form, was killed in action in 1943, be temporarily buried in Mönchengladbach when the Air Corps did not see action on German territory and above German territory until a year later?

## 5. Fleet Air Arm

There is a second option, another unit to which the three men could have belonged. Within the British army, there were other airmen active, not only in the Army Air Corps and the Royal Air Force.

The Fleet Air Arm (FAA), a branch of the British Royal Navy, was established on 1 April 1924. It consisted of Royal Air Force units deployed from aircraft carriers and battleships, whose tasks included providing air support for the navy, reconnaissance and anti-ship operations in the main war zones. Operations were conducted from aircraft carriers and coastal bases with aircraft such as the Swordfish, Albacore and the new American Corsairs/Wildcats.

At the start of the Second World War, the Fleet Air Arm had:

- 20 squadrons
- 232 aircraft

At the end of the Second World War, the Fleet Air Arm had:

- 59 aircraft carriers
- 3,700 aircraft
- 72,000 officers and other personnel
- 56 air bases worldwide



*This rare World War II color photograph, likely taken aboard the British aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable in May 1943, shows three pilots awaiting their orders. Unfortunately, the names of these three men are currently unknown. They are wearing yellow life jackets, also known as "Mae Wests," after the popular actress of the same name. The man on the right, a sub-lieutenant, wears the chain-shaped insignia of the Royal Naval Reserve, with a pilot's wing badge; the man on the left, also a sub-lieutenant, wears the wavy insignia of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (RNVR). The letter "A" indicates that he is a member of the RNVR's air service branch. (Photo: IWM TR 1121)*



*The British aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable. One of the first photographs of this ship, taken from HMS Victorious in August 1942. The new carrier, HMS Indomitable, sister ship to HMS Illustrious and HMS Victorious, has a displacement of 23,000 tons, a length of 753 feet, and a crew of 1,600. HMS Indomitable was built by Vickers-Armstrong (Barrow), and construction began in 1937.*

*(Photo: IWM A 15960 / Priest, Lt.)*

Is there a connection between our three unknown airmen and the Fleet Air Arm? Were there any missions on the Western Front in 1943, the year in which the three are said to have been killed according to the aforementioned Graves Registration Report Form, in which the Fleet Air Arm was involved?

The years 1942 and 1943 were transitional years for the Fleet Air Arm. During those years, steps were taken to transform the small cadre that operated outdated British biplanes, aircraft in transition and newly arrived American aircraft from a limited number of aircraft carriers into a modern naval air force that would operate modern aircraft from a large number of ships.

The Fleet Air Arm's main roles and areas of operation in 1943:

- Atlantic Ocean:
  - Anti-aircraft artillery squadrons from escort aircraft carriers (MACs/CVEs) played a crucial role in anti-submarine warfare by protecting convoys from U-boats, a major concern for Britain.
- Mediterranean:
  - Air cover for landings in Sicily (Operation Husky) and Salerno (Operation Avalanche)
  - Attacks on German and Italian ships in the Mediterranean.

- Pacific:
  - Limited number of operations, but crucial, aimed at supporting US naval operations and preparing for fleet build-up. The HMS Victorious was loaned to the American navy as the USS Robin, while FAA squadrons arrived in the area with newer aircraft such as Corsairs and Hellcats for escort carriers. These aircraft contributed to island-hopping operations and reconnaissance missions. Major FAA actions in the Pacific reached their peak later in 1944-1945 with the British Pacific Fleet.
- British and domestic waters:
  - Squadrons such as 887 NAS operated from British bases (including RNAS Machrihanish and Saint Merryn), training and conducting patrols, including operations near the Orkney Islands, using Seafires and Spitfires.

In 1943, the Fleet Air Arm therefore had minimal direct involvement in the European Western Front.

The FAA's operations and actions in 1943 were mainly focused on securing supply lines and supporting amphibious landings elsewhere.

It was not until 1944 that the FAA's operations focused on the Western Front, mainly supporting the D-Day invasion (Operation Neptune) in Normandy through air cover, spotting targets for the navy and attacking coastal targets. They suffered losses in the process, but played a crucial role in securing the beaches. At the same time, they operated from aircraft carriers in the Pacific (among others, Operation Crimson against Sabang) and continued to support the Battle of the Atlantic.

In addition, the FAA was also preparing for greater deployment with the British Pacific Fleet, forming a powerful strike force by the end of 1944.

But even if our three unknown airmen had been part of the Fleet Air Arm, another question arises.

The aircraft flown by the FAA in 1943 were both British aircraft and aircraft borrowed and/or leased from the Americans:

#### British aircraft in use by the FAA in 1943:

- Fairey Swordfish: British biplane from the 1930s, still an important torpedo bomber and anti-submarine aircraft in 1943.
- Fairey Albacore: same as the Swordfish, but the Albacore was phased out.
- Fairey Barracuda: the new all-metal single-engine torpedo/dive bomber that became operational in January 1943 and replaced the older types.
- Fairey Fulmar: the main reconnaissance/fighter aircraft, with the Mk. II version still in service in 1943.
- Supermarine Seafire: a Spitfire, but adapted to naval requirements. With the Mk. Ib and IIc variants entering service in 1943, providing much-needed carrier-based fighter capability.
- Grumman Martlet: the British designation/name for the American Grumman F4F Wildcat, a fighter aircraft for aircraft carrier operations.
- Blackburn Skua: fighter and dive bomber, still in service in 1943, but numbers declined that year.
- Blackburn Roc: fighter aircraft with a gun turret, similar to the Skua, still in service in 1943, but the number of Rocs also declined in 1943.

#### American aircraft in service with the FAA in 1943:

- Grumman Avenger (TBF/TBM): American torpedo bomber, a significant improvement, was deployed on a large scale.
- Grumman Hellcat (F6F): a powerful new fighter introduced in 1943 and crucial for air superiority.

- Grumman Wildcat (F4F): the main fighter for aircraft carriers, especially escort carriers, and increasingly used against submarines.
- Grumman Kingfisher (OS2U): an observation aircraft/seaplane launched from a catapult.

All of the above aircraft were either single-seaters or two-seaters. If our three airmen had been part of the FAA, that would mean that they could never have been in the same aircraft at the same time.

In that case, it cannot be determined whether all three were flying in their respective single-seaters at the time of their death, or whether at most two of the three were present in the same aircraft at the same time.

The conclusion is that the three men almost certainly could not have been part of the Fleet Air Arm. Because even now, as with the Air Corps option, the question remains: how could three airmen who, according to the Graves Concentration Report Form, were killed in action in 1943, be temporarily buried in Mönchengladbach when the Fleet Air Arm did not see action on the Western Front until a year later?

## 6. The Short Stirling III

The story that our three unknown soldiers were temporarily buried near Mönchengladbach before being reburied at Margraten cannot be linked to the year 1943 in combination with the operations or activities carried out that year by the Army Air Corps and the Fleet Air Arm on the Western Front.

If the men actually died in 1943 and served in a division or regiment that had anything to do with the word "Air", then we end up with the Royal Air Force.

### 6.1 The Battle of the Ruhr

Specifically, we arrive at the Battle of the Ruhr. A major bombing campaign by the Allies with the aim of dealing heavy blows to the Ruhr area, the centre of heavy German industry. That bombing campaign ran from 5 March to 31 July 1943.

Many cities in the Ruhr area were heavily bombed several times during that period by air fleets consisting of hundreds of bombers.

However, as far as we know, the Army Air Corps was not involved, and certainly not the Fleet Air Arm, only the Royal Air Force.

Participation by the Army Air Corps at this stage would not have made sense, as this was a pure bombing mission and no British troops needed to be parachuted into that German area.

### 6.2 Direct attack on Mönchengladbach 1943

We can also make a specific selection of Allied attacks on Mönchengladbach and the surrounding area in 1943.

The only attack on that city in 1943 was the Royal Air Force mission on Mönchengladbach and Rheydt, consisting of a double bombing raid on the night of Monday 30 to Tuesday 31 August 1943. In terms of date, this falls outside the period of the Battle of the Ruhr.

The target of this attack on Mönchengladbach was a factory producing war material.

However, it involved an attack by 33 Wellington bombers, 6 Halifax bombers and support from 6 Mosquito fighter planes. All of them belonged to the Royal Air Force. Again, there was no participation by the Army Air Corps and certainly not by the Fleet Air Arm.

### 6.3 The confusion

Since there were no other missions for the Army Air Corps in 1943 in the Mönchengladbach region or in the Ruhr area in general, it seems that 1943 as the year in which soldier X1067 was killed in action in combination with the AAC may not be correct. This also means that the attribution of 1943 as the year of death for servicemen X1066A and X1066B may not be correct.

Could there have been confusion in 1947 when the remains of the three unknown men were transferred to Overloon with the Royal Air Force crew members of the Short Stirling III with serial number BK 718 and markings WP-M?

The Short Stirling took off from West Wickham airbase, just south of London, at 11.26 p.m. on the night of 3 to 4 July 1943 (yes, 1943, during the Battle of the Ruhr) as part of a large bombing raid on Cologne (589 British aircraft took part).

Over Germany, the aircraft was shot down at 1.30 a.m. by Luftwaffe pilot Hayo Hermann of the Nachtjagd Versuchs Kommando, who had taken off from the airfield in Mönchengladbach. Initially, Flak 88 (German anti-aircraft artillery) was also mentioned as the reason for the Short Stirling's downing, but the victory was subsequently awarded to Hermann.

The Short Stirling crashed near Mehlem am Rhein, on the western bank of the Rhine, 10 kilometres southeast of Bonn in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The crew members, part of 90 Squadron, were:

Flight Lieutenant Robert Platt (pilot)

Pilot Officer Andrew Gilmour (navigator)

Pilot Officer Geoffrey Smith (middle gunner)

Sergeant Robert Freeland (bomb aimer)

Sergeant Oliver Beard (radio operator)

Sergeant Hugh Murray (flight engineer)

Sergeant Ivor Norris (air gunner)

The only survivor was Ivor Norris, who managed to escape with a parachute. He was subsequently taken prisoner of war.

The remains of the other six were temporarily buried in Margraten after the war and transferred to the then new Overloon War Cemetery on 1 May 1947. They are buried there in section III, row A, graves 1 to 6.



Sgt. Hugh Murray (grave 1)



Sgt. Robert Freeland (grave 2)



P/O Geoffrey Smith (grave 3)



Sgt. Oliver Beard (grave 4)



P/O Andrew Gilmour (grave 5)



F/Lt Robert Platt (grave 6)

(Photo's: Collection Overloon War Chronicles Foundation)

However, as shown in the GCRF below, dated 1 May 1947, the remains of Freeland, Beard, Smith and Murray were transferred from their temporary graves in Margraten to the then new Overloon War Cemetery that day.

7	R A F	632757	✓MURRAY	H.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	1	*	888	12	282	*	30 11
8	R A F (VA)	1553565	✓FREELAND	B.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	2	*	888	2	28	*	"
9	R A F	155192	✓SMITH	G.C.	P/O	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	3	*	888	4	91	*	"
10	R A F (VA)	1379617	✓BEARD	D.	Sgt	4.7.43	K/A	III	A	4	*	888	4	92	*	"

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Platt and Gilmour are missing from this list.

According to the GCRF below, also dated 1 May 1947, they were transferred that day from their temporary graves at the Venray War Cemetery, which was opened on 30 December 1946.

**GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM**

8105  
Report No. B/5500/68

The following <sup>has</sup> been concentrated here -  
have

(Name of Cemetery) OVERLOOK BRITISH CEMETERY  
(Full Map Reference) HOLLAND III 24/3A 1/250,000 E.766320

(1) Serial No.	(2) Regt. or Corps	(3) Army No.	(4) Name & Initials	(5) Rank	(6) Date of Death	(7) S/A, D/W or Dead	(8) Plot	(9) Row	(10) Grave	(11) Date of Reburial	Previous location of grave	
											Place & Map Ref.	Report Number *
1	RAF	139414	GILMOUR J.P.	E/O	4-7-43	L/A	III	A	5	1-5-47	VENRAY BRITISH CEM SH 24/3A 1/250,000 E7/327	5500/68
2	RAF	139414	PLATT R.C.	E/O	4-7-43	S/A	III	A	6	*	VII D 12	5500/68
3											VII D 13	5500/68
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												

Date: 1-5-47

(Signed) *[Signature]*  
Sgt. J. J. J.

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

When we search further for the Graves Concentration Report Form relating to Venray, where Gilmour and Platt are listed, we see on the GCRF dated 3 April 1947 that on 25 March 1947, both were transferred from Margraten to the Venray War Cemetery.

**GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM**

VENRAY/Concen/PRE.D/607  
Report No.

The following <sup>has</sup> been concentrated here:—  
*Holland 414<sup>E</sup>-78.*

(Name of Cemetery) **VENRAY, BRITISH CEMETERY, HOLLAND.**  
(Full Map Reference) **888B 4042, 1/250,000, Sht 2A/3A E.773271.**  
**(22 N. E. TINDHOVEN).**

**BM/966/264**

(1) Serial No.	(2) Regt. or Corps	(3) Army No.	(4) Name & Initials	(5) Rank	(6) Date of Death	(7) KIA, D/W or Died	(8) Plat	(9) Row	(10) Grave	(11) Date of Burial	Previous location of grave		Report Number
											Place & Map Ref.		
1	R.C.A.F.	R/129847	MORRIS, W.F.	W.O. II	1.1.44	X/A	VII	D	6	25.3.47	J. S. Gen. Registration Sht 9 1/100,000 655481	2 40	2043
2	R.A.F. (VR)	1390188	FEASGOOD, G.T.	W/O	"	"	VII	D	9	"	EEE 2 40	"	2043
3	"	1533927	WALKER, G.	F/Sjt	"	"	VII	D	11	"	EEE 2 42	"	2043
4	"	1315209	RICHARDS, S.W.	"	"	"	VII	D	10	"	EEE 2 44	"	2043
5	"	1431519	JONES, S.J.L.	Sjt	"	"	VII	D	7	"	EEE 2 46	"	2043
6	"	1796193	CLARKIN, P.F.	"	"	"	VII	D	8	"	EEE 2 48	"	2043
7	R.A.F. (VR)	148823	GILMOUR, A.P.	F/O	7.7.43	"	VII	D	12	"	R 4 93	"	4711
8	" (VR)	139426	PLATT, R.C.	F/O	27.7.43	"	VII	D	13	"	F 7 160	"	4739
9													
10													
11													
12													

Date: **3 Apr. 47.** *ASW 29.4.47*

(Signed) *Colonel W*  
Rank & Appointment: **COL. D.D.O.R.E.**

\*When a grave has not already been registered, a Registration Report on A.F.W. 3272 will be prepared, and attached to this FORM.

PRE 19119 15-06-2001

(Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

This means that Gilmour and Platt were only buried at the Venray War Cemetery for a very short time. Because on 1 May 1947, after 37 days, their remains were exhumed and transferred to the Overloon War Cemetery to be reburied in the same row as the other four crew members of the Short Stirling.

But even if the aforementioned confusion did indeed occur, the fact remains that the six crew members of the Short Stirling each have their own registered grave at the Overloon War Cemetery. So if they are not the ones in the three Known unto God graves, who is in those three graves?

## Short Stirling III (photo section)



*An earlier photo of the Short Stirling III BK718 WP-M with its crew. The aircraft was shot down during their mission over Germany on 4 July 4 1944.  
(Photo: ww2history.eu)*



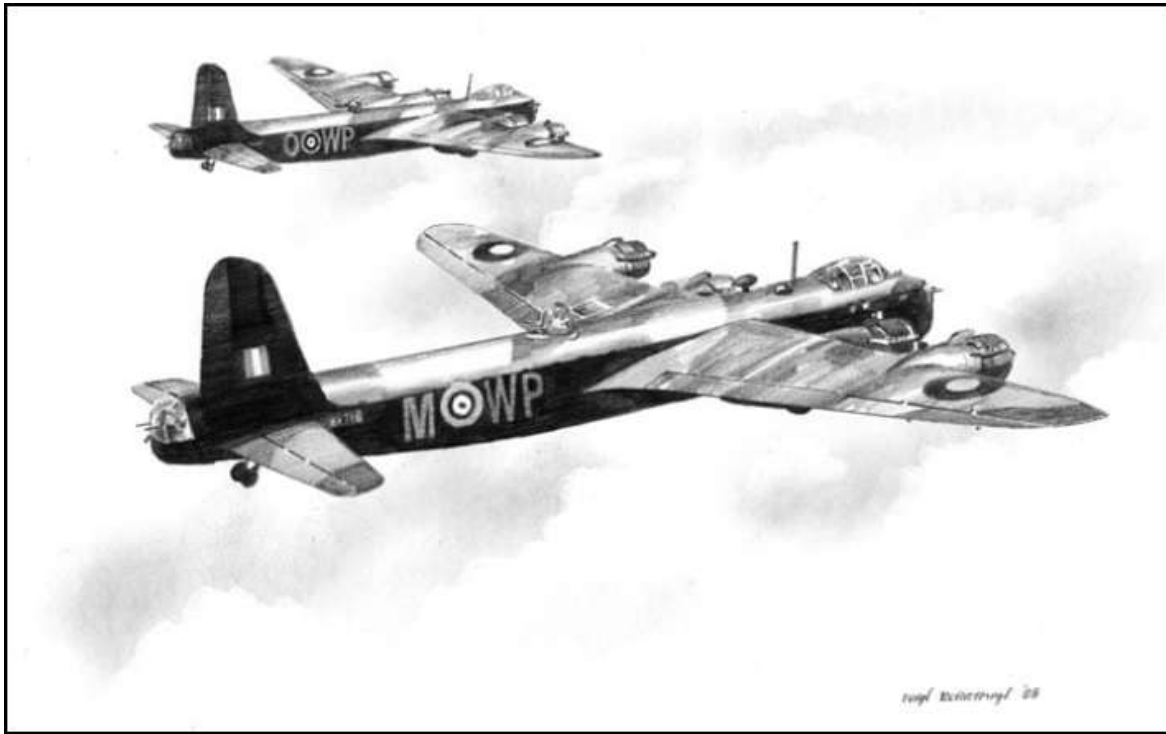
***Preparing To Go - Crew of a Short Stirling by Ivan Berryman. (AP)***

*The crew of MkIII Short Stirling WP-M of No.90 Squadron RAF prepare for a flight test on the morning of 3rd July 1943.*

*Aircraft BK718, with designation WP-M, of No.90 Squadron RAF was lost over Germany in the early hours of 4th July 1943. Six of the seven crew were lost in the crash, the rear gunner surviving to be taken prisoner. Stirling WP-O was also lost on the same mission, with the loss of all seven crew.*

*The crew of Stirling WP-M, BK718: Sgt Hugh Murray, Flight Engineer - Sgt Robert Freeland, Air Bomber - P/O Geoffrey Smith, Air Gunner - Sgt Oliver Beard, Wireless Operator - P/O Andrew Gilmour, Navigator - F/Lt Robert Platt, Pilot - Sgt I. H. Norris, Air Gunner.*

*(Drawing and copyright: Ivan Berryman/Ivanberryman.com/Cranston Fine Arts)*



***Stirlings of No.90 Squadron by Ivan Berryman. (P)***

*The Short Stirlings WP-M and WP-O, aircraft numbers BK718 and EH907, fly together en route to Cologne in the late evening of 3rd July 1943.*

*Aircraft BK718, with designation WP-M, of No.90 Squadron RAF was lost over Germany in the early hours of 4th July 1943. Six of the seven crew were lost in the crash, the rear gunner surviving to be taken prisoner. Stirling WP-O was also lost on the same mission, with the loss of all seven crew.*

*The crew of Stirling WP-M, BK718: Sgt Hugh Murray, Flight Engineer - Sgt Robert Freeland, Air Bomber - P/O Geoffrey Smith, Air Gunner - Sgt Oliver Beard, Wireless Operator - P/O Andrew Gilmour, Navigator - F/Lt Robert Platt, Pilot - Sgt I. H. Norris, Air Gunner.*

*(Drawing and copyright: Ivan Berryman/Ivanberryman.com/Cranston Fine Arts)*

## 7. The American documents

Unfortunately, we're not getting anywhere with the aforementioned Graves Report Forms or with the question of which unit the three airmen belonged to.

We decide to cross the ocean, to the American archives. Is there more information available there?

The Americans also kept burial reports. When we request the burial reports of the unknown servicemen X1067, X1066A, and X1066B in the USA, we receive the following document and see the following lines in this Roster of Burials U.S. Military Cemeteries Overseas / Margraten:

X	✓	1065	Id. as: Read, Thomas O-799070	
X	✓	1066A	Released to British Empire	
X	✓	1069	"	" "
X	✓	1072	Id. as: Finn, Russell G. T-05398	

(Source: Roster of burials U.S. Military Cemeteries Overseas / Margraten)

Of the three soldiers, only soldier X 1066A is mentioned in this overview. And even then, it only states that he was *Released to the British Empire*.

A huge disappointment; we expected more, or at least hoped for more. But so far, nothing more can be found in the USA.

## 8. The National Archives

In December 2025, one of our British researchers informs us that the British National Archives have temporarily made various service records available for researchers, family members, and so on.

The National Archives (TNA) is the official archive and publisher/publicist of the British government and for England and Wales. Their archives contain millions of historical documents and files from the British government, some of which are over 1,000 years old. They also hold individual service records relating to the First and Second World Wars. Reason enough for us to immediately check our three X-numbers.

Of the three X-numbers, only X1067 is mentioned in the Archives, and to our surprise, a name has been assigned to it: Basil Lancelot Baugh.

But who is Basil Lancelot Baugh? And will his name and rank also lead us to the men behind X1066A and X1066B?

According to the TNA record, Baugh is born on 14 February 1920 in Plymouth and serves in the war with the rank of Acting Sergeant Major in the Royal Navy.

On 11 June 1944, he is captured and interned in Dulag Luft IXC under PoW number (Prisoner of War number) 53312.

No further details are provided in that document.

When we continue our research on Baugh, we find more information about him on the [Commandoveterans.org](http://Commandoveterans.org) website.

According to that site, Baugh enlists on 25 March 1934. That would mean he enlists when he is just 14 years old.

That seems very young and almost impossible, but in that era (late 19th century and early 20th century), it was possible to enlist in the Royal Navy at the age of 13 as a Naval Cadet, from the age of 14 as a Boy 3rd Class and from the age of 15 in the ranks of Boy 1st Class, Boy 2nd Class and Boy Service.

Baugh becomes a Corporal and is temporarily appointed Acting Temporary Troop Sergeant Major in the 45th Royal Marine Commando, part of the 1st Service Brigade within the Royal Marines.

45RM Commando is an important unit in the 1st Special Service Brigade during the Second World War. It lands on Sword Beach in Normandy on D-Day and fights fierce battles in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

As part of the 1st Special Service Brigade, Baugh is wounded on 12 June 1944 during operations on the Orne River in Normandy and is taken prisoner by the Germans that same day. After a three-month recovery period in a German hospital in Obermassfeld-Grimmenthal (Thuringia), Baugh is transferred to prisoner-of-war camp Stalag IX-C (9C) in Bad Sulza, followed by Stalag Luft 7 in Bankau (now Bąków in south-western Poland) and finally Stalag 111-A (3A) in Luckenwalde (in Brandenburg, just south of Berlin).

That is all the information about him that can be found on this site and on the entire internet.

Could Baugh be the man whose remains are in grave 4, section IV, row A? And is he the missing link in our search for the other two X numbers?

I have my doubts, seeing that the year 1944 mentioned in the files does not correspond with the year 1943 mentioned in the Graves Report Forms. And the Royal Navy is also different from airmen mentioned in the forms and engraved on the gravestones.

Even more doubt arises when the service number of Baugh within the Royal Navy appears in the file: PLY/X1067.

That is indeed the X number, but how can that specific X number have been assigned to Baugh as early as 1934 when he is buried many years later as unknown under that same X number?

Further research into the composition of that service number PLY/X1067 gives the following result:

PLY: refers to the Plymouth division, one of the main administrative divisions of the Royal Marines (the others are Chatham (CH) and Portsmouth (PO)). This was the administrative base, not necessarily the physical location of the person in question.

X: indicates that the person enlisted or re-enlisted under the post-1925 pay code.

1067: the unique personal identification number within that specific division register and salary code series. This four-digit format suggests that the person was not a Second World War "Hostilities Only" (HO) recruit (who had six-digit numbers in the 100000 series, for example PLY/X 117156).

The actual explanation for "Hostilities Only rating" is that a man voluntarily enlisted in the Royal Navy, not for regular, fixed service, but for the duration of the conflict then in force, i.e. the Second World War. Men who were called up for the Navy, like all other conscripts in the Second World War, remained in service until they were discharged in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. The term "Hostilities Only" was never used in their case.

Unfortunately, now that we know all this, we have to conclude that we are also on the wrong track with Basil Lancelot Baugh with regard to our three X numbers.

Or are we on the right track indeed?

Because there is something mysterious about this Basil Lancelot Baugh.

On the aforementioned website [Commandoveterans.org](http://Commandoveterans.org), under the Commando Roll of Honour, there is also a section called Obituaries, which is an overview of the dates of death of the military personnel mentioned on the site.

However, the name Baugh is missing under the letter B. Nor is it listed under the letter L for Lancelot, as a possible second option.

This could mean two things:

- Baugh is still alive at the time of writing. If so, he would now be 106 years old. That is possible, but seems unlikely to me.
- Baugh died during or after the war, but his date of death is unknown. If this were the case, his name should indeed be included in the overview, followed by the date of death NK = Not Known, as this site lists the letters NK for many other soldiers when the date of death is unknown.
- The final option is that Baugh is not mentioned in the list of deaths because his fate is unknown. If this is the case, it is indeed possible that he may have been buried somewhere unknown.

Through our British correspondent, I specifically search for the possible date of death of this Basil Lancelot Baugh. Our final result is a newspaper article in the Portsmouth Evening News of 7 August 1950, mentioning his death in an accident on 4 August 1950.

**DEATHS**

**BAUGH**--Basil Lancelot, third son of Bessie and Archie Baugh (deceased), by accident, on August 4th, 1950. 3A

**BLAKE**--In loving memory of my

In the edition of the Portsmouth Evening News of 9 August, two days after the first report, Baugh is mentioned again, now also naming family members and his fiancée.

leeping. Cremation Thursday 10 a.m. 3C

**BAUGH** — Basil Lancelot. Who passed August 4th, by accident.— From Phyllis, Archie, Cecil and Gran, sisters - in - law Ninon and Marjorie, and brother-in-law George. 3C

**BAUGH**--Basil Lancelot. In loving memory.--From his devoted fiancée Joyce. 3C

**BINSTEAD**--Samuel. Dearly be-

Further genealogical research on this Baugh subsequently confirms these surnames. This now proves that Baugh cannot possibly be one of the three unknown airmen in Overloon.

## **9. The mystery**

Once again, we're stuck in the investigation. We've explored all the options we've had so far, or those that came our way during this investigation. To no avail.

The question of who the three unknown airmen buried at the Overloon War Cemetery are is unfortunately unsolvable at this time, spring 2026.

Naturally, the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation, and the undersigned in particular, will be following this case with great interest. And as soon as a new potential lead emerges or a development occurs in this case, it will, of course, be investigated immediately.

## 10. Tribute

Three times a year, the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation, veterans, adopters, and local residents commemorate the 281 soldiers buried at the Overloon War Cemetery.

4 and 5 May: Dodenherdenking en Nationale Bevrijdingsdag (Remembrance Day and National Liberation Day)

14 October: Overloon Bevrijd (Overloon Liberated)

24 December: Lichtjes op Oorlogsgraven (Lights on War Graves)

During these commemorations, Overloon War Chronicles always places the currently known individual personal photos of the soldiers at the respective grave, and the adopters lay flowers. This also applies to the graves of soldiers for whom no photo has yet been found.

On Christmas Eve, a candle is also lit at each grave by the veterans and adopters. The light, a symbol of overcoming darkness, a symbol of hope, a symbol of peace and security in uncertain times.

Three candles will also be placed at the three graves of the three unknown airmen. We hope that at the next commemoration, their names will be known and we can also add any personal photos that may have been found by then.



*Christmas Eve: the impressive annual tribute Lights on War Graves, with candles lit on all 281 graves at the Overloon War Cemetery, and all known portrait photos of the 281 soldiers placed in front of the respective graves.*

*(Photo: Geert Arts / Overloon War Chronicles Foundation)*

## 11. Sources and credits

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Original series of Faces from the past created by author Arno van Dijk.

All episodes in this series Faces from the past have been written and composed by the author without the aid of any kind of artificial intelligence.

The Overloon War Chronicles Foundation aims, among other things, to retrieve the photos and stories of as many graves as possible in the CWGC cemetery, to pay tribute to the fallen there and thus keep this history alive. More information about the project and the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation at:

Internet: [overloonwarchronicles.nl](http://overloonwarchronicles.nl)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OverloonWarChronicles>

Email: [overloonwarchronicles@gmail.com](mailto:overloonwarchronicles@gmail.com)

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**In the series *Faces from the past* by author Arno van Dijk for the Overloon War Chronicles Foundation his following files have been published so far:**

1. Wil van der Burgt *Dutchman among the British*
2. Gordon Wright – Robert Silman *Caught in the Jackal*
3. Hubert Orr – David Silvertop – Maurice Lock *The fatal fork junction*

Plus extra file:

*The investigation* – Silvertop en Orr: the hand grenade and the cover up-theory  
*The truth behind the Sint Anthonis drama, 25 September 1944*

4. Andrew Swinley *Young father at the front*
5. Godfrey Evans *The coincidence factor*
6. Norman Jepps *Battle for the castle*
7. Ronald Crouch *Always a little further*
8. George Chisholme – Roy Abbott – Lionel Abbott *Crash among the pines*
9. Frank Edgeley *Operation Nutcracker and the mine*
10. Bertie Anger *Avenue of Remembrance*
11. John Taylor *The Battle of Caen and the deadly Loobeek*
12. Arthur Ellis *The officier and the gentleman*
13. George Glover *A cold Wednesday afternoon, 3.03 pm*
14. Known unto God *The mystery of the three airmen*

More files in preparation

