

WEST LAVINGTON (ST.MARY MAGDALENE) CHURCHYARD - CEM10202

Flying Officer Ronald Buckman



Ronald Arthur Buckman, 129951, Flying Officer, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, attached 304 Ferry Training Unit, Transport Command, based at RAF Port Ellen, Argyll. He was killed during a training flight when the Beaufighter TFX aircraft, LZ156, he was flying flew into high ground four miles south east of Campbeltown, Argyll in bad weather. All crew were killed.

Flying Officer Buckman was the son of Mr and Mrs W Buckman of West Lavington. He went to Midhurst Grammar School and was on the staff of Stephen Fraser (London) Ltd at Selham before joining the RAF.

He was a member of Midhurst Tennis Club and a bell ringer at Midhurst Parish Church. His funeral took place on Saturday 4th September 1943 at West Lavington Church. FO Buckman is commemorated on the memorial to the old boys of Midhurst Grammar School. His grave is registered with the CWGC as a private memorial.

Sergeant Frederick Luxford

Frederick Jesse Luxford, 1893984, Sergeant Air Gunner, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, attached 29 Operational Training Unit, Bomber Command, based at RAF Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire. He was killed on a training flight on 17th May 1944 aged 19. He was on-board a Wellington X, MF314, which took off at 11.25hrs for a navigational exercise. At 12.15hrs the aircraft dived into the ground out of the cloud base near Mendham, 6 miles south west of Bungay, Suffolk. All eight crew were killed.

Sgt Luxford was the son of William and Caroline Luxford of Cocking Causeway and was a former pupil of West Lavington school and had joined the local Air Training Cadets reaching the rank of Flight Sergeant. He joined the RAF in September 1943 and before that he was employed in the forestry department of the Cowdray Estate. His funeral took place on Wednesday 24th May 1944 at West Lavington Church.

