

RAF CYCLISTS SET OFF ON CROSS-LAYING RIDE

Following the ANZAC ceremony at Stonefall in April, a volunteer stepped forward to take part in our cross-laying project throughout the United Kingdom. That volunteer was Squadron Leader Mark Smith, Base Commander for RAF Menwith Hill near Harrogate. Faced with the possibility of laying 46 ANZAC crosses in North, South, West Yorkshire and North Humberside, Mark has recently set off on his mission.

Starting in North Yorkshire on Sunday 12 July, Mark, who is part of the RAF cyclists, was joined by three friends and fellow cyclists when they visited Newton-on-Ouse churchyard in North Yorkshire to lay crosses for three WW2 aviators.



SERGEANT IAN SCOULAR

Ian Scoular was born in New Zealand's South Island town of Dunedin on 12 June 1915 and completed his secondary education at the John McGlasham College. Ian left school in 1931 when he was 16 years old and began working on the family's sheep farm in Omakau. Ian enlisted for the Air Force on 17 December 1939 and by 5 May 1940 had been awarded his Observer's badge. He embarked for England later that month and by the 10th July was in England where he completed his training on Wellington bombers. Assigned later to 102 Squadron at Linton-on Ouse, it was only a matter of weeks before Ian lost his life.

During an operation on the 24th October 1940, the Whitley aircraft on which he was a crew member crashed shortly after take-off when it was attacked during the Battle of Britain. Sergeant 398170 Ian Scoular's mother was informed of her son's death. It was less than a year's since she'd seen him



SERGEANT JOHN ERNST TURNER

Sergeant 406018 John Ernst Turner was a member of the Royal Australian Air Force. He died on 4 October 1941 during an operational mission. Born on 2 February 1905, John was classed as an 'old man' when he died aged 36. Brought up in Swanbourne, Western Australia and having already been involved with civilian flying, John was assigned to 58 Squadron on 13 August 1941. Within the average life expectancy of six weeks, once assigned to a Squadron, John died on 4 October. He was described as *"a fine Air Observer who died of injuries received in a crash when returning from operations."*



SERGEANT CLEMENT JOHN STUART



Born in Toowoomba, Queensland Australia on 26 April 1921, Clement's parents were Howard and Marjorie. Clement attended the Toowoomba Grammar School and completed his education in September 1937. Whilst at school, he was a junior swimming champion, Vice-Captain of the rugby team and a member of the 1st XI cricket team. On leaving school Clement took up a position as a Clerk with the city council but continued with his love of rugby and played as a Full Back for Queensland.

Clement enrolled with the RAAF on the last day of December 1940 and following pilot training embarked for Canada from Sydney on 13 November 1941. He eventually arrived at the RAAF Reception Centre in Bournemouth, England on 13 May 1942 and was later assigned to Number 15 Advanced Pilot training School.



Mark and fellow cyclist John (Australian) by Clement's grave

Some eight weeks later on 4 August, Clement was flying an Airspeed Oxford Mk 1 aircraft V4215 that crashed at Linton on Ouse in Yorkshire. He had only in April, whilst in Canada, celebrated his 21st birthday.

Clement's funeral took place at Newton-upon-Ouse (All Saints) Churchyard in North Yorkshire at 2.30pm on 8 August 1942. His coffin was adorned with flowers and carried into the cemetery by fellow aviators.



SERGEANT STUART IS CARRIED INTO THE CEMETERY



CLEMENT IS BURIED WITH MILITARY HONOURS

Photographs of funeral – Auckland War Museum



NORTH YORKSHIRE CONTINUED

Enjoying the great weather and joined by some of his cycling friends, Mark set off once again to lay crosses. This time their destinations were at Ripon, Catterick, Leeming, Topcliffe and Dishforth cemeteries. On Sunday 19 July crosses were laid for four Australian aviators and four New Zealand Aviators. Whilst laying the crosses, the guys came across two New Zealanders and one Australian who had opted to join the RAF. Not wanting to leave them out... Mark also laid crosses for these men from the far side of the globe.

DISHFORTH CEMETERY, NORTH YORKSHIRE



LEST WE FORGET