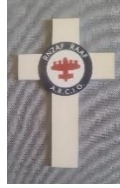


CROSSES LAID IN LEUCHARS CEMETERY, FIFE THANKS TO MATHILDA AND ARIELLE



We have now managed to reach Scotland in our project to lay ANZAC crosses! Thanks to the efforts of Mathilda Gatsby and Arielle Friedlander, 10 crosses have now been placed on the graves of nine Australian and 1 New Zealand WW2 aviators who lost their lives whilst stationed in Scotland.

Both Arielle and Mathilda have recently graduated from St. Andrew's University in Scotland. Arielle is a New Zealander by birth, whose family still live in New Zealand. Mathilda is a Permanent Resident of New Zealand. Although the friends have had the crosses with them for a few months, it wasn't until quite recently when they concluded their final essays for submission to the University that they were able to visit Leuchars cemetery in Fife to honour these aviators.

AUSTRALIANS

- Flight Sergeant J422734 John Charles Lindsay SMALL - Died 20.07.1944 – Aged 21



JOHN SMALL

- Sergeant 407899 Jack Lundie JONES– Died 11.05.1942 – Aged 29
- Flight Sergeant 420713 Edward Patrick SMITH – Died 20.07.1944 – Aged 26
- Flying Officer 416285 Charles Guy RILEY – Died 01.08.1942 – Aged 20
- Sergeant 403388 Robert Douglas WELLS – Died 16.07.1942 – Aged 25
- Flight Sergeant 412459 James Henry WILLIAMS– Died 14.09.1944 – Aged 24



JAMES WILLIAMS

- Flying Officer 400204 Harry Horwood LAWSON – Died 29.11.1941 – Aged 26
- Sergeant 407681 Douglas Thorne MARTIN – Died 11.01.1943 – Aged 23



DOUGLAS MARTIN

- Flying Officer 415373 Allister Francis SHAPCOTT – Died 08.08.1943 – Aged 29
- Sergeant 411656 Reginald Allan SMITHERS – Died 18.01.1943 – Aged 25



REGINALD SMITHERS

Reginald was born in Waratah, New South Wales on 26th February 1917 to parents William and Caroline of Wallsend. In May 1941 when he was 24 years old Reginald enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. Following his training, he was assigned to 455 Squadron based at RAF Leuchars in Fife. Reginald was a crew member on Hampden AD792 that carried out a strike on enemy naval forces in Norway. On return to Scotland, the flight ran into difficulty and crashed in Scotland on 18th January 1943.



MATHILDA LAYS AN ANZAC CROSS FOR REGINALD

NEW ZEALANDER

- Warrant Officer 414871 George John FORBES – Died 14.09.1944 – Aged 30



GEORGE FORBES

George was born on 24 June 1914 in the South Island of New Zealand. He was a keen sportsman who enjoyed football, swimming and boxing. When he left school, he worked as a car mechanic. He enlisted with the Air Force on 3 July 1940 and commenced training in New Zealand before being posted to Saskatchewan in Canada to complete his training as a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner. George carried out a number of training flights on Hudson aircraft before being posted to the Outer Hebrides. George took part in 42 Operational flights. On 14 September 1944, George was a crew member on a Liberator plane when he crashed into a hill near Balmull Hill in Fife. His mother who lived in Oamaru was informed of her son's death.



ARIELLE LAYS A CROSS FOR GEORGE