

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O



PROUDLY HONOUR AVIATORS FROM WELLINGTON

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND WORLD WAR II AVIATORS



Pilot Officer Navigator 428826 CHARLES AGNEW

Flight Sergeant Navigator 421934 FRANCIS EDWARD HOTHERSALL

Pilot Officer Pilot 428130 ALFRED CHURCHILL LOCKYER

Flying Officer Pilot 402544 TERENCE MCKINLEY DFC

Flight Sergeant Bomb Aimer 4213651 JOHN MATTHEW STACK



**CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND**

Remembered and honoured each year by
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.
www.anzacremembrancecio.org

THE FIVE WELLINGTON BOYS

As both a British and New Zealand citizen, and upon my return to the United Kingdom in 2018, I became actively involved with Harrogate International Partnerships as the representative for the relationship between Wellington and Harrogate. This relationship began in 1953 when the New Zealand Garden within Harrogate's Valley Gardens, was established to honour 23 Royal New Zealand aviators who had lost their lives in and around Yorkshire during World War II. Sometimes following a disastrous crash upon return from operational missions or more often than not during training exercises, young aviators died. They were interred in Harrogate's Stonefall Cemetery where their graves are cared for in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Whilst visiting the cemetery, I came across five brave young men from Wellington. As the mother of an adult son who continues to lead a full life, my heart went out to those mothers who hugged their sons, waved them farewell, told them how brave they were and yet, deep down, knew they may never see them again. I found this prospect unbelievably hard to imagine and how utterly unbearable the suffering of those mothers would have been and the total emptiness they would have felt for their entire lives at the loss of their sons.

To that end, I decided to find out a little more about these five young Wellington aviators. Even though their stories which I have recorded may be short, their commitment to duty was unquestionable, their sacrifice for fellow countrymen was selfless and their bravery was limitless. Their names carved on marble have now been brought to life with their individual deeds recorded.

Now, with the foundation in 2024 of ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O. as a registered UK Charity, we are here to ensure that an ANZAC ceremony each year will honour not only Charles Agnew, Francis Hothersall, Alfred Lockyer, Terence McKinley and John Stack, but the other 18 New Zealanders and 97 Australians in Stonefall Cemetery. These five young men from Wellington have created a perpetual link between the cities of Harrogate and Wellington. This link is maintained by Harrogate International Partnerships and now furthered by the establishment of ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



**KATE SPENCER
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.**

IN MEMORY OF

Pilot Officer - Navigator

CHARLES AGNEW

Service Number 428826



CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



Charles is remembered and honoured each year by

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



CHARLES AGNEW

BORN: 1st January 1919

DIED: 22nd November 1944

**Son of Robert and Margaret Agnew
Husband of Cecelia Joyce Agnew (nee Marchant)**



With his parents and 15 siblings, Charles Agnew left Lochore in Scotland on the 19th October 1929 aboard the Vedic and sailed for Perth, Australia. Having finished his schooling in Perth, Charles joined his brother in Wellington New Zealand in 1937 and worked as a Painter and Signwriter. Charles married his fiancé Cecelia Marchant on the 17th December 1940 and their daughter Margaret Ann Agnew was born on the 28th November 1941.

Charles applied for the Air Force on the 23rd November 1940 and, following his enlistment in July 1942, undertook his elementary flying training in New Plymouth. That pilot training was terminated and he was sent to Rotorua for training as an Air Observer/Navigator. On the 1st April 1943, together with other aviators, Charles embarked for Canada, aboard the USS Monticello to complete his training with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan at Winnipeg, Manitoba.



USS MONTICELLO

On the 26th November 1943, Charles was awarded his Navigator's badge and promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant. Upon arrival in the UK he underwent further training in 1944 as a Navigator first in North Wales and later in Nottinghamshire. On the 22nd August, Charles joined 630 Squadron, equipped with Lancaster Mark III heavy bombers, and was based at East Kirkby in Lincolnshire.



630 Squadron

Charles received his promotion to the rank of Pilot Officer on the 10th October 1944. During his operational flying, Navigator Charles Agnew undertook 19 strategic bombing missions into Germany with RAF Bomber Command.

In the afternoon of 22nd November, Charles was the navigator of Lancaster LL949 on a mission to bomb German U Boat pens in Trondheim, Norway. Returning to the coast of England, the Lancaster crashed onto a sandbank near Sunk Island at the mouth of the Humber Estuary in East Yorkshire. The crew were reported as missing until a local farmer walking his dog, came across the crashed Lancaster a couple of days later. Having been part of an operational mission the previous evening, it was reported that pilot fatigue, as well as low fuel, played a part in the crash.



Lancaster MK.III

Charles Agnew was the only one of 11 sons of Robert and Margaret Agnew who was killed in action during World War II. Charles left behind his wife Cecelia and their young daughter Margaret. Pilot Officer Navigator Charles Agnew was 25 years old.



Cecilia, Margaret & Charles Agnew
(Photo courtesy of the Agnew descendants)

REMEMBERED AND HONoured BY ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



R.N.Z.A.F. PILOT OFFICER

CHARLES AGNEW

R.A.F. 630 Squadron

STONEFALL COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

Harrogate
North Yorkshire
England
Section G: Row D: Grave 19



REMEMBERED AND HONOURED
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



IN MEMORY OF

Flight Sergeant - Navigator

FRANCIS EDWARD HOTHERSALL

Service Number 421934



CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



Francis is remembered and honoured each year by

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



FRANCIS EDWARD HOTHERSALL

BORN: 18th October 1913

DIED: 21ST December 1943

Son of Herbert Edward and Maud Ethel Hothersall



Modern Day Wellington

Francis Hothersall was born in Wellington. His parents Herbert and Maud were of English descent and had emigrated from Broughton in Lancashire. The couple married at All Saints Church in Kilbirnie, on the 3rd January 1912.

Francis attended primary school at St. Mark's Church School in Mount Victoria and achieved his school certificate. His secondary education was spent at Wellington College where he excelled with his studies. When he was 13, Frank travelled to England with his mother to visit family. Then, in December 1928, aged just 15 years old, Frank (as he was known) was awarded a history scholarship. Frank then went on to read Geography at Victoria University and graduated in 1934 with a First. Frank's career started as a Clerk at the Public Works Department in Wellington and in his spare time he enjoyed a game of cricket. In May of 1935 when Frank was 21 years old his father Herbert suddenly died.

Frank enlisted at the Royal New Zealand Air Force Initial Training Wing in Rotorua on the 21st March 1942 and some eight weeks later on the 29th May, he embarked for Canada aboard the SS Matsonia.



USS MATSONIA

Frank Hothersall arrived at the Air Observer's School in Regina, Saskatchewan on the 21st June 1942 where he continued his training as a Navigator. By the 9th October he had been awarded his Navigator's Badge and duly promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Leaving Halifax in Nova Scotia for England, Frank set sail some time during the end of October and arrived in Bournemouth on the 5th of November 1942. On the 22nd December he was posted to Cumberland to continue his training and between April and July of 1943 he was transferred between Operational Training Units in Berkshire and Yorkshire. By the end of September, Frank was with 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit to train on Halifax bombers and joined 78 Squadron in Brighton, Yorkshire on the 25th November.



On the night of the 20th December 1943, Frank Hothersall was the Navigator aboard Halifax MkII LW330 that took off from RAF Brighton for an operational mission over Frankfurt, Germany. This was his first operational mission. Frank's aircraft was one of 650 planes that set off that night on the bombing mission and one of the 41 aircraft that didn't return home.



Having safely completed their mission and avoided the exploding enemy flak with no damage to the Halifax, they were coming in to land at RAF Brighton. On their final approach around 300 metres above ground, the Halifax stalled and crashed into the ground. All crew were lost. Frank died near the hamlet of Howden, 7 kilometres from his base and only 120 kilometres from Preston where his father Herbert was born. Francis Edward Hothersall was 30 years old.

REMEMBERED AND HONoured BY ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



R.N.Z.A.F. FLIGHT SERGEANT

FRANCIS EDWARD HOTHERSALL

R.A.F. 78 Squadron

STONEFALL COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

Harrogate
North Yorkshire
England
Section C: Row H: Grave 5



REMEMBERED AND HONOURED
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



IN MEMORY OF

Pilot Officer – Pilot

**ALFRED CHURCHILL
LOCKYER**

Service Number 428130



CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



Alfred is remembered and honoured each year by
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



ALFRED CHURCHILL LOCKYER

BORN: 2nd October 1921

DIED: 17th March 1945

Son of John Adams Lockyer and Gertrude Lockyer



Alfred Charles Lockyer was born in Belfast, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. On the 9th November 1928 when he was just seven years old, Alfred and his parents sailed on the SS Tamaroa, bound for New Zealand and a new life in Wellington.



S.S.Tamaroa

Alfred's father John began work as an Electrician and Alfred attended, in his teenage years, Rongotai Boys College. Completing his education, Alfred started work as a Shipping & Customs Clerk at W.D. & H.O. Wills in Lower Hutt, but he also joined the New Zealand Territorial Forces, spending time with both the Scottish and Wellington Regiments. On the 11th July 1942, Alfred was enlisted into the Royal New Zealand Air Force and later commenced his training as a pilot on the 26th November 1942. Alfred was awarded his Pilot's Badge on the 7th June 1943 and on the 31st July he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. On the 21st August, Alfred embarked for the UK aboard the USS Monticello bound for Canada to complete his training under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Having finished that training, Alfred embarked for England in April 1943.

Alfred arrived in the UK on the 16th October 1943 and spent time in Brighton before being posted to Sealand in Cheshire on the 1st January 1944 for a refresher course. He was then posted to Castle Comb and Watchfield for further flying training courses. Unfortunately, Alfred was involved in a forced landing during a training exercise on the 30th May 1944 but escaped with cuts and bruises, having thrown himself clear of the aircraft. He also survived a crash landing on the 30th July when he experienced engine failure.

On the 4th June Alfred joined an Operational Training Unit and in December his training with Bomber Command was complete. He joined 1654 Heavy Conversion Unit at Wigsley and was trained on Lancaster Bombers. Alfred was then assigned to 550 Squadron in North Killingholme, Lincolnshire on the 23rd February 1945. “Through Fire We Conquer” was their motto.



As the pilot of a Lancaster, Alfred undertook his first operational mission with 550 Squadron on the 14th March 1945. Three days later on the 17th March, Alfred Lockyer, together with a full crew, was selected to complete a training exercise over the North Sea. Ten minutes into the flight, the mission was cancelled and they were ordered to proceed to a bombing range at Alkborough to drop practice bombs. During that mission, the crew were advised to return to base due to an air raid warning in nearby Hull. Ordered to douse all lights en route to North Killingholme, a Luftwaffe twin-engine aircraft appeared behind the Lancaster and opened fire, attacking three times as Alfred attempted evasive action.



On the third attack, the Lancaster became engulfed in flames and Alfred ordered his crew to bail out. Only the flight engineer cleared the plane before the aircraft went into a dive and crashed into a field in Rimswell, near the coastal town of Withernsea, North Yorkshire.

Pilot Officer Alfred Churchill Lockyer was 23 years old when he died and was piloting the last Lancaster bomber to be shot down by the Luftwaffe. Just one month after this loss, 550 Squadron flew their final mission.

REMEMBERED AND HONoured BY ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



R.N.Z.A.F. PILOT OFFICER

ALFRED CHURCHILL LOCKYER

D.F.C.

R.A.F. 550 Squadron.

STONEFALL COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

**Harrogate
North Yorkshire
England
Section H: Row J: Grave 9**



REMEMBERED AND HONOURED

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



IN MEMORY OF

Flying Officer - Pilot

TERENCE MCKINLEY D.F.C.

Service Number 402544



CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



Terence is remembered and honoured each year by

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



TERENCE MCKINLEY D.F.C.

BORN: 23rd April 1922

DIED: 14th November 1943

Son of Denis Alphonsus McKinley and Mildred Agnes McKinley



Terence McKinley was born in Nelson in the South Island of New Zealand. His father Denis was a policeman and he had three sisters – Mildred, Joan and Joyce. When the family moved to Wellington, Terence attended Wellington College, excelling in both his studies as well as rugby where he captained the First XV. When Terence finished his full time schooling he continued his studies through night classes and then secured a job with Wellington City Council in their Housing Construction Department.

On the 28th November 1939, just two months after the outbreak of war, Terence applied for enlistment with the Air Force and was subsequently accepted for Pilot training. Having just turned 18 years old, Terence enlisted on the 23rd July 1940 at the nearby Rongotai Air Force base in Wellington before eventually arriving at Harewood on the 25th May for his Elementary Flying Training.

With his flying training complete, Terence embarked for Canada on the 6th December 1940 aboard the Dominion Monarch and was sent to the training school in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where, on the 7th November 1941, he received his Flying Badge and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Within days he was on his way to England, arriving at the Reception Centre in Brighton on the 7th December. Continuing his training the “R.A.F. way”, Terence moved around the south of England. Piloting Whitley aircraft, Terence took part in submarine sweeps from his base in Cornwall before being transferred to 102 Squadron at Pocklington in Yorkshire where he undertook 31 operational missions into enemy territory.

Originally formed in 1917, 102 Squadron's motto was "Attempt & Achieve". It was with 102 Squadron that Terence completed a tour of duty piloting Halifax bombers on operational missions over Germany, Italy and France. Those missions included sorties to Cologne, Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Berlin and Genoa. Whilst temporarily with 1652 Operational Training Unit in Marston Nivor, Terence was involved in the air/sea rescue of a crew that had ditched in the North Sea.



102 Squadron

In August 1943 when only 21 years old, Terence was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by King George VI. Cited in the London Gazette on the 13th of the month, Terence's bravery and skill as a pilot was recorded. "He was an outstanding captain and his fine fighting spirit, courage and leadership have gained him the entire confidence of his crew".



Halifax Bomber

On 14th November 1943, Terence McKinley and four crew members were air testing a Halifax MKII bomber. They took off from Marston Moor with Terence as the Pilot Instructor. Unfortunately, within several minutes of being airborne, both starboard engines failed and the Halifax crashed out of control beside the Vale of York Hotel in the village of Kirk Hammerton, beside the main A59 road to York.



Denis McKinley



Mildred McKinley

Flying Officer Terence McKinley's mother Mildred received the official letter informing her that her son had died. Terence had completed 818 hours as an outstanding, decorated pilot with the R.N.Z.A.F and was still only 21 years old.

REMEMBERED AND HONOURED BY ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



R.N.Z.A.F. FLYING OFFICER
TERENCE MCKINLEY D.F.C.

R.A.F. 102 Squadron

STONEFALL COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

**Harrogate
North Yorkshire
England
Section C: Row D: Grave 20**



REMEMBERED AND HONOURED
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



IN MEMORY OF

Flight Sergeant – Bomb Aimer

JOHN MATTHEW STACK

Service Number 4213651



CARED FOR IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

STONEFALL CEMETERY, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



John is remembered and honoured each year by

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



JOHN MATTHEW STACK

BORN: 27th July 1917

DIED: 19TH October 1944

Son of John Charles Edward Stack and Ada Ann Stack



John Stack was born in Karori, Wellington. As a young lad he attended Wellington College where he enjoyed his studies. He did extremely well and continued those studies by taking night classes. When he left school, John (or Jack as he was usually known) was employed as a plumber for T.B. Morris, a firm based in Karori. Working around the Wellington area, John looked forward to his weekends that would often be spent hiking in the bush and forest areas around Wellington and hunting wild pigs.

Having spent a few years working as a plumber, John enlisted with the Royal New Zealand Air Force on the 20th October 1942 when he was 25 years old. He began his ground duties in Nelson before being transferred to the Initial Training Wing in Rotorua on the 2nd May 1943 to commence training in Bombing and Gunnery.



SS LURLINE

With his initial training complete, John sailed from Wellington aboard the SS Lurline on the 17th May 1943, headed for Canada. He arrived on the 31st May and was posted to Saskatchewan to continue his training as a Bomb Aimer.

Having successfully completed his training as a Bomb Aimer, John was transferred to Rivers, Manitoba where he undertook his Gunnery course. On the 12th November John received his Bomb Aimer’s Badge and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Although their paths had not crossed before, John sailed to England with fellow Kiwis Rex Furey and Charles Agnew. They arrived in the reception centre in Brighton just before Christmas on the 22nd December 1943.



Bomber Command...”Strike Hard and Sure”

Continuing his training in England the “R.A.F. way”, John later joined 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit at the end of August 1944 and was based at R.A.F. Wratting Common in Cambridgeshire. It was here that he trained on heavy bombers which included the Handley Page Halifax, Avro Lancaster and Short Stirling. This was John’s final training before joining an operational squadron. Until this time he had taken part in one operational air/sea rescue search. It was at 1651 HCU that John crewed up with other R.N.Z.A.F. aviators.



Neil Burgess



Rex Furey



Peter Young



George Child

On the night of the 18th/19th October 1944, John Stack was the Bomb Aimer on a Stirling heavy bomber that took off from Wratting Common. The flight was to be the crew’s final exercise before their posting to a squadron. In bad weather on this low level cross country flight, the Stirling crashed into the hillside of Mickle Fell. John Stack and the other four New Zealanders (pictured above) were killed on impact. John’s parents, then living in Paraparaumu on the Kapiti Coast near Wellington were quickly informed of their son’s death.

REMEMBERED AND HONOURED BY ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



R.N.Z.A.F. FLIGHT SERGEANT

JOHN MATTHEW STACK

R.A.F. 1651 HCU

STONEFALL COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

Harrogate
North Yorkshire
England
Section H: Row B: Grave 3



REMEMBERED AND HONOURED
ANZAC REMEMBRANCE C.I.O.



ANZAC REMEMBRANCE

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION



AS SET OUT IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT
THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHARITY IS:

“THE PROMOTION OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BY PLANNING, ORGANISING AND STAGING ANNUAL ANZAC REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES ON THE SUNDAY CLOSEST TO THE 25TH APRIL, ALONGSIDE OTHER COMMEMORATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR”.

In order that we can ensure the continuity of the ANZAC ceremony to honour not only Charles Agnew, Francis Hothersall, Alfred Lockyer, Terence McKinley and John Stack, but the other 19 Royal New Zealand aviators and the 97 Royal Australian aviators who lie buried alongside them at Stonefall Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England.



You can help A.R.C.I.O. to continue this yearly ANZAC ceremony by making a donation – however large or small. Every pound, dollar, or other currency donated goes directly towards the cost of the ceremony. That donation can be made using this Q.R. code:



or by visiting our website

www.anzacremembrancecio.org

© Copyright Kate Moira Spencer 2025

© Copyright of ANZAC photo - Russell Pearce 2023

Photograph of Terence McKinley is courtesy of The Air Force Museum of New Zealand

Photograph of Charles Agnew, his wife and daughter is courtesy of the Agnew descendants