

Warrant Officer Pilot

LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD

566345 Royal Air Force

Died

8 May 1942

Aged 26

Buried at Weston-super-Mare Cemetery

Section Y, Grave 231



The Ashfords were not, despite appearances, a typical Blackdown Hills family. Jack Ashford, father of Louis (he seems to have been Louis to the family, and Cliff to others) had been adopted by the Gill family of Churchstanton.

Named Noel Ashford (a Christmas Day baby) he was the illegitimate son of Jane Ashford, a domestic servant of Dunkeswell – no father is named on his birth certificate. He was born in the Honiton Workhouse in 1889, and lived with the Gill family at Newton Cottage in Red Lane, Churchstanton. It was not a good start to life; very likely his mother had no option but to give him up. The head of the Gill household was James, a blacksmith; by the time Noel appeared most of the family were grown up. By 1901 he'd become 'John Noel', and by 1911 Jack, which was how everyone knew him.

What was his connection with the Gill family? Curiously, on Clifford's 1916 birth certificate (registered by his mother) his name is given as 'Jack Gill Ashford'. Could one of the sons have been his father? Impossible to tell.

Jack had dreadful bad luck. Geoffrey Berry remembers his grandfather telling him that '[Jack] had met with an accident as a teenager on Corfe Hill when a cart ran backwards and his legs were crushed by the wheel going over them'. Added to this he had an accident in which he lost an eye. Given such problems the Ashfords were not well off, but '[Jack] worked on the Chard roads, and dug graves and looked after the Churchyard at Otterford. Also chimed the bells.'

He married in 1913; his wife Dorothy was working as a kitchenmaid at Otterhead (a house of 26 rooms – quite a contrast to the 4 rooms in which Jack was living at Flood Cottage, Churchstanton at the same time!) for East India Merchant William Black. She was born in 1891 in London, but – and again, a surprise – her adoptive parents were actors, Whitmore and Violet Ledger; in 1911 they were lodging with the rest of their theatre company in Barnsley.

The Ashfords had four children, two boys and two girls (Winifred Emily and Dorothy Joyce). Louis was born on February 7 1916; the family then were living in Moor Lane, Churchinford. Geoffrey Berry

found a cutting (probably from the Somerset County Gazette) telling of another misfortune: 'Another sadness for the Ashford family, dated October 1921.

"Otterford. Child's Sudden Death. Great sympathy is felt throughout the parish with Mr and Mrs J Ashford of Birchwood whose little son, aged three and a half years, died after an illness of about 24 hours. It is supposed that the child [Arthur] had eaten some poisonous hedge berries. The funeral took place at Otterford on Thursday 27th inst."

By this time the Ashfords were probably living at Staple Hill Cottage (or Tar Cottage, so called because the walls were tarred to keep out the wet), on the main road at the end of Hornsey Lane. The cottage, now a ruin, is still there.

Louis went to school at Huish's Grammar School in Taunton, to which he must have won a scholarship; in 1932 he came out 37th nationally in the limited competition for aircraft apprentices entering the RAF. It must have felt like the way out to a new life for him.



Western Morning News December 21 1932

On January 10th 1933 Louis arrived, as part of the 27th entry (he's on the 27th's Roll of Honour), to start his training at RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire.

'Following the end of WW1, Trenchard's vision of a permanent RAF was published in a now famous memorandum which was endorsed by Winston Churchill, the Secretary of State for Air, in December 1919. An RAF Apprentice Scheme based at Halton, was a key thrust in the paper. Trenchard believed that the only way to recruit high quality mechanics for the ever-more technical Service was to train them internally. At the heart of his vision was the recruitment of well educated boys between the ages of 15 and 16 who, because of their resourcefulness and intelligence, could rapidly absorb the necessary technical training, and thereby complete their apprenticeship in 3 years, instead of the standard 5 years in civilian life.' *RAF History of Halton*

He joined No 2 Wing at Halton as an Aircraft Apprentice and completed his three year training in January 1936, emerging as Aircraftsman First Class. He was posted to 16 (AC) Squadron in that month, and then in March sent overseas to 6 (B) Squadron in the Middle East. Stationed at Ismailia on the Suez Canal and at Ramleh in Palestine, the Squadron was part of the force dealing with the developing problem of tensions between Jews and Arabs. In May 1937 Louis was promoted to Leading Aircraftsman; he returned to England in September 1938 to 1 RAF Depot (NE) Uxbridge, and thence in October to No 26 (T) Group:

'No. 26 (T) Group has charge of the twenty-three Elementary and Reserve Flying Training Schools which are run by civilian companies for the elementary (formerly *ab initio*) training of short-service officers and airmen pilots before they go on to the R.A.F. Flying Training Schools of No. 23 (T) Group.' *FlightGlobal/Archive May 24 1938*

Evidently at this point he was moving on from air mechanic to pilot, specifically a ferry pilot, flying planes from factory to Squadron or where ever was required.

By January 1939 he was back at Uxbridge, and later in the month joined 5 Flight Training School; he was promoted to Corporal in April. After spending a short time at 9 Air Training School in July and August, he returned to 5 Flight Training School and then on to No 2 Ferry Pool in September, having been promoted to Sergeant. After a period at 4 Ferry Pool he moved on to 39 Maintenance Unit, Colerne. At Colerne they handled Hurricanes and Spitfires, ferrying them out to North Africa, the Middle East and Far East.

Late in 1940 Louis married Kathleen - Kay - Mooney in Weston-super-Mare. In April 1941 he was promoted to Temporary Flight Sergeant, and in October to Temporary Warrant Officer Pilot, the last rank before being commissioned. 'Temporary' was a wartime convention. He moved around between 10 Maintenance Unit at Hullavington, 33 Maintenance Unit at Lyneham and 39 Maintenance Unit at Colerne.

It must have seemed to Louis at this stage of his life that, despite the War, things were going his way: married, doing a job he no doubt loved and heading towards a commission. He was living at Trimnells Farm, Colerne, with his wife there too one assumes. But it was Wartime, and things could very quickly go awry, as, sadly, they did for him. On Friday May 8 1942 he was ferrying Spitfire VB W3607 from 39 MU Colerne to the Unit's Satellite Landing Ground at Starveal Farm, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. It seems he lost control on approaching to land, and crashed, dying instantaneously of multiple injuries and burns.

An inquest was held in Woodstock, and we have a full transcript. His Colerne Squadron Leader, H Vernon L'Amy, giving evidence at the inquest, said that 'The weather conditions were not ideal, and you do get bumps there over the trees on the approach, and this might make the machine stall. The

landing ground is small and the speed has to be slower on this account. There is a very small factor of safety in approaching the small landing grounds.'

Louis was given a full military funeral at Weston-super-Mare, his wife's home town; there's a detailed account in the Somerset County Gazette. His death notice, evidently inserted by his parents, refers to him as a Test Pilot; although his family still believe this to be the case, there is no other evidence to substantiate it. As far as we understand from the records, he was a Ferry Pilot. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of Weston-super-Mare Cemetery.

His wife Kay remarried in 1949, in Weston, to Stanley Baker. His mother Dorothy died in 1957, after both she and Jack had gone to live with their daughter Joyce in Norton Fitzwarren, leaving Staple Hill/Tar Cottage abandoned.

(My thanks to Bill Chorley, RAF researcher, for guiding my steps in investigating Louis Ashford's RAF career. Many thanks too to Louis' nieces Val and Nina for sharing photos and family memories.)

A Satellite Landing Ground is typically an airfield with one or two grass runways which is designed throughout to be "hidden" from the sky by using woods and other natural features to hide the presence of aircraft and associated buildings. The landing grounds were mainly used by RAF maintenance units which used the areas to disperse aircraft to reduce the likelihood of attacks from the air. – Wikipedia entry for location of Satellite Landing Grounds.



*Mural at Starveal Farm – working on a Spitfire.
From WW2 Airfields of Oxfordshire*

No. 2 Satellite Landing Ground, Starveal Farm, Woodstock: 51.51'.18" North 001.20'.42" West. Opened on 14 June 1941.

Spitfire VB W3607 had served previously with 41 Squadron, a fighter squadron which was equipped with Spitfire VBs between August 1941 and March 1943, by which time it was re-equipping with Spitfire XIIs. W3607 was produced at Chattis Hill, and had a Merlin engine.

Louis Ashford's grave, Weston super Mare



ASHFORD CENSUS

Administrative County of <u>Queens</u>				The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 7		
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		<u>St. Nicholas</u>		
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		HOUSES	Occupied by one person	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Name	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WOMEN BORN	(1) Dead-end-Drunk	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot				
41	Leaden Hall	1		Robert Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
42	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
43	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
44	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
45	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
46	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
47	Leaden Hall	1		John Smith	Son	S	14	Tramway Assistant	Widow, St. Nicholas							
Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Two Rooms		4	1	Total of Males and Females												
				18/12												

Note.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet B.

ASHFORD 1891 CENSUS - A

Reference -		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE		1	2	3	4	5	6
RG12/1873									
				1 2					

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Administrative County Cheshire The undermentioned Houses are situated within the boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough of Stockport Town or Village or Hamlet of Stockport

Page 6

House No.	ROAD STREET No. and NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
33	1	1	Mark Moore	Head	54	Ordinary Agricultural Lab.	Worker	Cheshire	
			Charlotte D.	Wife	49			Cheshire	
			Emily D.	Daughter	16	Domestic Servant General		Cheshire	
			Alfred D.	Son	13	Ordinary Agricultural Lab.	Worker	Cheshire	
			James D.	Son	11			Cheshire	
34	1	1	Thomas Coles	Boarder	31	Labourer	Worker	Cheshire	
			Thomas Crabtree	Head	58		Employer	Cheshire	
			Harriet D.	Wife	49			Cheshire	
35	1	1	William Bailey	Servant	35	Ordinary Agricultural Lab.	Worker	Cheshire	
			Joseph Gill	Head	61	Living on own means		Cheshire	
			John D.	Son	42	Ordinary Agricultural Lab.	Worker	Cheshire	
			Joseph Ashford	Boarder	13			Cheshire	
36	1	1	William Rutter	Head	72	Ordinary Agricultural Lab.	Worker	Cheshire	
			Joseph D.	Wife	69			Cheshire	
			Alfred G. D.	Son	5			Cheshire	
			Alfred G. D.	Son	3			Cheshire	
37	1	1	Francis Leck	Head	52	Labourer	Worker	Cheshire	
			Joseph D.	Wife	53			Cheshire	
			Frederick D.	Son	17	Labourer	Worker	Cheshire	
			Joseph D.	Son	14			Cheshire	
			Joseph D.	Son	11			Cheshire	
38	1	1	Richard Manning	Head	38	Labourer	Worker	Cheshire	
			Caroline D.	Wife	47			Cheshire	
			William J. D.	Son	14			Cheshire	
			John D.	Son	9			Cheshire	
39	1	1	Albert Goff	Head	22	Labourer	Worker	Cheshire	
			Mary Jane D.	Wife	21			Cheshire	
			Albert D.	Son	1			Cheshire	
			Total of Males and Females		10				

Notes—Draw your pen through each word of the headings as are inapplicable.

1901 CENSUS JACK ASHFORD

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION of every person	BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person	INTERMIT.
Jack Gill	Head	74	Married	Domestic	Cheshire	British	
James Gill	Son	35	Married	Domestic	Cheshire	British	
Jack Gill	Son	52	Single	Domestic	Cheshire	British	
Jack Ashford	Daughter	22	Single	Domestic	Cheshire	British	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in connection, or in charge, of this dwelling)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count cellars, lavatories, closets, bathrooms, or outhouses, office, shop.

Signature Jack Ashford for Jack Gill

Printed Address Stock College, Cheshire

Administrative County York West Riding The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough of Barnsley Page 10

Civil Parish St Mary's County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District Barnsley Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District West Ward Rural District Barnsley Parliamentary Borough or Division Barnsley Town or Village or Hamlet Barnsley

House No.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Works, Own account	Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
44	29, Rail Road	1	William H. White	Head	38	Train Driver	Works		York, Barnsley	
			Elizabeth A. Do	Wife	32				York, Barnsley	
			George L. Do	Son	7	School Public School			York, Barnsley	
			Robert W. Do	Son	4				Do	
			Frederic W. Do	Son	2				Do	
			Raymond S. Do	Son	3 mo				Do	
60		1	Elizabeth H. White	Head	29	Seamstress	Own account		York, Barnsley	
			John Carruthers	Boarder	28	Professional Photographer			York, Barnsley	
			Charles H. Cooper	Boarder	20	Do			Do	
			Marion L. Do	Boarder	20	Do			Do	
61	31 Do	1	James Johnston	Head	32	Bookbinder	Works		York, Barnsley	
			Ellen Do	Wife	32				Do	
62	33 Do	1	Arthur Cooper	Head	48	Stone Mason	Works		Do	
			Emma Do	Wife	48				Do	
			John T. Do	Son	24	Railway Engine Driver	Works		Do	
63	35 Do	1	William Carr	Head	40	Greengrocer	Own account		Do	
			Sarah Charles	Wife	35				Do	
64	4 Do	1	Thomas Osborne	Head	33	Butcher	Own account		York, Barnsley	
			Mary A. Do	Wife	30				Do	
			Mary C. Do	Son	4				Do	
			Frank B. Do	Son	4				Do	
			William B. Do	Son	3				Do	
			Mary A. Do	Wife	16	Refined Grocer			Do	
			Paul Clement	Boarder	23	Butcher	Own account		Do	
			Frank Dingley	Boarder	27	Corporal	Works		Do	
			William Sedgwick	Boarder	27	Refined Grocer	Works		Do	
			Walter E. Do	Boarder	24	Refined Grocer	Works		Do	
			Constance R. Do	Boarder	10				Do	
6	Total of Houses and of Tenants with less than Five Houses	65								
			Total of Males and of Females		16	13				

Notes—Draw your pen through each word of the headings as are inapplicable.

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1901 CENSUS DOROTHY LEDGER

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions and the Examples given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday)	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	IMPERMIT.
William Hill Black	Head	47	Male	Married	Labourer	York, England	British	
May Lister Black	Wife	44	Female	Married		York, England	British	
George L. Black	Son	7	Male			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	4	Female			York, England	British	
May Ellen Black	Daughter	1	Female			York, England	British	
John Black	Daughter	10	Female			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	11	Female			York, England	British	
John May Black	Daughter	12	Female			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	13	Female			York, England	British	
John May Black	Daughter	14	Female			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	15	Female			York, England	British	
John May Black	Daughter	16	Female			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	17	Female			York, England	British	
John May Black	Daughter	18	Female			York, England	British	
Edith May Black	Daughter	19	Female			York, England	British	
John May Black	Daughter	20	Female			York, England	British	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: W. Hill Black Date: 10/11/11

Printed Name: W. Hill Black

1911 CENSUS DOROTHY LEDGER

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WESTERN SUCCESSES

AIRCRAFT APPRENTICES FOR R.A.F.

Several Westcountry names appear in the list of successful candidates in the limited competition for the entry of aircraft apprentices into the Royal Air Force.

The 37th candidate in order of merit was Louis Clifford Ashford, of Huish's Grammar School, Taunton. Charles Pike, of Durnford-street Junior Technical School (Plymouth) was placed 39th.

The 89th place was awarded to Ivan William Grenville Thomas, of Wellington-terrace Senior Boys' School, Falmouth, and the 136th place to Ronald Albert Thomas Pester, of Durnford-street Junior Technical School (Plymouth).

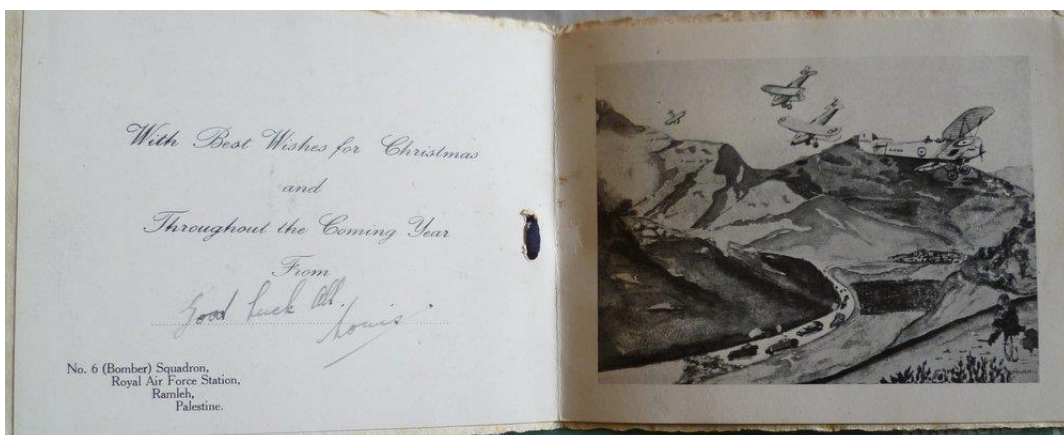
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IN PALESTINE

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE PERSONAL



Transcribed details from the Record of Service for
Warrant Officer Pilot Louis Clifford ASHFORD [566345]

Surname:	ASHFORD
Forenames:	Louis Clifford
Service Number:	566345
Rank:	Warrant Officer
Date of Birth:	07 February 1916
Place of Birth:	Chard, Somerset
Date of Enlistment:	10 January 1933
Killed in Action:	08 May 1942
Promotions:	See attached
Movements:	See attached
Honours and Awards:	General Service Medal w/c "Palestine"

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE PERSONAL



Movements

Dep. Cas. Form.	Unit From	Unit To	Reason	Checkd.	Appd.	Date of Movmnt.	Cas. Form confirming Approval
		2. Hg. Halton.				10. 1. 33	7/33
14B/35	1 (A) Wing	26AC Squadron	HH	dg		31.36	1/30
37/34	16/AC Sqn	26AC Sqn				31.36	✓
39/38	6 (8) Sqn	HE				12.4.36	12/36
	HE	HE				4.9.38	-
24/38	1 Det. 1 NE	101 Det. (NE)	S/H			16.9.38	81/38
5/39	N. 26 (A) GCOOP	N. 26 (A) GCOOP	H			31/38	82/38
20/39	N. 26 (A) GCOOP	1 RAF BERTING	H			14/39	13/39
18/39	5 FTS	5 FTS	HH			23.1.39	26/39
6/40	5 FTS	9 FTS (A)				31/39	✓
	9 FTS	5 FTS				28.8.39	203/39
	5 FTS	NOR F.P. Pool				11.9.39	22/39
		4 (2) F.P. Pool				1/40	7/40
61/40		39 M.U.				10.7.40	5/40
		10 M.U. (A)				7.12.40	✓
		39 M.U.				20.12.40	67/40
		33 M.U.				14.8.41	✓
70/41		39 M.U. (D)				12.8.41	✓
		33 M.U.					
		Retired on active service				8/5/42	

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE PERSONAL



Warrant Officer Pilot Louis Clifford ASHFORD [566345]

Promotions, Reclassifications, Reversions

PROMOTIONS, RECLASSIFICATIONS, REVERSIONS.		
Authy., C. Form.	Description.	Date of Effect.
	A/A	10.2.33.
135/35	ACI	2/1/36
24/37	LAC	1.5.37
102/39	Corporal	1.4.39.
206/39	Sergeant	1.9.39.
5644	Temp Pilot	1.4.41
342	Temp Pilot	1.10.41

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE PERSONAL

Oxfordshire
TO WIT

DEPOSITIONS of Witnesses touching the Death of LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD

severally taken on Oath, and acknowledged, on the behalf of our Sovereign
Lord the King, at the ~~Dwelling House of~~ Public Assistance Institution

in the Parish of **Woodstock** - - - - - in the County
of Oxford, on **Monday** - - - - - the **Eighteenth** - - - - -
day of **May** - - - - - one thousand nine hundred and **forty two**
before me **Harold Lambourn Franklin** - - - - -
His Majesty's Coroner for the **Central** - - - - - District of the said
County, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the Body of the
said **LOUIS CLIFFORD** - - - **ASHFORD** - - - - - then
lying dead as follows (to wit)

Arthur Leslie COLLINS

I am a Squadron Leader in the R.A.F. and Senior Medical
Officer at the R.A.F. Station at Kidlington.

On the afternoon of 8th May last the body of deceased
was brought to my Station and I examined the body, which was the
same one which the Coroner viewed at my Station on the 10th May
last, according to information given to me.

~~The deceased was 26 years of age and he was a~~

*I was informed deceased died on crashing at
Starvall Farm that afternoon. The cause of death was
multiple injuries and burns, and death would be
instantaneous.*

Arthur Leslie Collins s/c.

Henry Reel

ERNEST PERKS

I am an Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force stationed at Colerne, Wilts, to which Station deceased belonged.

On Friday the 8th May 1942 I was on duty at that Aerodrome, and at approximately 4-50 p.m. I strapped deceased into a Spitfire Aircraft No. W.3607 which then taxied across the aerodrome to take off from the runway. *No other person could have got into the machine.*

E. P. Perks.

Herbert DIXON

I am a Corporal in the Royal Air Force stationed at Starvall, Wootton, Oxon.

At approximately 2-15 p.m. on 8th May last I was about to cross the aerodrome to Headquarters when I noticed a Spitfire Aircraft doing a left hand circuit prior to landing. I stopped to watch it and waited for it to land before crossing the aerodrome. The aircraft was completing its left hand circuit banking to the left and approaching from the South West at a very low — altitude and travelling very slowly.

On the point of straightening out from the left hand turn I saw the aircraft do a half roll to the right and fall into an inverted dive at about 60 degrees from the horizontal disappearing behind the trees fringing 2 site. I then saw smoke rising from behind the trees. I shouted to the men working on No. 3 site "She's crashed" ordered them to follow me and ran to the scene. On the way I instructed A.C. Marston to pick up an extinguisher and at that moment I saw the fire tender proceeding at full speed to the crash, so I instructed Marston to drop the extinguisher to enable him to run faster. I, with others rendered all possible assistance.

The plane which crashed was W3607 and there was only one person in the plane.

H. Dixon

Robin PIERCY

I am a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force at
Starrall Farm.

I did not see this crash, but later I examined the
wreckage of Spitfire Aircraft No. W.3607.

The crash was due to stalling. The last paragraph
of my statement produced needs modification. I cannot
say if the flaps had been operated or not. I cannot
say why the machine stalled.

I do not think it possible owing to the
disintegration of the machine to say why the
machine crashed.

R. Piercy F/O.

Henry Vernon L'Amey

I am a Squadron Leader at Colerne, and Officer
in charge of flying there.

On the 8th May last I authorised a flight by
deceased. He was flying a Spitfire W.3607. I produce
the maintenance sheet in respect of this machine
initialed by deceased. The machine was in good
order and airworthy. Deceased was a fully qualified
and good pilot.

I was at Starrall Aerodrome, Wootton waiting
for deceased to come in, and saw his machine crash
out of control. I had just landed, and my own engine
was running, so I cannot say if his engine was
running properly or not.

I heard the evidence of the last witness, but am
afraid I cannot add anything.

The weather conditions were not ideal, and you
do get bumps there over the trees on the approach, and this
might make the machine stall. The landing ground is
small and the speed has to be slower on this account.

There is a very small factor of safety in approaching
the small landing grounds.

W. H. Camp 5/10.

Henry John Thomas Clamp

I am a Flying Officer in the R.A.F. at Stavall
Farm, Wootton.

According to information received deceased was
26 years old. His personal papers were handed to me
for safe custody and from his ^{deceased was married and} P.B.S. Book his address
appears to be Trinnels Farm, Colerne, Wilts.

His number was ~~566~~ 566345 and he was a
Warrant Officer. He had been in the Force about 11
years.

W. H. Camp 5/10.

An Inquisition

taken for our Sovereign Lord the King, at

County of
Oxford
to wit.

The Public Assistance Institution - - - - - , in the Parish - - - - -
of Woodstock - - - - - in the County - - - - - of Oxford - - - - - on
the Eighteenth - - - - - day of May - - - - - 19 42 [and by adjournment on the - - - - -
day of - - - - - , and the - - - - - day of - - - - - ,]
by me, Harold Lambourn Franklin - - - - - one of the Coroners
for our Lord the King, for the said County of Oxford - - - - - on view by me of the Body
of LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD - - - - -
as to his Death; and I, the said Harold Lambourn Franklin - - - - - do say:--
That the said LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD died at the Parish of Wootton in the County of Oxford on
the 8th day of May 1942.

That the cause of his Death was that the aircraft of which he was the pilot crashed out of
control

And so do further say that the said LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD died at Wootton aforesaid on the 8th day of
May 1942 when the aircraft of which he was the pilot accidentally crashed out of control

and I, the said Harold Lambourn Franklin - - - - - do further say that the said
LOUIS CLIFFORD ASHFORD - - - - - at the time of his Death was a - - - - - male person of the age of
Twenty six years - - - - - and a Warrant Officer No. 566345 in the Royal Air Force and
that his private residence was at Trimmels Farm, Colerne in the County of Wilts.

In Witness whereof I, the said Harold Lambourn Franklin - - - - - , have hereunto
subscribed my Hand and Seal this Eighteenth - - - - - day of May - - - - - 1942.



Coroner.

H. R. Franklin

BUCKLAND ST. MARY.

WARRANT OFFICER L. C.
ASHFORD, R.A.F.

KILLED ON SERVICE.

Much sympathy has been expressed with Mr. and Mrs. John Ashford, of Staple Hill, Buckland St. Mary, in the loss they have sustained through the death of their son, Warrant Officer Louis Clifford Ashford, R.A.F., who was killed while on service on May 8th.

Warrant Officer Ashford, who was 26 years of age, was educated at Huish's Grammar School, Taunton. He entered the Royal Air Force on leaving school, and has been in the Force for about 10 years. Prior to the war he served in Palestine and Egypt. Since then he had been a sergeant pilot, and was subsequently promoted to warrant officer. He leaves a widow, but no family.

FUNERAL AT WESTON.

The funeral, with military honours, took place at Weston on Tuesday. The principal mourners were the widow, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ashford (father and mother); the Misses Emily and Joyce Ashford (sisters); Mr. and Mrs. J. Mooney, Weston (father-in-law and mother-in-law); Miss Ethel Mooney (sister-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. T. Hunt, Bristol (uncle and aunt); Flight-Sergt. Ralph (friend); and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Weston.

There were also present a number of officers, warrant officers, and N.C.O.'s from different R.A.F. stations.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Tokens of remembrance were sent by the following: To my own darling sweetheart, from his broken-hearted wife, Kay—"Sweet memories will always be mine"; In memory of our dearest boy, from his sorrowing Mum and Dad—"One of the best"; In affectionate remembrance of our darling brother, from Em and Joyce—"Peace perfect peace"; To our dearest Clifford, Mummie, Daddie, and Ethel—"Rest in peace"; In affectionate remembrance, Uncle Tom, Aunt Doll, and Les; With deepest sympathy, from Tom and Clarice and the boys, Cyril, Ken, and Allan; With deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Durman, Fred, and Joan; With our very deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and family; In sincere remembrance, from a few of his friends at the Cavendish Hotel; With very deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Leech, 18, Southville-road, Weston; Fondest memories of Cliff, from Harold, Sal, and all at 35, Sandford-road, Weston; With deepest sympathy, from H. Snelgrove and family; Deepest sympathy, Mrs. Collect and Monica and Mr. and Mrs. Bull; Deepest sympathy, warrant officers and senior N.C.O.'s, a Maintenance Hut, R.A.F.; To a fine pilot and great friend, Squadron Leader Henry L'Amey; With deepest sympathy, from officers and airmen, No. — S.L.G., R.A.F.; In remembrance, from all personnel of No. — Site, R.A.F.; In memory of Ash, from Flight-Sergt. and Mrs. Bain; Deepest sympathy, from the commanding officer and officers and airmen, a Maintenance Hut, R.A.F.; Sincere sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Gifford and Mr. Allan; From the twins; Deepest sympathy to dear Ash, from R.A.F. Police

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
Application Number 5552342-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		CHIPPING NORTON	
1942	DEATH in the Sub-district of Chipping Norton	in the County of Oxford	

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar

116	Eight May 1942 10 Aston R.D.	devis Clippard Ashford.	Male	26 years	of Trimble Farm, Colborne, N. Hants. a 10 acre 0 1/2 in the Royal Air Force	Accidentally killed when the aircraft of which he was the pilot crashed out of control. No P.H.	Got married to Mrs. H. L. Franklin (formerly Olive) (Central District) Inquest held 18th May 1942	Twentieth May 1942	H. G. Hudson Registrar
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

25th

day of

March

2014

DVD 669848

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

PMS







WESTON SUPER MARE WAR GRAVES CEMETRY

E.D. Letter Code WPJG Borough, U.D. or R.D. Chard Smt, RD. Registration District and Sub-district

308/1

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
<u>Moor Farm</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Salter, Frank L.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>15 Feb</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Mixed farming.</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Salter, Flossie A.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>28 Sept</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>Salter Arthur A. S.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>5 June</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>General farm work.</u> <u>Assisting father.</u>

This record is officially closed.

This record is officially closed.

This record is officially closed.

<u>Greenlands</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Rust, Francis J.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>3 June</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Farm manager</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Rust, Phyllis H. B.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>23 Feb</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>

This record is officially closed.

<u>4</u>	<u>Rust, Angela M. V.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>25 Mch</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Under School age.</u>
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This record is officially closed.

<u>Dead Man Farm</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Durman, George</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>30 Dec</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Dairy farmer</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Durman, Mabel E.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>19 Oct</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>Durman, Frederick G.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>17 Mch</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Agricultural tractor driver</u> <u>Shedding, fawing & land cultivation</u>

<u>Coombe Cottage, Staple Hill</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Ashford, Jack G.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>25 Dec</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>General farm labourer</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Ashford, Dorothy R.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>24 Feb</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>

<u>Staple Hill</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Mutter, George</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>9 Sept</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Dairy farmer.</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Mutter, Nellie</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>9 Jan</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>Mutter, Ivor G.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>9 Mch</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>John Carter, general farm work</u> <u>Assisting father.</u>
		<u>4</u>	<u>Mutter, Clifford R.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>22 Mch</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Common, general farm work</u> <u>Assisting father.</u>
		<u>5</u>	<u>Mutter, Emily M.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>23 Jan</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Kitchen maid, incapacitated.</u>

<u>Halls Well</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Spiller, Charles E.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>30 Mch</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Dairy farmer</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Spiller, Olive M.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>15 Aug</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>

This record is officially closed.

<u>Shiers Farm</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Board, Joseph H.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>21 Dec</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Farmer</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Board, Edith J.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>7 Nov</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Incapacitated.</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>Board, William C.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>1 Jan</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Farm labourer</u> <u>Assisting father.</u>

<u>Castle View</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nottley, Harold L.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>25 Apr</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Lorry driver for haulage</u> <u>Contractor.</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Nottley, Edith M.</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>13 Nov</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>

This record is officially closed.

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This record is officially closed.

This record is officially closed.

<u>Fair End Cottage</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Lee, Samuel</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>14 May</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Smallholder farmer</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>Lee, Ethel</u>	-	<u>F</u>	<u>22 Oct</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Unpaid domestic duties</u>
		<u>3</u>	<u>Lee, Robert</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>22 Mch</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Farm worker - general</u>

This record is officially closed.

This record is officially closed.

<u>Meanwood</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>White, Hedley</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>15 June</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Hauler for road work.</u> <u>Also man.</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>White, Raymond C.</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>7 Nov</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>Dairy farmer & general</u> <u>farm worker</u>
<u>Mannings</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Fogwill, John</u>	-	<u>M</u>	<u>26 Dec</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Farmer</u>

1939 CENSUS, ASHFORD FAMILY