



SGT A H BOWMER 41715

Alexander Harry Bowmer was born in about 1919, the son of Matthew Noel Bowmer and his wife, the former Winifred Ethel Lunn who married in 1910 at St George Hanover Square in London. There is a connection with Liverpool because Sgt Bowmer's father died there in 1949 aged 67. However, at the time of his own death, Sgt Bowmer's home address was given as Dore, an area of Sheffield.

Sgt Bowmer's service number was 580692 and he served with 83 Squadron at RAF Scampton as part of 5 Group Bomber Command.



The photograph above is of 83 and 49 Squadrons parading in the summer of 1940 between No 3 and 4 hangars at RAF Scampton. The occasion was for the presentation of awards by HM King George VI. Sgt Bowmer may well be one of the airmen shown in the picture.

During the immediate period before World War Two, the RAF modified its command structure to rationalise for rapid expansion. Bomber Command was divided into six operational groups, each flying the same type of aircraft. In 1939 5 Group was flying the Handley Page Hampden, a fast, modern aircraft that carried a large payload. However, during the early daylight raids into enemy occupied Europe it suffered great losses due to its defensive armament leaving too many blind spots. The Group now turned to night bombing and mine-laying operations. It was not until the Avro Lancaster began arriving in strength that the Group began its proud history of successful and often highly dangerous

raids into the Reich, the most famous of which was No 617 Squadron's attack on the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe dams. Between 1939 and 1945 the Group flew 70,351 sorties with the loss of 1,888 aircraft.

There is no indication that Sgt Bowmer's death on 2 August 1940 was as a result of flying operations. Records show that he suffered a fractured skull and died on that date at Lincoln County Hospital. The death was actually registered in the name of Henry A Bowmer in the Lincoln Registration District.

Bowmer, Henry A.	21	Lincoln	7 a	1106
— Hetty	22	B.Glamorgan	11 a	1428
— Magda	87	Ware	3 a	1444
Bown, Ernest E.	47	Mansfield	7 b	124
— George	78	Hinckley	7 a	179

He was shown in official records as having died 'of wounds or injuries received on active service'.

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FLIGHT

AUGUST 22, 1940

SERVICE AVIATION (CONTINUED)

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING." Now Reported "Killed in Action."—Sgt. C. A. Bartlett, 424718; Sgt. E. J. Bickler, 480477; Sgt. J. P. Boddington, 523059; L.A.C. C. R. Burt, 542020; L.A.C. J. C. Clegg, 759047; P.O. C. D. Frost, 423342; A/C2. G. H. Paine, 420053; P.O. B. D. G. H. Ross, 42446; P.O. R. A. Taylor, 40443.	Don, 30158; A/C2. G. W. Hodder, 50029; Sgt. W. Holt, 422511; Plt. Lt. H. W. A. Shuckler, D.F.C. 37394; P.O. E. D. Shuttleworth, 76022; Sgt. C. J. Stevens, 505591; Sgt. J. P. Swift, 743781; P.O. G. W. Southland, 31250; P.O. G. H. Thornehill, 70848; Sgt. J. B. Thompson, 562024; Sgt. E. C. Thomson, 752314; Sgt. W. H. Tiddens, 754138; Sgt. F. J. Tomson, 412752; Plt. Sgt. W. G. Tule, 514399; Sgt. J. P. Walsh, 754138; Sgt. W. Watson, 420443; Act. Plt. Lt. H. R. Wheeler, 70727; Sgt. E. F. Wood, 755074; Sgt. H. G. Weston, 505377; Act. P.O. D. J. Young, 31132.	active list: (July 20) N. L. E. Cowan, R. L. Spaulding, C. Stewart.
WOUNDS OR INJURIES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.—P.O. J. C. Gannon, 41225; L.A.C. E. E. Chamberlain, 405544; P.O. D. J. Finches, 41102; Plt. Lt. F. W. Harlow, 37384; L.A.C. G. H. Howgate, 310351; L.A.C. G. J. Humphreys, 534289; Sgt. J. E. A. Jones, 504403; P.O. J. H. Landerer, 41794; P.O. A. D. J. Lott, 40024; Sgt. L. G. M. May, 420009; Sgt. E. A. Moore, 741291; P/O. R. A. H. Parsons, 42022; Sgt. L. A. J. Paine, 50228; P.O. J. M. Richards, 30261; Sgt. W. W. Thompson, 522810; A/C1. F. Thomas, 401782; Sgt. L. T. Tully, 747204; P.O. D. R. Turner-Gaige, 41350; L.A.C. J. C. Wharton, 412061.	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING." Now Reported "Killed on Active Service."—L.A.C. A. C. Birch, 70102; A/C2. J. C. Buckland, 41724; P.O. A. Campbell, 41805; P.O. G. E. Cooney, 40026; Act. Sgt. A. G. Gibson, 54121; A/C2. H. O. W. Goring, 543904.	The undersigned Pilot Officers are promoting or confirming in their appointments: (June 15) M. P. C. Haines, D.F.C.; (June 17) R. G. Aston, A. Darling; (June 20) J. J. Barry, P. C. Barry, R. J. Burt, W. D. Burwell, M. P. O. Bucknarew, J. F. B. Cooney, G. C. V. Coombs, A. W. Clarke, C. Cookson, R. O. Day, H. G. De Fries, F. G. H. Dench, H. Downey, H. W. Elliot; (June 20) D. Evans, E. I. Fox, A. V. Gibson, J. H. G. Hamilton, C. F. C. Gordon, C. H. Gorm, G. H. Green, P. A. Haggarty, A. C. Hamilton, F. N. Halsey, D. G. Hayward, C. A. Hobson, H. A. Hibbin, Richardson, M. Jackson, M. Kelly, G. J. Le May, D. McLeod, J. D. Mollison, J. L. Monte-Hilly, E. E. Murray, J. R. E. Mucker, W. G. Mellor, J. M. Milburn, W. A. Molyneux-Brown, J. R. B. G. O'Connell, J. C. Pank, E. R. Parfitt, C. Parker, R. A. Primrose, W. P. H. Rafter, C. D. Scott, R. Starnish, R. A. Stinson, M. Rowell, R. D. Butler, M. C. G. Sturwood, A. J. J. Stott, R. C. Stone, H. J. C. Tappin, H. H. Vinton, H. D. Vindler-Lindner, E. G. Wain, J. J. Walsh, C. P. Walker, J. N. Westcott, S. G. Whiting, L. G. Williams, M. P. Collins, C. H. Bick, H. V. Korman; (June 20) R. C. F. Cooney, G. J. Cox, G. G. Cooney, J. A. Dixon, J. Harrison-Bowdler.
DIED OF WOUNDS OR INJURIES RECEIVED IN ACTION.—P.O. R. A. T. Brooker, 51724; Act. Sgt. Ldr. W. I. Collett, 54132; Cpl. F. M. Dixon, 512794.	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING." Now Reported "Killed on Active Service."—Sgt. E. A. Ross, 700114.	The undersigned Acting Pilot Officers are promoting or confirming as Pilot Officers on probation: (June 21) D. M. Nash, J. F. Walker; (June 20) E. J. Coleman; (July 6) A. E. Sells; (July 12) J. H. J. Sawyer; (July 13) D. H. Magall, A. E. Berry, R. H. Cross, H. G. Dicks, F. K. Gill, S. J. Hanson, G. H. F. Innes, J. T. Johnston, H. H. E. Miller, J. S. Smith, H. A. Stewart, C. F. Tiddens, W. R. Christopher, J. I. W. Ellacott, E. W. G. Hill, H. L. Marshall, R. E. Powell, J. P. Searson, A. D. Zolotare, H. G. Kesteven, W. J. Suggell; (July 13) A. J. Tait, R. M. A. Lakin; (July 15) J. Collins; (July 20) J. M. Robertson; (July 27) R. G. Ash, C. D. Chapman, G. J. Churnish, J. L. Horton, A. J. Hilliard, H. M. Macpherson, J. McInnes, P. R. Mason, M. J. Farrow, J. O. Blather, A. Tindal, R. E. Kerr.
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "PREVIOUS OF WAR." Now Reported "Died of Wounds or Injuries Received in Action."—P/O. A. B. Bell, 40040; Sgt. C. Shelton-Jones, 50288.	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING." Now Reported "Killed on Active Service."—Sgt. E. A. Ross, 700114.	The undersigned Pilot Officers are promoting to the rank of Flight Lieutenant: (July 24) D. L. Raymond; (July 25) R. J. Oakley; (July 27) L. S. Dawson, B. P. Jones; (July 28) M. N. McE. Kennedy.
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "PREVIOUS OF WAR." Now Reported "Died of Wounds or Injuries Received in Action."—P/O. A. B. Bell, 40040; Sgt. C. Shelton-Jones, 50288.	WOUNDS OR INJURIES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.—A/C2. E. S. Boyd, 287715; P.O. G. W. W. Burton, 42020; P.O. E. R. 1806, 41344; Sgt. A. H. Gordon, 74501; A/C1. H. Gordon, 642772; P.O. J. J. Kaye, 50212; Sgt. E. Kinnaird, 742602; Sgt. F. Kinnaird, 742720; Sgt. J. S. Mather, 501195; P/O. E. G. Parkin, 70755; Sgt. G. K. D. Pulvermacher, 742374; L.A.C. N. D. Rink, 642742; L.A.C. R. M. Ross, 507719; Sgt. D. R. Seabrook, 745424.	The undersigned Pilot Officers are promoted to the rank of Flying Officer: (June 25) D. E. R. Hester; (June 25) F. G. Quirk; (July 21) R. C. Young; (July 25) F. A. G. Llewellyn, C. A. Webster.
MISSING.—Sgt. G. J. Andrew, 740705; P. L. Alder, 44220; Sgt. W. S. Barrett, 301142; Sgt. V. S. G. Baxby, 542271; P.O. R. K. Bell, 40263; Sgt. G. F. Briston, 511194; Sgt. K. B. Ryan, 755279; P/O. J. R. Buchanan, 70252; Sgt. W. G. Cameron, 524420; Sgt. J. H. Clegg, 427702; Plt. Sgt. C. J. Cooney, 564547; P/O. H. C. Corbett, 72465; Sgt. R. W. Cotwell, 742614; Sgt. V. A. Coughlan, 520713; P/O. F. A. S. Cox, 31104; Sgt. J. J. Chubb, 520041; Sgt. A. M. Cox, 525750; Sgt. A. Coxe, 534021; L.A.C. A. Y. Crompton, 517062; Sgt. J. Thompson, 542244; P/O. D. A. Drew, 75520; Sgt. Ldr. F. E. Dwyer, 24189; P/O. P. F. Evans, 70196; Sgt. J. H. R. Egan, 501140; L.A.C. L. H. Edwards, 253387; P/O. H. H. Edwards, 42112; Sgt. C. D. Evans, 417444; P/O. H. F. G. Fisher, 78445; Sgt. J. C. Francis, 317872; P/O. E. H. G. Gasham, 59527; Sgt. R. P. Gannon, 741151;	DIED IN ACTIVE SERVICE.—Plt. Lt. W. M. Blom, D.F.C. 40041; Sgt. H. A. Bowmer, 500492; A/C2. V. G. Box, 125125; Cpl. F. Callinan, 370255; Sgt. W. H. J. Franklin, 520261; Group Capt. C. Gardner, D.S.O., D.F.C. 50014; Sgt. A. E. F. Gould, 524074; L.A.C. H. Gouling, 324035; Sgt. E. W. R. Green, 500087; L.A.C. G. A. Hall, 410064; A/C1. E. W. G. Jones, 515420; L.A.C. S. Jones, 423240; A/C2. A. Maguire, 1151042; A/C1. R. Morton, 541492; A/C1. A. F. Penning, 548306; L.A.C. J. M. Ross, 524046; A/C2. M. Russell, 507764; A/C2. G. Scott, 70008; Cpl. D. H. Snowy, 418442; A/C2. W. E. Smith, 60500; A/C1. F. Stewart, 423354; P.O. S. Thompson, 70927; A/C2. H. S. Tomlinson, 102280; A/C2. T. H. Williams, 544243.	Air Coaster, F. P. Don, O.B.E., is granted the acting rank of Air Vice-Marshal (July 20).
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING." Now Reported "Killed in Action."—Sgt. P. V. Achon, 40051; L.A.C. F. G. Laws, 53775; L.A.C. A. H. E. Johns, 50040; L.A.C. H. V. Richardson, 56002.		

Bowmer was buried at the Church of St John the Baptist, Scampton. He was 21 years of age. His grave is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

FALL FROM LINCOLN HOTEL

"Silly Prank" Caused R.A.F. Sergeant's Death

"A SILLY prank" by a sergeant of the R.A.F., which resulted in his death, was investigated by Lincoln City Coroner (Dr. G. C. Wells-Cole) at Lincoln County Hospital to-day.

The inquest was on Sergeant Henry Alexander Bowmer (21), whose home was at Wag Wood, Dore, Sheffield. He died in hospital on Friday evening, having been taken there late on Wednesday night suffering from a fractured skull, a broken forearm and a dislocated hip.

The coroner said Bowmer was found lying on the footpath outside the City Hotel on the Cornhill at about 11.30 on Wednesday night.

"It would appear," said Dr. Wells-Cole, "that he climbed a fall water-pipe with the object of reaching an upper window and in doing so he fell to the ground, a distance of 26ft."

Bertha Spencer, a barmaid at the hotel, said she, with a friend, Miss Jacklin, Bowmer and two other members of the R.A.F., went to a milk-bar after the hotel closed on Wednesday. They came away leaving Bowmer in the milk-bar, but he rejoined them outside the hotel. After talking for a few minutes, she went in to bed and Bowmer and the other men left.

Bowmer joined in the conversation, but she could not remember what it was about. When she had been upstairs a short time she heard a crash.

In reply to the foreman of the jury, she said she had not made an attempt to get Bowmer to return to the hotel, but that it was rather late when she heard the crash.

heard a crash of breaking glass. He ran downstairs and found Bowmer lying on the pavement.

Bowmer was a quiet, reserved young man.

In reply to Mr. L. C. Rysdale, for the police, Scott said that Bowmer was not particularly friendly with Miss Spencer. He had not been out with her and knew her only because she was at the hotel.

P.C. Wing said from marks which he found it seemed that Bowmer had fallen from a two-inch ledge beneath a kitchen window on the second floor. One pane of this window had been broken.

Addressing the jury, the Coroner said there seemed to be no explanation for "this silly prank." Bowmer was a quiet, sensible young man and no one seemed to be to blame but himself.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

Released Rector's Congregation of Two: His Sermon

THE Rev. R. G. Calvin-Graham, Rector of Old Bolingbroke, near Spilby, who was sentenced to imprisonment for ringing the church bell contrary to the Defence Regulations, has been released and took morning service at the church yesterday.

There was a congregation of only two.

HEARD CRASH

Arthur Daniel Scott, the proprietor of the hotel, said Bowmer had a few drinks in the hotel, but was certainly not drunk when he left shortly after 10 o'clock.

Scott said while he was having his supper, after Miss Spencer had returned, there was a ring at the front door bell, and, going down, he found Bowmer there. Bowmer did not say what he wanted and left a few minutes later.

Scott said he went to bed and had been there a few minutes when he

SAXBY (ST. HELEN) CHURCHYARD
Index No. U.K. 2042

MATTHEWS, L.A.C. DERRICK HUGH, 1737192. R.A.F. (V.R.). 25th May, 1946. Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Matthews; husband of Joan Hazel Matthews, of Saxby.

SCAMBLESBY (ST. MARTIN) CHURCHYARD
Index No. U.K. 2043

SMITH, Sgt. GEORGE EDWARD, 1151664. R.A.F. (V.R.). 49 Sqdn. 25th November, 1941.

SCAMPTON (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD
Index No. U.K. 2044

The village of Scampton is six miles north of Lincoln, and its church and churchyard are on the road to Scunthorpe. During the 1939-1945 War there was a Royal Air Force Station at Scampton, and in the early months of the war a plot lying to the right of the entrance was set aside for the burial of servicemen. In 1941 it became necessary to reserve further ground for this purpose and

BOWMER, Sgt. HARRY ALEXANDER, 580692. R.A.F. 83 Sqdn. 2nd August, 1940. Age 21. Son of Matthew Noel Bowmer and of Winifred Ethel Bowmer (née Lunn), of Liverpool. Old Part. Grave 3.

BROWNE, Sgt. JAMES ARTHUR GERALD, 404849. R.A.A.F. 31st January, 1943. Age 25. Son of Francis Atkins Browne and Olive Eglantine Shuckburgh Browne, of Roma, Queensland, Australia; husband of Marjorie Sylvia Browne, of Southgate, Middlesex, England. New Part. Grave 25.

BUTT, Flt. Lieut. (Pilot) CHARLES HENRY, 401751. Mentioned in Despatches. R.N.Z.A.F. 4th November, 1942. Age 22. Son of Ernest Alexander and Hilda Jessie Butt, of Hamilton, Auckland, New Zealand. New Part. Grave 10.

CATLEY, Sgt. (Pilot) FREDERICK NORMAN COLIN, 745724. R.A.F. (V.R.). 49 Sqdn. 29th September, 1940. Age 21. Son of Frederick and Gertrude Ellen Catley, of Eynsford, Kent. Old Part. Grave 10.

COLE, Flt. Sgt. ELLIOT LIVESEY, 401302. R.A.A.F. 31st January, 1943. Age 23. Son of Rupert Chester Cole and Beryl Marjorie Cole, of Caulfield, Victoria, Australia. New Part. Grave 17.

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GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM

County: LINCOLNSHIRE Schedule No. : 1

PLACE OF BURIAL : SCAMPTON (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHYD. **UNITED KINGDOM DISTRICT**

Controlling Authority : _____

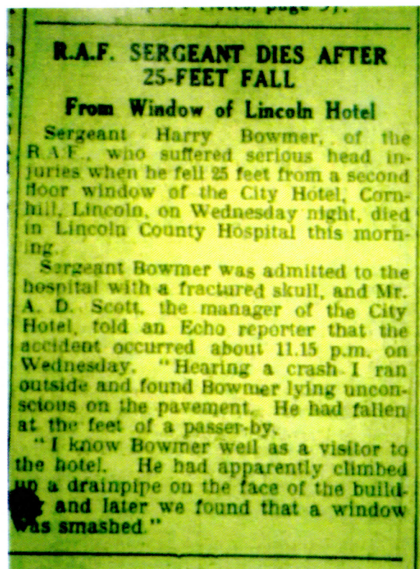
The following are buried here : _____

Certified complete and correct.
SIGNATURE *J. H. J. J. J.* DATE 27 APR 1955

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	
P.R.C.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name and Honours	Unit	Date of Death	Details of Grave marking including Screen Wall	By whom maintained, if at Commission expense state fee payable	Ownership of Grave	REMARKS	
			<u>WAR Graves</u> <u>SCAMPTON PLOT. (OLD PART)</u>						
1	41715 P/O (Pilot)	O.H. LAUNDERS	85 Sqdn. R.A.F.	8.7.40	Q/H	All by P.O.C.			
2	326512 A.O.2	R.W. BENNETT	R.A.F. (V.R.)	20.7.40	Q/H	at 5/- wk.			
3	580692 Sgt.	H.A. BOWMER	83 Sqdn. R.A.F.	2.8.40	Q/H				

It may well be that the authorities dealt with the various formalities in a sensitive manner in order to avoid any distress on the part of Sgt Bowmer's family.

The true and more exact circumstances of his unfortunate death were, however, revealed initially in the Lincolnshire Echo on 3 August 1940. A brief report in that newspaper related an incident in which he fell twenty-five feet from the second floor window of a Lincoln hotel at about 11.15pm on the night of Wednesday 31 July 1940. According to the Echo he died at Lincoln County Hospital on the morning of Saturday 3 August 1940.



A Coroner's inquest took place on Monday 5 August 1940 when more detailed particulars and evidence emerged about the incident. The time of death was then given as the evening of Friday 2 August 1940. The evidence placed before the Coroner was that Sgt Bowmer visited a bar with other RAF personnel and two young ladies, one of whom was a barmaid at the City Hotel at Cornhill. The women left the bar but were later rejoined by the airmen outside the hotel. The barmaid went inside in order to go to bed. After a while she heard a crash. This was also heard by the hotel proprietor who went outside to investigate and saw Sgt Bowmer on the pavement. A police officer told the inquest that marks suggested Bowmer had fallen from a two inch ledge beneath a window on the second floor. It appeared that he had climbed a fall pipe in order to access an upper window but unfortunately fell to the ground causing his fatal injuries.