

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Aircraftman 1 Aubrey James McHenry 1210084 RAFVR (1921-1946) died aged 25



Aubrey was born in Canterbury, Kent on 3rd December 1920 the second son of Patrick Joseph (also known as Joseph Patrick) and Florence McHenry (née Hill) who married on 11th April 1914 at the Bristol registry office. Their first child Harold Joseph was also born in Canterbury, Kent on 26th March 1915.

Aubrey's father, Patrick enlisted with the army in 1900 aged 14 and was assigned to the York and Lancaster Regiment (1st Garrison Battalion), a line infantry regiment of the British Army.

The 1911 census lists Patrick under the Trumpeters and Drummers of the 1st York Lancashire Regiment resident in India. Following the end of the Boer War in South Africa in 1902, the 1st Battalion was sent to British India where it remained until being dispatched to Aden (South Yemen) at the beginning of 1912. He was discharged on 18th April 1912, having served for 12 years.

At the outbreak of the Great War Patrick returned to the army. He served as a Sergeant in the Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) and was awarded the British War medal and Victory medal.

From at least the late 1930's right up until Patrick's death in 1959 the family home was at 47 Stechford Road, Ward End. The 1939 Electoral Register records Florence, Harold Joseph and Aubrey James at the family home. Harold's occupation a motor inspector 'army lorry components' working for Morris Commercial at Adderley Park and Aubrey working for the GPO (General Post Office) engineering heavy supply store. There is no reference to Patrick on the register.

Aubrey enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in November 1940 and was sent to RAF Cardington, near Bedford in Bedfordshire.

Cardington was a famous airship site, but following the crash of the R101 in October 1930 it became a storage station. In 1936 Cardington started building barrage balloons and during the war the RAF used Harvard aircraft there for training purposes.

Aubrey died, eleven months after the war ended, at home on 10th August 1946 of Myelogenous Leukaemia, a cancer of the white blood cells, Patrick signed the death certificate. Aubrey's occupation is recorded as an engineer's mechanic.

He is buried, along-side his parents, at St Mary and St Margaret's Churchyard, Castle Bromwich. The inscription reads *"In loving memory of our dear beloved son Aubrey James McHenry A.C.1 RAFVR who passed away Aug. 10th 1946 aged 25 years 'For Ever In Our Thoughts'"*. He is also remembered on the Castle Bromwich war memorial and the memorial in the church.



McHenry family grave

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