

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Sergeant (Air Gunner) Neville Christian Stocker (1911-1942) 940562 158th Squadron Royal Air Force (Voluntary Reserve) RAFVR died aged 30



NC Stocker headstone

Neville was born on 17th May 1911 the third of four children to parents William Henry and Grace Ida Stocker (née Christian). Sisters Doris Neville b.1907, Kathleen Mary b.1908 and brother Norman William b.1913.

Neville married Freda Gertrude Cook in Birmingham in early 1935. Their son Granville Morris Neville Stocker was born in the spring of 1939. The electoral register of 1939 shows the family living at 90 Hawthorne Road, Castle Bromwich. Granville married Joyce Taylor in 1962 and subsequently emigrated to New Zealand.

Neville enlisted with the RAFVR joining 158th Squadron in February 1942 when it reformed during the great wartime expansion of Bomber Command.

At this time, they were operating Vickers Wellington II aircraft based at RAF Driffield in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Neville and his crew colleagues Pilot Ian Wynn Davis NZ Air Force, observer P/O John Peter Dixon Clarke, Wireless Operator Robert McFarlane Graham RCAF, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner Charles Stacey Neveu RCAF were all killed when their Wellington II W5562 aircraft crashed over Germany on 9th May 1942. Observer RJ Withers was the only survivor and was captured and became a prisoner of war at Stalag 344, Lamsdorf, Poland.



Vickers Wellington II

Neville is buried with his other crew members at the Berlin War Cemetery, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany. The cross inscription reads *“He has heard the great reveille, it is morning, all is well ‘manana’ ”*. He is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich.

*Prepared by Alan Fewtrell 2019
alan.fewtrell1957@gmail.com*