

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

World War II 1939-1945

Flight Officer (Pilot) John Albert Winkley (1923-1945) 167223 Royal Air Force (Voluntary Reserve) RAFVR died aged 22



Jack Winkley

John (known as Jack) was born on 28th June 1923 to parents Sidney Samuel and Beatrice Winkley (née Oakley). He was the fourth of eight children Evelyn Beatrice b1911, Sidney Leonard b1915, William Jesse b1920, Margaret Mary b1925, Robert Arthur b1927, Derek Thomas b1930 and Elizabeth Rose b 1933. The Electoral Register of 1939 shows John living with his parents and five siblings at 26 Ashville Avenue, Castle Bromwich, he was working as a shipping clerk.

Prior to enrolling in the RAF, Jack joined the Birmingham City Police as Constable B94. He joined the RAF(VR) in April 1943, training as a pilot in Canada. He served with 45 Group at Dorval, Quebec, responsible for flying new aircraft to operational units.

On 30th June 1945 he died following an air crash whilst taking off from Dorval military airfield. Jack, a co-pilot and the crew, pilot Derrick Southwell, wireless operator Geoffrey Buers, Sergeant Allan Furness, Sergeant Ivor Platt and first engineer flight sergeant George Chappell, were aboard a Liberator Mk VIII KN768 a delivery flight destined for India.

On take-off, pilot Southwell lifted the aircraft off the ground in a semi-stalled condition and raised the undercarriage. The aircraft sank back striking the port outer propeller on the runway. The propeller detached from the aircraft and the engine failed. The aircraft climbed to about 50ft and then crashed back to the runway out of control. It burst into flames and the crew perished in the aircraft or later that day in Lachine hospital, Montreal.



Jack's grave

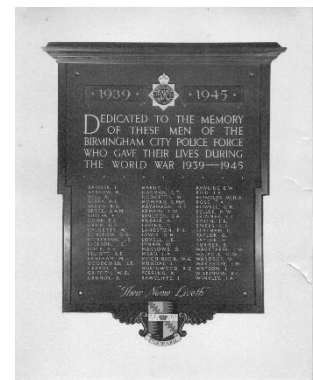


Gravestone

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Jack is buried at Montreal (Mount Royal) Cemetery, Canada, the stone is engraved "To memory ever dear".

He is also remembered on the Birmingham City Police WWII memorial plaque at Lloyd House, Birmingham, the memorial plaque in St Mary & St Margaret's Church and at the war memorial on The Green, Castle Bromwich.



Police memorial plaque

Jack's elder brother William Jesse Winkley also served in the RAFVR during WWII.

Prepared by Alan Fewtrell 2019

alan.fewtrell1957@gmail.com

<http://www.rafcommands.com/archive/08485.php>