

Sgt. Ronald Henry Smith 1575673 RAFVR

Charges to pay s. d. 63 SE 6 1575673 SE/T +
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TELEGRAM
Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.
21
From SA 1 11.12 SF/T OHMS-OF YDS YDAY 44 m
PRIORITY - MR E G SMITH 63 BELLINGHAM ROAD CATFORD LONDON SE 6
DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON NO 1575673 SGT NAVIGATOR R H SMITH HAS BEEN KILLED IN FLYING ACCIDENT STOP PLEASE ACCEPT DEEPEST SYMPATHY STOP LETTER FOLLOWS - COMMANDING OFFICER RAF FINNINGLEY +
Useful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.



Ronald was the 21-year-old son of Edwin George and Rose Emmeline Smith, of Catford, London.

He was a navigator serving with No. 18 OTU at RAF Finningley, South Yorkshire.

Wellington III X3800 VQ- took off from Finningley airfield at 1510 hours on 2 August 1943, on a day training mission. The exercise called for solo single engine flying practice without feathering, which involved shutting down one of the engines and flying on one good engine. During this routine the pilot was presumed to have lost control and, at 1530 hours, the aircraft was seen to dive into the ground in a deep spiral, crashing near Wroot, North Lincolnshire, and killing all on board. The cause of the crash was not determined.

Ronald is buried at Lewisham (Hither Green) Cemetery, Kent, Sec. G. G. Grave 47. The epitaph reads "Death does not long divide, this rose now bloometh on Christ's other side".

The others who died with Ronald were the pilot Sgt. Leslie Albert Charlton, air bomber Sgt. John William Perry and wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Eric Hempel Sherman RAAF.

Ronald is commemorated on IBCC Panel 99.

Photographs courtesy of www.aircrewremembered.com