

Wg Cdr Christopher Grant Hill DFC IGSM 25030 RAF

Christopher was born on 31 July 1907 in Widdington, Essex, the second son of James William Hill and Cicely Grant Hill nee Watson.

Educated at Eton College, Christopher joined the Army and in September 1927 was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). He served in The Buffs, including in Burma where he was awarded the IGSM, until 1936 when he was seconded to the RAF. In September 1937 Christopher returned to Army Service with the Royal Irish Fusiliers until his final secondment back to the RAF as a Flt Lt in February 1940.

In July 1940 (recommended in May 1940) Christopher was awarded the DFC for his actions with 4 Sqn in France. His citation read:

"This officer was attached to a squadron at the outbreak of hostilities, and being an experienced pilot he at once volunteered to carry out the first tactical reconnaissance over the enemy. In view of his skill and experience he was sent to report on the air defences of the enemy which was a most hazardous task at this time since no information had then been compiled regarding enemy air defence and anti-aircraft layout. On four occasions he penetrated some 20 miles into enemy territory bringing back vital information which proved of the greatest value to the Corps on the front of which he was operating".

On 15 March 1941 Christopher was posted on to 18 Sqn at RAF Massingham, Norfolk from 139 Sqn, taking command of the squadron 2 days later and moving to RAF Oulton, Norfolk the following month.

On 14 April 1941 a small detachment of aircraft were sent from the squadron to RAF Chivenor, Devon for anti-shipping operations.

At 13:45 on 15 April Christopher and his crew departed RAF Chivenor, Devon in Blenheim IV R3841(WV). The aircraft was last seen at 15:37 climbing to an altitude of 1000 feet towards the French Coast, and is thought to have crashed into the sea near Brest, off Camaret-sur-Mer.

Also Killed: FS John Frodsham (WOp/AG); FS Charles Duthrie McPhee (Observer)

Christopher has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Christopher is commemorated on Wall Panel 182