

Flt Lt Ormiston Galloway Edgar McWilliam 79101 RAFVR

Ormiston was born on 20 December 1892 in Kensington, London, the eldest son of Ormiston Galloway Reid McWilliam and Jessie Elizabeth McWilliam nee McMahon. In August 1923 he married Ida Margaret Bradbury in East Grinstead, Sussex. They had 3 sons.

Educated at Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey and Oxford University, in August 1914 he was commissioned on the Infantry General List, before joining the 5th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Ormiston fought in the Gallipoli Campaign of WW1, landing with his regiment at Suvla Bay. On 5 August 1915, the 5th Inniskillings were directed to take Kidney Ridge. Shortly after noon that day they advanced and made moderate progress until they reached the plain at the foot of the hill. The advance then stopped due to very heavy artillery and enemy machine gun fire. More advances were made, but all were in vain. By 20:00 orders were sent from Brigade HQ to withdraw back to the position they originally held at noon that day. The casualty count was high, 6 Officers had been killed and 14 wounded, with 28 other ranks killed, 230 wounded and 78 men posted as missing. Ormiston was one of the wounded.



Between the wars, Ormiston was employed in East Grinstead as a Schoolmaster and was the author of several text books.

In May 1940 Ormiston was commissioned in the RAFVR in the Administrative and Special Duties Branch for administrative duties.

On 19 August 1942, 226 Sqn were tasked with supporting Operation Jubilee, the doomed raid on Dieppe. Ormiston was an observer on the 2nd of 4 missions, which was to lay a smoke screen over the Hindenburg Battery at Dieppe. At 10:15 Ormiston departed as a passenger in Boston III AL278 (W) from RAF Thruxton, Hampshire. An effective screen was laid for a distance of 1 - 1.5 miles; however, considerable flak was encountered during the operation and Ormiston was mortally wounded by a canon shell. At 11:57 the aircraft returned to RAF Shoreham, but in order to avoid a Defiant aircraft the pilot was forced to swing his aircraft to port and with insufficient landing space available the aircraft crashed outside Battle HQ. Despite the crash and expeditious manner in which Ormiston was removed from the aircraft and conveyed to hospital, he died at 12:20 before a blood transfusion could be effected.

Ormiston is buried in Old Shoreham Cemetery, Sussex

Ormiston is commemorated on Wall Panel 211

Photo Source: Charterhouse Roll of Honour