Sgt Stanley James Ower 505871 RAF

Stanley was born on 5 April 1909 in Islington, London, the son of Walter Ower and Jessie Ower nee Eltham.

On leaving school, Stanley was employed as a General Clerk with Hayward & Sons Ltd, London before joining the RAF in April 1927 as an Aircraft Hand Group V, and completing his training at RAF Gosport, Hampshire.

By 1936, Stanley had qualified as a Sgt Pilot, had considerable flying experience, and was on the strength of 18 Sqn at RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire.

At 10:35 on 30 December 1936, Stanley departed RAF Upper Heyford in Hawker Hind K5474 on a training flight, which was to include practice forced landings at the Relief Landing Ground at Cottisford, Oxfordshire.

At 10:45, whilst practicing landing manoeuvres, the aircraft stalled during the final turn. The nose dropped and the wing caught the ground, flipping the aircraft over. The aircraft crashed in a field on the opposite side of the main road, near Juniper Hill, killing Stanley and injuring his passenger. A verdict of accidental death was given at the inquest, with no blame attached to anyone.

Stanley is buried in Upper Heyford Cemetery, Oxfordshire

Stanley is commemorated on Wall Panel PRE (Not Yet Erected)