

Enquiry to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission October 2020

My father's cousin, Basil Henry Glasse, is commemorated at Runnymede (Panel 269), but I have found information relating to his burial, and wondered if the CWGC was aware of this information? The details follow below:

Warrant Officer Basil Henry Glasse, Service number 777859, RAF Volunteer Reserve 150 Squadron. Shot down in a Wellington bomber over Belgium 24/8/42, taken prisoner, POW number 27141, died 9/3/45 at Bad Sulza, probably at Stalagluft 9C, with Rifleman G.R. Perryman at his bedside and burial on 12/3/45, officiated by Rev. J.R. Bamber.

In 11 letters home over a 3-month period, to his parents, Eira and Walter Glasse of Essexvale, Southern Rhodesia (all his letters are available), he wrote under the name of Lewis Mayo, POW number 6112. The reason for this is unknown, but I understand that swapping names and places within the POW camp with a lower category prisoner to make an escape more possible was sometimes done.

Basil died of acute dysentery and malnutrition.

Response from the CWGC:

Thank you for your email. According to our records, the Army Graves Service looked for Warrant Officer Glasse's grave in Bad Sulza POW Cemetery after the war. However, as Bad Sulza was in the Soviet occupied part of Germany, they only had very limited access to the area. When they did finally manage to gain access to the cemetery in June 1948, sadly they failed to find 7 of the 10 graves they were looking for due to the conditions they found. Unfortunately, as relations with the Soviets then deteriorated, no further attempts were allowed. Further attempts by the Commission to locate graves in the Soviet sector were attempted after East Germany collapsed in the 1990s, but sadly in this case, it was still not possible to locate the graves.

Researched and compiled by P Hay
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