

Roderick Cawthorn Boak

Sergeant Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service number 936333

Died 25 November 1943 Age 27.

Memorial Cambridge City Cemetery.

Inscription My Life was all I had to give. This life I gave that you might live.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2650925/boak,-roderick-cawthorn/>

Roderick Boak's birth was registered in the Nottingham R D in the June Quarter of 1916, his mother's maiden name recorded as Cawthorn

Roderick's parents were -Percy Abraham Boak born 12 August 1881, and Mary nee Cawthorn born in Rochdale on 15 November 1879 They married in 1910 registered in Nottingham RD in the June quarter

Their first son Alan J. C. Boak was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1911, registered in Nottingham during the June quarter of 1911. On the 1911 Census Percy and Mary were living at 33 Balfour Road Nottingham and Percy's occupation was as a paper merchant assistant.

Their second son Roderick Boak was born in 1916 his birth was registered in the Nottingham R D in the June Quarter.

The family moved around quite a bit being located variously on Talbot Street, Clarendon Street, Arundel Street, and Bingham Road (Electoral Registers 1920-1931)

In 1935 Roderick Married Edna May Chettle the marriage was registered in Nottingham in the September quarter

Their son Martin was born on 30 July 1937, his birth registered in Basford Registration District

On the 1939 register the family were living in 'Glenco' on Duncroft Avenue, Gedling.

Thomas E Chettle born 28/12/1907 single occupation Railway Tuber (Heavy work

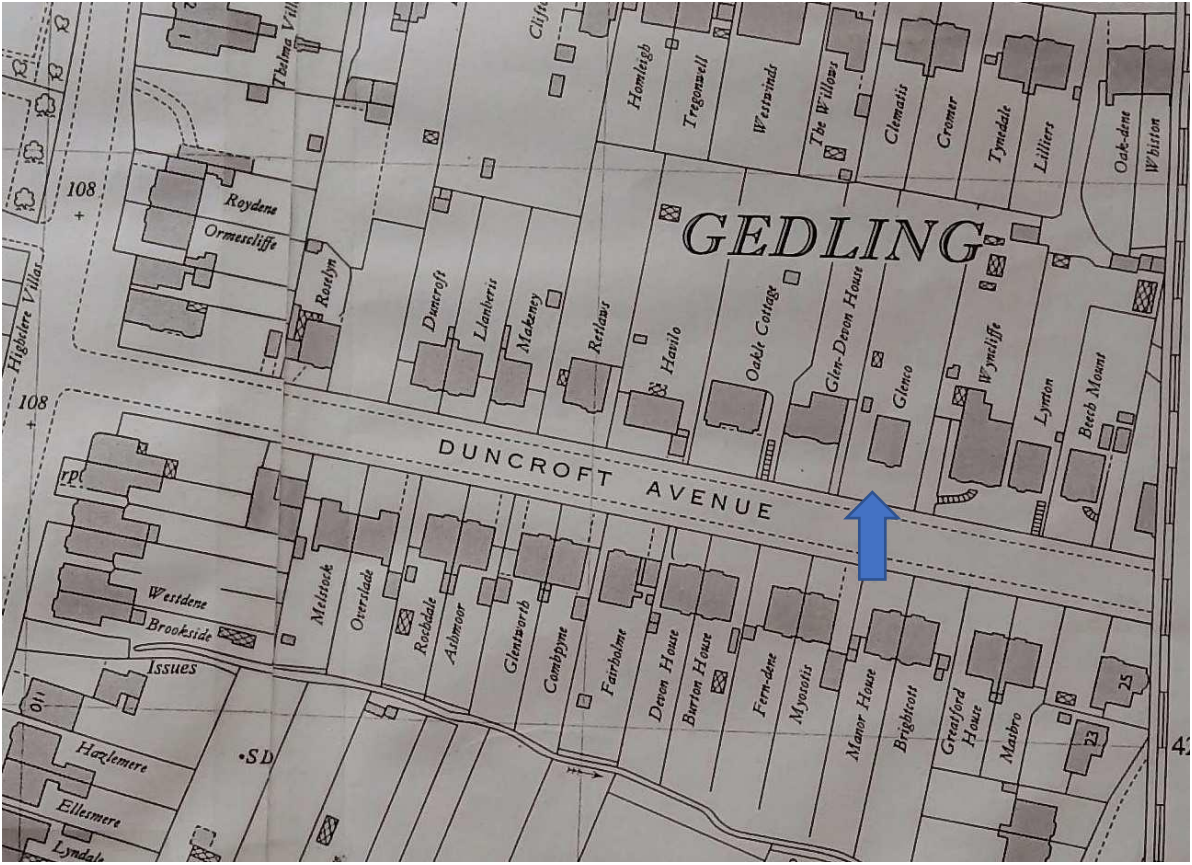
Edna M Boak born 5/12/1906 married occupation Unpaid domestic duties

Roderick C Boak born 13/5/1914 married occupation RAF

Carol Cawthorne Boak born 15/11/1935 single under school age.

Closed record.

Roderick joined the RAFVR at Cardington at some point pre 29<sup>th</sup> September 1939 when the Register was taken



I have discovered no details of his service but in November 1943 he was at RAF Graveley near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Roderick was probably working as a Bomb Disposal operator, a member of the Air Ministry armament staff who were at RAF Graveley Bomb Dump to defuse bombs

It is unsure whether Roderick was defusing an armed bomb or fusing a 1,000 lb bomb when it exploded killing him and 2 other men.

He was buried in the Cambridge City Cemetery.

This was announced in the Nottingham Evening Post Deaths Column on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1943

*BOAK Roderick Cawthorne Sergeant RAF beloved husband of Edna 'Glenco' Gedling and dearly loved younger son of Percy and Mary Boak of 22 Knighton Road Woodthorpe. Aged 27. Interment Cambridge.*

His gravestone has been photographed for this website

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32378620/roderick-boak#view-photo=120909709>

Grave 13745

Memorial ID 3237862

Probate.

*BOAK, Roderick Cawthorn of Glencoe, Duncroft Avenue, Gedling Nottinghamshire, died 25<sup>th</sup> November 1943 on war service. Probate Nottingham to Alan Joseph Cawthorn Boak, Lieutenant Commander RNVR. Effects £401.*

Roderick's wife Edna, remarried in 1946 to John J. Howarth (registered in Basford registration District in the September quarter)

Roderick's mother Mary Boak died in September 1947.