

Albert Leslie Furr



Flight Lieutenant 120 Sqdn, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service Number 130062,

Died on 04 October 1943 Age 31

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1270528/ALBERT%20LESLIE%20FURR/>

Son of Herbert and Mary (nee Bywaters) Furr whose marriage in the December quarter of 1905 was registered in Hitchin R D in Hertfordshire.

Their first son was Herbert Charles born in 1906, then Frank William born in 1908 followed by Albert Leslie born on 19 November 1909

In the 1911 census the family were living at 226 Nevells Road Letchworth with the 3 sons having been born in Letchworth. Their father Herbert is a railway porter

The family later moved to Carlton, first residing on Baily Street Netherfield before moving to Ranmoor Road Gedling, on the Electoral Register of 1931 their address is Allwyn Cottage on Ranmoor Road



Albert was educated at Chandos Street Boys School and was then employed by the Post Office as a telegraph boy. Later he worked on the railway (LNE company) as a 'tracer' from 14 May 1926 until around January 1932, then a change of profession to an insurance agent.

Albert married Olive M Barlow, in 1931 at Blackwell in Derbyshire. The marriage was registered in the Mansfield Registration District in the September quarter.

A son Peter was born in 1933, the birth being registered in Nottingham during the December quarter.

On the 1939 Register they were living at 13 Freeman's Terrace Carlton.



From 1914 Ordnance Survey Map

Albert was one of the first local men to volunteer for the RAFVR (March 1939) and was called up in September that year. On the 1939 register his profession was listed as RAF LAC 744929 Red Hill . RAF Redhill was in Surrey and was a training base.

In the RAF he began as an air gunner then became a wireless operator, Being involved in Coastal Command Patrols. He was posted to Ireland and then to Iceland.

An account of the last flight can be found on the website

<https://www.wv2ni.com/countyderryairfields.htm>

On 4 October 1943 Wing Commander Longmore was in Command of Liberator FL923 which was escorting Convoy ON204.

U-boat U 539 was sighted on the surface and when FL923 attacks rather than diving U 539 stayed on the surface and returned fire.

German Records say:-

"The Liberator, which was mistakenly identified as a Lancaster, was sighted at 1123 hrs when 7-8000 metres away, approaching at an altitude of 800 metres.

All the boats flak guns which consisted of two twin and one quadruple 200-mm, were immediately manned and fire was opened.

Despite heavy flak the aircraft circled, drawing slowly closer to the U-boat until at 1138 hrs it ran into the attack replying to the U-boats fire with cannon when at a range of 1000 metres.

Although hit several times, the aircraft pressed home the attack, dropping six depth charges that fell ahead of the port bow at a distance of between 10 and 159 metres from the U-boat, which was shaken violently.

Both the aircraft's starboard engines were seen to have caught fire and shortly afterwards it came down in the sea, exploding on impact with the water.

On assumption that none of the aircrew would escape from the wreckage, the CO ordered the U-boat to dive so that a proper inspection of damage, which turned out to be relatively minor, could be made. One of U 539's crew was slightly wounded" The aircraft had been on detachment from Ballykelly to Reykjavik, Iceland and the following information is from the ww2talk Forum.

At 1130 am a signal from the aircraft was received stating 'about to carry out an attack'. The signal faded and nothing further was heard from the aircraft which did not return to base. It was considered that the aircraft may have been shot down by flak. Searches were carried out the next day and aircraft were warned to keep a lookout, but no trace of the missing aircraft or crew were found."

Crew:-

Wing Commander, Richard Maitland Longmore O B E, Age 28

Flying Officer, Robert Wood Tait, Age 23

Flight Lieutenant, John Nigel Grey Bruce

Flight Sergeant, Arthur Edward Parsons, Age 25

Flight Lieutenant, Albert Leslie Furr, Age 31

Warrant Officer, William Stott, Age 33

Warrant Officer, Ernest Arthur Mincham, Age 31

Flying Officer Francis Maxwell Webber, Age 20

Albert Leslie Furr is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, his name being listed on Panel 119. For information and photographs of this please see

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2139034/runnymede-memorial>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15253074/albert-leslie-furr>

Probate 1945

FURR, Albert Leslie of 13 Freeman's Terrace Carlton Nottinghamshire died on or since 4 October 1943 on war service. Administration Nottingham 1st September to Olive May Furr, widow. Effects £428 1s 9d

Olive Furr and son Peter later emigrated to Australia, probably in October 1948 when she and Peter are listed as passengers on the 'Asturias' en route for Melbourne. She visited England in 1955 without Peter, and again, with Peter in 1958. Presumably, this was to visit her family as the address given was 32 New Street, Newton, Derby.

Olive died in Warrnambool aged 62 on 18 January 1972. And is buried in Warrnambool Cemetery

<https://warrnamboolcemetery.com.au/lisewblcemetery/furr-olive-may/39>

AIRMAN'S PROMOTION

First Man To Volunteer For Carlton R.A.F.V.R.

CONDITIONS IN ICELAND

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. A. L. Furr, of 13, Freeman's-terrace, Carlton, on his promotion to the rank of Flight-Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force.

A few months before war broke out, the Air Ministry appealed for volunteers for the R.A.F.V.R., and Flight-lieutenant Furr was the first in Carlton to respond. Applicants were told to get a form from the recruiting centre, fill in the necessary details and return it later. He was the first to get a form, and the second in the Nottingham district to send it back, in wireless, and has made several sets. There were three Carlton men who went about this time, and Flight-lieutenant Furr is the only one surviving.



FLIGHT-LIEUT. A. L. FURR

Furr volunteered in March, 1939, and was called to the colours on September 1, two days before war broke out. He trained for air crew duties and became an air gunner, with the rank of Leading-aircraftman. In the summer of 1940 he continued his training, and became a wireless operator. It was at this time that he was awarded his sergeant's stripes.

At the present time all members of air crews in the R.A.F. hold the rank of sergeant or higher. At the outbreak of the war L.A.C.s went up in the planes on active duties.

Coastal Command Patrols

Flight-lieutenant Furr has been many thousands of miles on patrol duties, as he is connected with Coastal Command. He has flown with several well-known pilots. For some time he was stationed in Ireland, and his duties took him from the Bay of Biscay to Iceland, where, incidentally, he is now stationed. He was granted his commission with the rank of Pilot-officer in August, 1942. The next promotion was in April of this year, and the final promotion was granted on June 1.

It was when the whole squadron was transferred to Iceland last May that Flight-lieutenant Furr left this country. In letters home he says that he misses the green trees, the grass, and fresh vegetables, while the people do not appear to be any too friendly, or at least they are too shy to introduce themselves. One reason for this may be the fact that through marriage there are a number of Germans on the island.

Besides taking part in patrol activities, Flight-lieutenant Furr is a Signals Officer in the squadron. He also lectures to the less experienced airmen.

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Interesting Career

He came to Carlton at an early age, and formerly lived in Bailey-street, Netherfield. Later he moved to Rammoor-road, where his parents still reside. He is nearly 34 years of age.

On leaving Chandos-street schools, where he received the major part of his education, he obtained employment as a telegraph boy at the Post Office. Later he worked on the railway, and finally became an insurance agent. It was whilst in this last mentioned position that he joined the Services.

Wireless Set In Match Box

Flight-lieutenant Furr was married twelve years ago, on September 6, at Blackwell, in Derbyshire, the home of his wife. He has always been interested in wireless, and has built several sets, including a crystal set built in a match-box. He also had a flair for inventions.

He is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Furr, who have another son, Frank Furr, who is in the Royal Engineers, and has been serving about twelve months in England. He has just had a leave, however, that is, in all probability, his embarkation leave.

The eldest son (Herbert) has been a regular soldier and has seen service in India. He was discharged from the Army, however, before the war broke out, due to ill-health.

South Notts Echo
11 September 1943.