

## Arthur George HAYMAN

School Years: 1928-1935

The Martlet 'Roll of Service' – Sergeant Gunner R.A.F.

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*"Avenge in the shadows"*



*Bristol Beaufort*

Service Rank: Sergeant-Gunner

Service Number: 580515

Service Record: 214 Squadron

Base: RAF St Eval Cornwall

Date of Death: 1 February 1941

Operation: Brest Harbour

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In February 1941 the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) '*Admiral Hipper* (18.200 tons) was located lying in dry dock for engine repairs at Brest Harbour. One of five heavy cruiser class German warships she presented a constant threat to allied shipping. The cruiser had in early 1940 sunk a British Destroyer *HMS Glowworm* following an epic engagement in Norwegian waters. The Commander of the *Glowworm* was posthumously awarded the first Victoria Cross of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

Once found, a total of eighty-five aircraft over five nights were despatched with the *Hipper* as their principal target. Four direct hits were recorded.

The crew of a Beaufort 1 L9835 aircraft of 214 Squadron took off at 14.55 hours, with air gunner *old boy* Arthur George HAYMAN, to attack the '*Admiral Hipper*.' They reported an engine failure after the attack; a Direction Finding (D/F) bearing put the aircraft close to the coast of France, well adrift of its home bearing.

The Beaufort would have been fighting a 35/45 knot headwind on one engine during the return leg to St Eval and it inevitably crashed into the sea off the French Coast killing the whole crew.

Crew member Pilot Flt.Lt. Oakley of Ashburton, Victoria rests in Pihen-les-Guines Communal Cemetery at Cements Pas de Calais. The remainder of the crew including *Arthur* George HAYMAN aged 21 are commemorated at Runnymede.

These were early days of a war with an uncertain outcome. This attack was yet another sobering tribute to the thousands of young aircrew fighting against seemingly impossible odds to keep Britain out the clutches of a tyrannical regime.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Runnymede