

## Harold George SOFFE RAFVR

**Born:** 1920

**Parents:** Son of William George and Rosemary Soffe formerly of Summerley –  
Chichester

Married to the daughter of Mr & Mrs A.G. Messam of 16 Turnball Road,  
Chichester

**School Years:** 1930-37

Oxford School Certificate – Spring Term 1936 – Pass with credit

Form Prize winner – Spring Term 1936

Civilian Occupation. Employed at County Hall, West Sussex County Council  
in the Health Department

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### Armed Forces Record

**Service Rank:** Sergeant

**Service Number:** 754364

**Service Base:** No. 51 squadron - R. A. F. Dishforth

**Date of Death:** 10.01.41



*Armstrong Whitworth "Whitley" Bomber*

Sergeant Soffe's Whitley Bomber returning from a raid on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1941 at Gelsenkirchen, Germany came to grief when attempting to land at R.A.F. Dishforth after a night operation.

From an obituary account in the Chichester Observer on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1941

## **Chichester Pilot**

### **Sergeants Death**

#### **Killed in Bomber Crash**

Another Chichester airman who has lost his life in the service of his King and country is Sergeant-Pilot HAROLD GEORGE SOFFE, age 21, whose bomber aircraft came to grief when attempting to land at R.A.F. Dishford after night operations on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941. His parents are Mr & Mrs H.W.Soffe who now reside in Kingswear, Dartmouth, Devon. They formerly resided at Summersdale where Mr Soffe was employed at The Warren.

The deceased N.C.O. was educated at Chichester High School for Boys. On leaving he secured an appointment at County Hall, where he was employed in the Health Department. He joined the auxiliary branch of the R.A.F. shortly before the war, and the rank to which he has since risen is sufficient proof of his keenness and efficiency. He was married in July last to the daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G. Messam of 16 Turnbull Road, Chichester, and, the warmest sympathy will be extended to his young widow.

An R.A.F. escort, firing party, and bearers paid service honours to the deceased on Thursday where his remains were laid to rest in Chichester Cemetery. The coffin, draped in the Union Jack was first borne to the Congregational Church, where a numerous congregation took part in the service at which the Rev .D.K. Oldring, B.D., officiated. Appropriate hymns were sung and general sympathy manifested at the loss of a brave young man. The principle mourners included his wife, Mr H.W. Soffe (father), Mr Jeffery Soffe (brother), Mr. and Mrs. Messam (parents in law), Mr. and Mrs. Merritt and Mr. and Mrs Burton (uncles and aunts, Mrs J.Taylor (cousin), Master Pat and June Taylor, Master David and Miss Jean Messam and Mr. and Mrs Reid.

The School was represented by the Headmaster Dr.E.W. Bishop and the Captain and Vice-Captain.

There were numerous R.A.F. and personal floral tributes.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial