

Henry Richard (Dick) CUTTEN RAFVR

Born: 1914

Parents Son of the late Henry Richard Cutten and Lydia Cutten of Chichester

School Years: 1928-1933 One of the 'originals' attending the school -

Sherborne House - Added to the School Prefect Roll -

Oxford School Certificate 1931 Honours -

Speech Day Prize (Oxford) – Awarded 'Special' Prize' (Geography a Science)

School Colours – Football and Cricket -

The Chess Club – A Champion many times -

Civilian Occupation: Chose teaching as a profession

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Pilot Officer

Service Number 112740

Service Record No. 8 Service Flying Training School

Base: R.A.F. Montrose - Scotland

Date of Death: 17 December 1941

Posted to Flying Training School for instruction in aircraft handling, navigation, aircraft systems and rules-of-the-air. During a training exercise on 17 December 1941, there occurred a mid-air collision between a two-seater Miles Master Trainer N7391 and an Avro Anson R9585. Both came down near the town of Stracathro. The instructor and pupil of the Trainer and the seven occupants of the Anson, including *Old Boy* Henry Richard (Dick) CUTTEN were all killed.

NOTE: Training/flying accidents were regular occurrences. Bomber Command lost over 8,000 aircrews this way during the Second World War.



Miles "Master" Trainer



Avro "Anson"

An obituary extract from the Chichester Observer on 27 December 1941

Fatality to Pilot-Officer H.G. Cutten

Great regret has been aroused in Chichester by the news of the death in an aircraft accident in Scotland of Pilot-Officer Henry Richard Cutten (27) son of the late Mr H.R. Cutten and Mrs Cutten, 10 Little London, Chichester. The fatality occurred on the 17 December and caused a shock in the City, where he had a host of friends. He had been serving in the R.A.F. for nearly 18 months and during his training in Canada to qualify as an Observer, he speedily achieved promotion; he was recently gazetted a commission rank with effect from September last. He was at home for the weekend before his death and left full of keenness to assume his new duties.

The deceased officer was educated at the Prebendal School and at Chichester High School for Boys. He entered the teaching profession, his first appointment being at Cowes, I.O.W. Eventually, he took up duties under the L.C.C. and was teaching at Acton when the war broke out, the school being evacuated to Dawlish.

In Chichester and everywhere he went he took an active interest in sport and was a capable player in cricket, football, tennis and badminton. He was also a great chess player, winning the local championship on more than one occasion. He won London University colours for badminton and was in possession of numerous cups won in various games. The deceased was one of a family of five, who were all serving together - two sisters in the W.A.A.F., another in the A.T.S. and a brother with the A.T.C.

His remains were interred at Chichester Cemetery on Monday afternoon with RAF honours. His coffin, draped in the Union Jack was taken to St Andrews Church where the first part of the burial service was read by Canon A F Young. There were a considerable congregation and members of the family. The principal mourners were Mrs H.R. Cutten (mother), the Misses Gill S.G. and V.M Cutten (sisters). The deceased's sisters and brothers were in the uniforms of their respective units. At the cemetery, the cortege was met by the R.A.F. funeral party and he was born to the grave by members of his branch of the service. He was interred with the remains of his father, the committal service being read by the Rev. D.C. Hearne chaplain to the R.A.F. The firing party's volleys and the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille" formed a fitting *adieu* to a gallant officer and a great sportsman.

The Commanding Officer and officers of RAF Station Lossiemouth sent a lovely wreath, as did the Sergeants and Airmen. Other tributes came from the Chichester Nomads Cricket Club, Canadian friends, and friends in Devonshire.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial