

## Henry Richard (Dick) CUTTEN RAFVR

**Born:** 1914

**Parents** Son of the late Henry Richard 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 and Science)

School Colours – Football and Cricket

Higher School Certificate – Passed - University of London

The Chess Club – Champion many times

**Civilian Occupation:** Chose teaching as a profession.

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### 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

He was posted to Flying Training School for instruction in aircraft handling, navigation, aircraft systems and rules of the air. During a training exercise on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1941, there occurred mid-air collision between a two-seater Miles ‘Master Trainer’ N7391 and an Avro Anson R9585. Both came down near the town of Stracathro.



*Miles "Master" Trainer*



*Avro Anson*

The instructor and pupil of the Trainer and the seven occupants of the Anson, including *Old Boy* Henry Richard (Dick) Cutten were all killed. Flying accidents were a regular occurrence in which Bomber Command lost over 8,000 aircrew.

An obituary extract from the Chichester Observer on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1941

## Fatality to Pilot-Officer

### H.R 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<sup>th</sup> 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. During his training in Canada to qualify as an Observer, he speedily achieved promotion and 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. 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.

The deceased 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 was 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 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 lowered into 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 parties 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; others came from 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**