

David Michael JAMES RNVR

Born: 1922

Parents: Son of Bernard Seton and Dorothy Charlotte James of Chichester

School years: 1932 – 1940 Chichester High School for Boys

Form Prize 1935 – 1936 – 1937 – 1938 - 1939

Shelley Memorial Prize – 1938

Debating Society 1939 – Regular Contributor 'The Martlet'

Oxford School Certificate 1940

Special Prize – 1940 (Latin)

University of London Higher School Certificate 1940

'Roll of Service' – 2nd Cl. Airman – Fleet Air Arm – R.N.

L/N.A. in the R.N.A.S. is in training at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Florida

Armed Forces Record

Service rank: Temp Sub/
Lieutenant (A) Observer

Service record: 810 Squadron
'Seafire'

Launched from: HMS Indefatigable

Date of Death: 16 May 1945



"Seafire" makes a carrier arrester landing

'The Martlet' School Notes July 1945

'Still another fine character and promising man has died in the person of David Michael James (1932 – 1940), a younger son of Mrs D.C. James of Akbar, St Pauls Road, Chichester, and brother of John James. All that is known at present is that he died of wounds received in action as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm against the Japanese. David James was an outstanding boy throughout his School career and he intended to read Law at Oxford.

No one who knew him can doubt that a brilliant career lay before him, and he possessed the ability and force of character to make a great contribution as a citizen and scholar. We cannot spare such potential leaders as this, and in reflecting upon his untimely death do we feel the price we have paid for survivor and victory. Let us, each in his own small way, see to it that he may not have died in vain.'

British Pacific Fleet (BPF) – Operation 'Iceberg'

During the middle of 1945 aircraft from HMS Indefatigable and two other British aircraft carriers (BPF) attacked Japanese targets off the Sakishima Islands (located at the southernmost end of the Japanese archipelago) between 4th and 25th May. During this period on the 16th May 1945 *Old Boy* David Michael JAMES died of wounds received in action.

The 'Seafire' was a naval fighter based on the famous Supermarine 'Spitfire'. Unfortunately, the design of the 'Seafire' was not well suited to adaption as a naval fighter. It lacked the operating range and robustness of a purpose-built carrier fighter. At the end of the operation the BFP statistics shewed that 61 'Seafires' were either lost or damaged beyond repair during both phases of 'Iceberg' due to deck landing incidents.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys - Chichester War Memorial

Bay 6 Panel 4 – LEE-ON-SOLENT- Hants - FAA Memorial

Deaths, Births & Marriages – Chichester Observer 1945

In Memoriam – Died of Wounds while on active service in Eastern Waters – Sub Lt. David Michael James - Age 23