

Peter Upton BROOKE RAFVR

Born: 1923

Parents: Rev. W E and Mrs Brooke – “Fairfield”, Normanton Ave, Bognor Regis

School Years: 1935-1940 Sherborne House Chichester High School for Boys
‘The Martlet’ – article ‘The Lying in State of George V’
‘The Martlet’ article ‘Visit to the Salt Works’ 1938
Oxford School Certificate – 1939
‘The Martlet’ ‘Roll of Service’ 1941 – Royal Corps of Signals
‘The Martlet’ December 1941 – ‘Old Boys’ News’
P U Brooke (1934-1940) who completed a six-month University Short Course, R.A.F. at Durham University; also managed to gain his colours for rowing

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Flying Officer (Pilot)

Service Number: 150235

Service Record: Bomber Command

Service Base: No. 576 Squadron

Date of Death: 24 March 1944



Avro “Lancaster III”

'The Martlet' School News July 1944

'It is with deep regret that we record the loss of P U Brooke (1935-1940) P/O in the R.A.F. who was reported missing after a raid on Germany on the night of March 31st. Peter Brooke was another fine fellow, modest and unassuming, but with a great heart and sterling qualities as a son, a brother and a comrade. He was one of the first Old Boys to attend an RAF University Course and he was as keen and successful at the University as he had been at School. We mourn this gallant lad and to his parents, we offer our gratitude and deepest condolences'.

THE BOMBER COMMAND WAR DIARIES – Martin Middlebrook/Chris Everitt

24/25 March 1944

Ops BERLIN

811 aircraft – 577 Lancasters, 216 Halifaxes, 18 Mosquitoes.

Losses - 72 aircraft – 44 Lancasters, 28 Halifaxes – lost 8.9 per cent of the force.

The night became known in Bomber Command as the 'night of the strong winds'. A powerful wind from the north carried the bombers south at every stage of the flight. It is believed that 50 of the 72 aircraft were destroyed by flak: most of the remainder were victims of the night fighters. This was the last major RAF raid on Berlin during the war. No industrial firms were classed as targets but badly hit were five military establishments including the depot of the Waffen-S.S. Leibstandarte Adolph Hitler Division in Lichterfelde.

BOMBER COMMAND LOSSES during the 2nd World War – W.R.Chorley

24-25 March 1944

Ops: BERLIN

576 Sqn – Lancaster III – LM469 UL-EZ – Ops: Berlin

T/o 1900 Elsham Woods. Shot down and exploded and crashed at Kohra, 3 km from Naunhof where those who died were buried on 28th March. Peter Upton BROOKE now rests with five other crew at Berlin 1939-1945 Cemetery at Charlottenburg-Wilomersdor. He was 21.

The remains of crew member T/S Chidester USAAF, who came from New York, have been interred in the US Military Cemetery Luxembourg.

'The Martlet' – Autumn Term – 1947

“The Rev W.E. and Mrs Brooke formerly of Bognor and now at Brompton, Chatham, Kent sent the Head a cheque for the School. Part is being spent on the Orchestra, of which his son Peter Brooke was a keen member and the rest for the purchase of a 'Brooke Cup'. We are grateful to them for their generous gift”.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Bognor Regis Memorial

IBCC – International Bomber Command Centre – Lincoln – Phase 1 - Panel Number 13