



**Bryanston Remembers
Those who died in active service**

Those who died in active service during the month of November

Connaught House – 2
Dorset House – 1
Hardy House – 1
Shaftesbury House – 3

Resting place

Egypt – 2
Netherlands – 1
Sicily – 1
UK – Solent, Cambridge, Yorkshire – 3

<p>Wynne Francis Annett Connaught House 1929 – 31, Prefect</p> <p>Rank: Trooper Age: 28 years old Died: 22nd Nov 1941 Service: R.A.C Resting Place: Halfaya Solcum War Cemetery Egypt Plot 4 Row B Grave 5 Married Miss Dorothea Pearse on 11 June 1937. He was an estate agent and took the surveyors exam in 1936.</p>	
<p>Eric John Dainty Connaught House 1931 – 35</p> <p>Rank: 2nd Lt Age: 24 years old Died: 23rd Nov 1941 Service: Royal Horse Artillery D/D Battery 4th Regiment Resting Place: Alamein Memorial Egypt Column 3 Same Column as Albert Anderson.</p>	
<p>Howard Duncan Fraser OBE Shaftesbury (Portman) House 1928 – 33</p> <p>“He was a good all-round athlete, first XV rucker three-quarter, first hockey forward, and always a great-hearted sportsman, with a most infectious smile, when things were going ill or well ... Only those who worked in close touch with him knew how sincerely and deeply he longed to return to active operations ... I saw him for the last time during one of his rare periods of leave a few weeks before his death. He has just become a father ... Of many it has been said that they were a great loss to their country, of none is this more true than of Duncan Fraser.”</p> <p>Rank: W/Co Age: 28 years old Died: 20th Nov 1942 Service: R.A.F 236 Sqdn Resting Place: Bergen General Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, Plot 2 Row E Grave 3 Took off from RAF North Coates Lincs in a Bristol Beaufighter Mk VI EL454 at 1506hrs for a strike flight. Shot down by ships flak crashing into the North sea at 16.02hrs when leading an attack by fourteen aircraft on a convoy near Hoek van Holland. Washed up Castricum 4/4/44. Buried in same cemetery as Alwin Bevan.</p>	

Christopher Patrick Exham

Shaftesbury House 1934 – 38

“At the time of his death, he was developing abilities and real strength of character ... It was said of him shortly before his death ‘He has shed all bitterness. If there was talk of hatred, he is silent.’”

Rank: S/Lieut

Age: 23 years old

Died: 17th Nov 1943

Service: R.N.V.R HMS Illustrious

Resting Place: Lee on **Solent** Memorial, Bay 4 Panel 6

No mention of Illustrious being attacked on 17/11/43



Abel Allfree Jocelyn Mellor

Hardy House 1937 – 40

“I first knew him as an active, able boy with a quick and clever mind ... His schooldays had been cut short by the war, and so he was denied the chances of the final year to which he had looked forward in anticipation ... He was intensely proud of being a Pathfinder, and with his dash and daring, and capacity to live out each day to the full, was able to abstract the essence from out his last crowded days.” EMW

Rank: F/O.

Age: 21 years old

Died: 11th Nov 1944

Service: R.A.F.V.R.

Resting Place: **Cambridge City** Cemetery Grave Number 15121

582 Sqn F/O Abel Alfred Jocelyn (Jim) Mellor, Pilot,

Based at RAF Little Staughton. Lancaster equipped Pathfinder Squadron.

Died on the 11th November 1944 on War Service. The exact

circumstances of his death have not yet been ascertained. His death was registered in St Neots.

Details: Son of Abel and Barbara Janet Clelan Mellor, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

John Henry Dennis Mercer

Shaftesbury (Dorset) House 1928 – 29, Prefect

“He belonged to the first generation of Bryanstonians.”

Rank: Ft/L

Died: 19th Nov 1943

Service: R.A.F

Resting Place: Catania War Cemetery, **Sicily** in a Joint Grave I.F.26-27 with Sgt. J.W Layton, Air Gunner, 1202313 RAFVR.

Flying Instructor,

104 Squadron: Wellington X flying out of Oudna Southern Italy. Died on 19 November 1943. No further details currently available. (source

<http://aircrewremembered.com/helpdesk/ticket.php>)

Details: Son of Frederick Davies King and Elsie Louisa King, of Bitterne, Southampton. Husband to Mrs Marjorie Layton of Littleport, Cambridgeshire.

Joseph Westlake Symons

Dorset House 1937 – 41, House Captain, Prefect

“He was “brother-in-arms” with John Taylor during this last years at school. A School Prefect, modest, often self-effacing, he had a deep and quiet sense of responsibility which would not rest till the job was done and done well. He rowed in the School Eight. Those who worked and played with him, or sat and drank cocoa, listening to a symphony concert in his top study, knew his very real worth.”

Rank: Sergeant (Pilot)

Age: 20 years old

Died: 26th November 1943

Service: R.A.F.V.R.

Resting Place: Pocklington Burial Ground V.46. 31860 **Yorkshire**

Prefect 102 Squadron: Halifax II, HR804, DY-T - Crashed at/near Warter Priory at 0355 hours on the 25/26 November 1943 when returning to base (Pocklington) whilst in the Pocklington circuit after a raid on Frankfurt.

Of his crew Sgt. J. Symons, Sgt R. W. Buckle and Sgt T. Jones were killed, whilst Sgt R.W. Chandler, Sgt R.D. Walker, Sgt G.E. Bennett and Sgt. N. Meed survived. (source

<http://aircrewremembered.com/helpdesk/ticket.php>)

Details: Son of Norman Holding Symons and Nora Emily Symons of Limpsfield, Surrey. His brother, Geoffrey Norman also died on active service.

