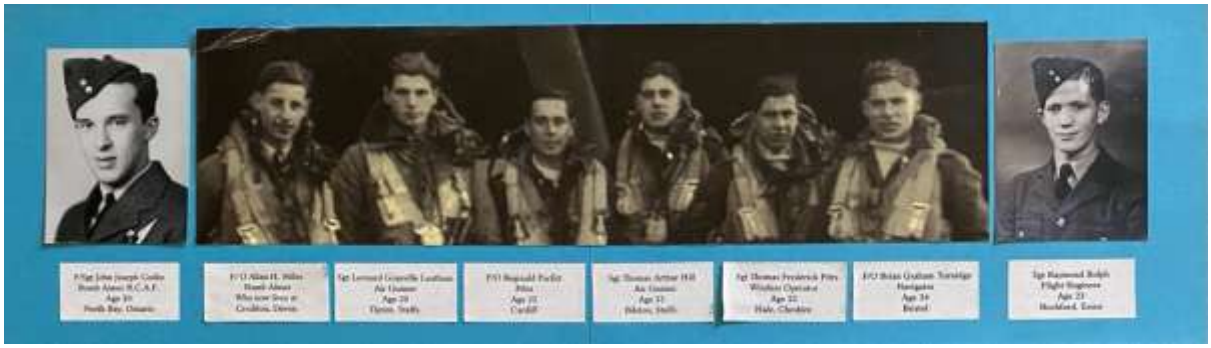
Halifax Bomber Memorial

Shortly after 1.00 am on 6th July 1944, twenty-three Halifax III bombers of 578 Squadron set out from RAF Burn to carry out a night attack on the St Martin L'Hortier flying bomb site. One of the aircraft, MZ519 – LKU, was flown by Pilot Officer Reginald Parfitt and his crew, it landed safely after a successful mission at 5.52 in the morning.

Later the same day twenty two Halifaxes set out once again from Burn, this time their target was the V1 launch site at Croixdalle. P/O Parfitt in MZ519 took off shortly after 7.00 pm with four members of his regular crew and two substitutes, Flight Sergeant J.J.Godin, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Sergeant R.A.Rolph. This daylight attack was highly successful despite moderate flak being encountered by all crews on the run in to the target. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was reported over the Dieppe area on the way home.

P/O Parfitt's aircraft was seen to be in trouble with an engine on fire as it passed over Nottingham. It crashed near Farnsfield at 10.25 pm with the loss of all members of the crew.



The Halifax Bomber Memorial is situated at the site of the crash and was unveiled in 1994 on the 50th anniversary of the tragedy.
Two villagers, Jack Wright and Frank Reynolds, led the campaign to establish the Memorial Park as a tribute to the brave men who lost their lives in the service of their country. They spent two years tracing the relatives of the crew with a group of local and overseas helpers and raising the necessary funds.
Behind the memorial seven oaks, one for each crew member, and two maples were planted at the site and these have now grown into beautiful and substantial trees.

(photo) Unveiling of the memorial 7th July 1994

Memorial – 2024 with Memorial Park with oak & maple trees 2024

Further information:
578 Squadron & BBC News article 80th Year Anniversary