

World War II: Flight Sergeant CF Saunders

In a corner of the churchyard is a War Department Grave. It is the last resting place of Flight Sergeant Clerveaux Francis Saunders. He was known as Frank to those who knew him, and there are still people in Melling who knew him. He was the younger son of William Morley Saunders JP and Margaret Cecilia Saunders, who lived at Wennington Hall.

He was a Tail Gunner during World War 2, and flew in a Lancaster Bomber (No.PA235) (166 Sqn.) based at RAF Kirmington, Lincolnshire. He and the rest of the crew of 6 were killed in an accidental air crash. He was 20 years of age.



His coffin was transported by train to Wennington Station and conveyed to Melling Parish Church where it laid overnight, draped in the Union Jack. Chief Mourners were his parents and Miss June Saunders. Lt. Harvey RAF represented the Officers and Men at Kirmington.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Melling, Rev. W. J. A Burrows. The Organ was played by Mr.A.T. Halstead, who was the Headmaster at Melling School.

Frank's elder brother, Lieut. Charles William Saunders, was a Pilot Officer in the RAF, but was serving in Australia at the time.

It has not proved possible to find a photograph of Frank.

His Service number was 2205043 and the date of death on the gravestone was 30 July 1945.

(Refs: Lancaster Guardian for 4th and 10th August 1945)

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