

David John Muff

Isle of Wight County Press 10 August 1946

NEWPORT

Honour for Local Aircraft Apprentice. — Air Marshall Sir Roderic Hill, K.C.B., M.C., A.F.C., Air Member for Training, specially commended Sergt. Aircraft Apprentice D. J. Muff (19), of 37 Camp Hill, at the passing-out parade of the 47th entry of aircraft apprentices at No. 1 School of Technical Training at R.A.F. Station, Halton, Bucks. Sergt. Muff received the prize for the best airframe fitter of the course, and was awarded one of the five cadetships, which will enable him to proceed to Cranwell and be commissioned in the general duties branch of the R.A.F. At the passing-out inspection the 211 apprentices of the entry paraded with about 1200 other apprentices and Sergt. Muff was the parade warrant officer.

Isle of Wight County Press 17 February 1951

Died in Air Crash

Carisbrooke Family Bereaved

The death occurred in an air crash near Midhurst Sussex, on Thursday last week of Flying Officer David John Muff, aged 23, of 237 Unit, R.A.F. Station, Benson, Oxford, husband of Mrs. M. Muff, of Fern Bank, Gunville Road, Carisbrooke. Flying Officer Muff was well known and popular in the district, and was a member of the Newport St. Thomas's Bible Class, where on Sunday tribute was paid to him by the Leader (Mr. F. Cheverton) and the hymn "For all the saints" was sung.

At an inquest at Midhurst on Monday a verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.—William George Bradshaw, of Lynch Farm, Bepton, said that at about 11.45 a.m. on Thursday week he saw a fighter aircraft flying fairly low towards Linch Ball Hill. The plane came out of cloud and mist and disappeared into mist again near the top of the hill. He heard the engine stop, but there were no sounds of a crash, and it did not strike him that the plane was low enough to hit the hill.—Flight-Lieut. Douglas Ivan Slade, flight commander 237 Unit, said he had instructed Muff to fly from Benson to Arundel via Newbury. Flying Office Muff had signed the usual form regarding the satisfactory condition of the aircraft. They had received a weather forecast, but the weather proved worse than the report suggested. Police evident showed that the top of the hill, which was 818 ft. high, was obscured by cloud and mist.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, a service at Carisbrooke Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. D. S. McKenzie) preceding interment at the cemetery. The Vicar paid tribute to Flying Officer Muff and conveyed the sympathy of the Vicar and congregation of Newport Parish Church to his widow and relatives. The large attendance included Squadron Leader Coulson (C.O. Tangmere) and Flight-Lieut. Turner (representing the R.A.F.), and Messrs. D. B. White (vice-president) and F. Chiverton (leader) representing the St. Thomas's Bible Class. The family mourners were Mrs. M. Muff (widow), Mrs. E. W. Muff (mother), Mr. and Mrs. G. Muff (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. J. Burn (sister), Mr. and Mrs. W. Read (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mr. D. Read (brother-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. C. Whiteley (uncle and aunt). There were many floral tributes. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.—Mrs. Muff (widow) and the family of Flying Officer Muff thank their friends for letters of sympathy, offers of help, and the many beautiful flowers, too numerous to acknowledge individually.