

John Robert Wendes

**Isle of Wight County Press
25 November 1944**

NEWPORT

Young Airman Accidentally Killed.—After returning unscathed from nearly 100 operational flights over enemy country or occupied territory, Warrant Officer-Navigator John Robert Wendes, R.A.F., aged 23, youngest son of Mrs. Wendes, and the late Mr. S. Wendes, of 115 Hunnyhill, was killed in a crash near his home station last week. Joining the R.A.F. four years ago, when he was an apprentice to Messrs. W. Dibben and Sons, Warrant Officer Wendes made no fewer than 91 operational flights in Halifax bombers and was given an instructor's job on the ground, but he volunteered for further air operations as a member of the crew of a pathfinder aircraft, and it was while engaged on a flight in one of these craft that he met his death when returning to an aerodrome in this country. His death is much deplored by many local friends. His body was brought home for burial and the funeral was on Wednesday, the Rev. T. E. R. Langridge officiating at a service in the Congregational Church and at the interment in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, honours were paid by representatives from his Squadron and by six senior N.C.O. bearers, and an escort of 25 men of the R.A.F. Regiment from a local station, under the command of Warrant Officer Sabbarton. Buglers of the Regiment sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the graveside. The mourners were Messrs. S., J., and E. Wendes (brothers), Miss A. Wendes (sister), Mrs. S. Wendes (sister-in-law), Mr. A. Parsons (uncle), and Flight-Lieut. D. O'Hara, D.F.M., D.F.C., and Flight-Sergt. Moore from the deceased squadron. Among those at the church were Ald. F. E. Witcher, J. P., Flight-Lieut. L. J. Hosier, R.A.F., and Messrs. H. G. Simpkins (local director, Messrs. W. Dibben and Sons), R. T. Brackey, T.C., H. W. Lincoln, T.C., F. Chiverton (St. Thomas's Bible Class), J. A. Hayles, A. G. Harrison, J. Dufton, C. Martin, J. F. Launder, T.C., J. W. Head, H. Webber, G. H. Dunford, W. Upward, O. Day, F. Turnham, K. Miller, and G. Strickland. The Minister paid an eloquent tribute to the deceased's magnificent services to his country. Among the large number of floral tributes were wreaths from the commanding officer, officers, and all ranks of No. 109 Squadron, R.A.F. Mr. A. A. Westmore made the local arrangement.

Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2019
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>