

Walney Airman Killed In Accident

News has been received that L.A.C. Eric Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, 9, Lord Robert-street, Walney Island,



has been killed in an accident. Twenty-two years of age he volunteered three years ago as an instrument maker in the Royal Air Force. Prior to joining up he was serving his apprenticeship

at Messrs. Storeys, Dalton-road, Barrow. He attended Vickers-town School, and was a member of the Walney Cycling Club, being a very keen rider

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Walney, on Thursday, the Rev. C. Williams officiating

The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and beautiful wreaths from his squadron, family, friends, neighbours and his employer, Mr. H. C. Diss, J.P., and staff.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, father and mother; Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Smith, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, brothers and sisters-in-law; Mrs. F. Punton, sister; Miss Mariin Smith, sister; Sergt.-Major H. East, Leslie Smith, brother; Joan Smith, sister; Mrs. T. Street, aunt; Mrs. White and daughter, Mr. J. Coglan, Mr. S. Park and Mr. J. Wilson

The bearers were Messrs. S. Park, J. Wilson, G. Smith, W. Smith, W. Smith and J. Coglan.

Mr. Swarbrick was the undertaker.



From CWGC

Age: 22

Cemetery:
WALNEY ISLAND
(ST. MARY)
CHURCHYARD
Sec. C. Grave 80.

Additional
Information: Son
of George and
Mary Hannah
Smith, of Walney
Island, Barrow-in-
Furness.

From Wikipedia History: The squadron was formed as No. 406 Squadron RCAF at RAF Acklington on 5 May 1941, as part of No. 12 Group of Fighter Command to operate as night fighters. The squadron was equipped with Blenheim Mk.IF heavy fighters, re-equipping with the improved Beaufighter Mk.IIF the next month. They operated out of several airfields in the United Kingdom, changing to the Beaufighter Mk.VIF in mid-1942, and receiving the Mosquito Mk.XII night-fighter during April 1944. They upgraded to the Mosquito Mk.XXX in July 1944, and operated this aircraft for the remainder of the war. In November 1944 it was renamed No. 406 (Intruder) Squadron to carry out daylight offensive operations over mainland Europe. In June 1945 the squadron was posted to RAF Predannack in Cornwall, where it disbanded in August 1945.

Newspaper source: Barrow News 20 February 1943

From another source I discovered: Killed on active service: LAC Eric SMITH - 993113 - 406 Sqn (Middle Wallop, Hampshire), and F/O (Pilot) Andrew V.S. WILSON - 119158. Death registered in Winchester. The thread suggests they were on a training course when they crashed in Wales.

<http://www.rafcommands.com/forum/showthread.php?7904-430214-Unaccounted-airwoman-and-airmen-14-2-1943>

Flying Officer Andrew Victor Sproule Wilson was with 41 Operational Training Unit on 14th February 1942 (*sic*) when he was flying North American Mustang AG400

Whilst heading for R.A.F. Hawarden he crashed into

Flintshire's highest hill - Moel Famau. <http://www.ww2ni.webs.com/countydownpart3.htm> There is a photo of his grave at Drumbeg Church, N Ireland on this website.