

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 24th October 1940

BINSTEAD PILOT KILLED

“Accident During Air
Operations”.

Sergeant -Pilot **Edmund Eric SHEPPARD**, of 3, Chapel-Road, Binstead, has been reported killed on active service. The official news of his death received by his mother, Mrs. A.K. SHEPPARD, stated that he was killed on October 18th in a flying accident at Wormwall while engaged in an air operation.

SHEPPARD, who was 23, had been in the R.A.F. since leaving Ryde Upper Grade School at the age of 16. He had served abroad and was a member of a famous squadron composed of planes given by the Nizam of Hydrerabad, which is said to have brought down over 60 enemy machines.

He has shot down several Nazi planes, some over the Isle of Wight.

He was well-known in Binstead and Ryde, where he had a wide circle of friends. The body was brought to the Island on Tuesday . The funeral took place at Binstead Church yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon and will be more fully reported in our next issue.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 31st October 1940

SERGEANT PILOT E.E. SHEPPARD'S FUNERAL

Binstead Villager's Tribute

The villagers of Binstead paid their last tribute to the memory of Sergeant Pilot **Edmund Eric SHEPPARD**, only son of Mrs. SHEPPARD, of 3 Chapel-Road, at the funeral at the Church of the Holy Cross on Wednesday of last week.

The popularity and respect in which Sergeant Pilot Edmund Eric SHEPPARD was held by all who knew him was shown both by the large congregation present and the many beautiful wreaths that were placed on the grave. He was killed the previous week in a flying accident after a successful career in the R.A.F. during which time he had shot down four Nazi planes and severely damaged others.

An R.A.F. guard of honour was present and the members of his unit acted as pall-bearers. The Rev. C. RIDLEY RICHARDSON, an R.A.F. chaplain, assisted the Rev. C. HEALD, Rector of Binstead at the funeral service and read the committal over the grave. A trumpeter sounded the R.A.F. “Last Post” and “Reveille.”

The family members were Mrs. SHEPPARD (mother), Miss E. HARPER (fiancee), Mrs. SHEPPARD (grandmother), Mr. and Mrs. W. SHEPPARD, Mr. and Mrs. J. GILES, Mr. and Mrs. SINNICKS, Mrs. PRICE, Mrs. BARNES, Mr. and Mrs. STROUD, Mr. and Mrs. A. PRANGNELL, Mr. and Mrs. J. PRANGNELL, Mrs. REEK (uncles and aunts), Mr. and Mrs. SANDELLS (great-uncle and great-aunt), Miss L. PRANGNELL, Mr. and Mrs. T. SNUDDEN, Mr. and Mrs. R. AYLWARD, Mr. and Mrs. E. PRANGNELL, Miss Iris and Miss Margery GILES, Miss Phyllis SINNICKS, Mr. J. GILES (also representing Mr. W. GILES), Mr. E.C. AYLWARD, Mr. SPARSHOTT, Mr. and Mrs. GOBLE, Miss Audrey PRICE and Miss Doris GILES (cousins).

Also amongst those present at the church were Mr. P. HOLBROOK, Mr. R. WARREN, Mr. D. CHATFIELD, Mr. T. COOMBES, Mr. DYER, Mr. FLUX and Mr. C. WICKETT (his pals), Mr. W. TAYLOR (chairman), Mr. H. DYER (hon. Secretary) and Mr. C. WHITE (British Legion, Mr. L.T. FIELD (Binstead Football Club), Mr. A.E. FLEMING (also representing Mrs. FLEMING), Miss P. FLEMMING (also representing Mr. Peter FLEMING), Miss Gladys PEARSON (also representing her parents), Mr. E.C. AYLWARD, Mr. J. STROUD, Mr. H. JAMES and Miss JAMES, Miss Helen GRIMES, Mr. L. STROUD, Mrs. CORNEY, Mrs. BLYTH, Mr. and Mrs. C.

DYER, Mr. A. REEK, Mr. D. SQUIBB, Miss RODWELL, Mrs. SALTER, Miss K. TAYLOR, Mrs. HAYLES, Mrs. CLARK, and Mr. W.H. GRIFFEN.

Interment was at Binstead Cemetery in a grave lined with evergreen.

Among some lovely wreaths were tributes from the Commanding Officer and Officers of Sergeant , Pilot SHEPPARD'S squadron (two); Warrant Officer. N.C.O.'S and men; Warrant Officers and N.C.O.'S from his former station; friends in the village; Binstead Football Club; Ryde Upper Grade School; Binstead Branch of the British Legion.

NB: We have noted the variation in surname spelling, which in all other records was SHEPPERD.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
Marilyn Newsham