

Object: Photos

First photograph with parents – August 1939. Family memory was that Philip was quite reserved.

Second photo – during training in Canada – Moncton New Brunswick 1942. Philip went over on the Empire Flying training scheme. Joined as volunteer – don't know if conscripted or not.

Third photograph – Philip denoted by x over the head – trainees photographed also in Canada

Fourth picture – birthday in New York 1942 – 20th birthday. Dated June 1942 (noted birthday March )

Object: Letter

Dated 13/2/1941

Recently discovered. Kept with grandmother's belongings. Letter written just before joining up and reflecting on what will be. A very emotional letter – noted that he never got to fill in the box about what he would become. Makes reference to being a free man or forgotten. He was scared and rightly so.

From hand written notes: Fate of Philip– posted to 90 Squadron which had XC on the RAF markings. 26 April, 1943 flying in Stirling BF383 Squadron marking WP-T On route to Duisberg in the Rhur. Took off at 00.37 from RAF Ridgewell in Cambridgeshire – shot down by a night fighter BF110. Crew are buried in four cemeteries in Holland.

Runnymede RAF memorial on the Thames – it is noted that the crew were mostly sergeants.

Crew:

Pilot: F/O IF Mackenzie - Runnymede

F/Eng Sgt J Wilson - Amsterdam

Navigator P/O (sic) P. A Walker - Amsterdam

Bomb aimer Sgt RF Cocking - Amsterdam

W/op Sgt VG Leak - Runnymede

A/g Sgt JR Boyes - Runnymede

A/G Sgt RE Hardington – Runnymede

Object – Air Navigation Book

Standard issue – inside front cover there are names of the hotel they are staying in – Penolver Hotel

10 Flight 'C' Squadron

Names –

1433269 Perry T.A. – killed 29 January 1943 aged 21 – came from Bury, parents lived in Blackpool

1476592 Walker P. A

1337955 Bishop J – killed 14 September 1942 – flying as wireless operator with 12th squadron aged 20 shot down over the Rhineland

Object: Notice of Awards and medals

Medals – 1939-45 star; Air Crew Europe Star; Defence medal. Notice of awards with name.

Why do you think it was important to share your objects:

It could easily get lost – it is to preserve history.

What three words come to mind when you think of the wartime generation?

Stoic; tough; indefectible