

## Flight Lt. Clive Desmond Young Pilot Royal Air Force



Clive Desmond Young is buried in the churchyard of St Sebastian's Church in Wokingham, one of 4 war graves from the Second World War. Young's gravestone reads:

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT C. D. YOUNG,  
PILOT  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1944 AGE 22  
ON THE WINGS OF THE MORNING

The Bible reference is from Psalm 139: *'If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.'* (verses 9-10 Authorised Version).

Who was Clive Young and what happened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1944? We know that he was born in 1922 in Buenos Aires, the son of Winifred Ethel and Wallace Francham Young. His father had been a mechanical engineer with the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway since 1912 and he was a veteran of World War I, serving as a Captain in the Royal Engineers, Railway Operating Division.<sup>1</sup> The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register tells us that Clive was also the nephew of Lillian Carlyle of Wokingham, which probably accounts for the location of his grave. It also records the fact that he served with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 58 Squadron.<sup>2</sup>

58 Squadron of Bomber Command was one of the first to penetrate into Germany during the Second World War, making a leaflet raid on the night of 3/4 September 1939. It then served with Coastal Command until late January 1940 before playing a prominent part in the night bombing offensive between April 1940 and March 1942. In April 1942, the squadron was transferred back to Coastal Command and for the remainder of the war served as a general reconnaissance unit, sinking five U-boats and sharing in the destruction of two others.<sup>3</sup>

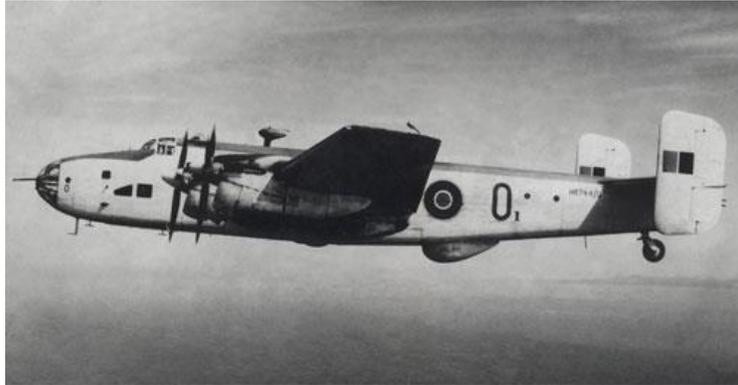


<sup>1</sup> <http://www.diaagency.ca/railways/Casualties2.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2437422/YOUNG,%20CLIVE%20DESMOND>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.raf.mod.uk/history/bombercommandno58squadron.cfm>

During the war, 58 Squadron was stationed in various different locations around the United Kingdom, from Hampshire in the south to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland. We know that Clive Young was with the Squadron when it was posted to RAF Stornoway for a second time in August 1944. He piloted the four-engined Halifax Bomber [the picture is of a Halifax from 58 Squadron], which the squadron had been flying since 1943. Initially these aircraft had been on loan from Bomber Command, but after exerting much pressure, Coastal Command was able to acquire its own aircraft, and 58 Squadron was equipped with the Halifax GR Mk. II. They could easily be distinguished from the aircraft of Bomber Command because all but the top surfaces were painted white rather than black. They were armed with depth charges (and later with submarine bombs) but hindered rather than sank many U-boats. 58 Squadron, for example, sighted 15 U-boats in May 1943 alone and made 13 attacks; but sank only four U-boats that year.<sup>4</sup>



On 16th October 1944 Flight Lieutenant Clive Young and his seven-man crew took off at 7.10 pm from RAF Stornoway in Halifax HX158. They were due to undertake a non-operational exercise which involved the dropping of flares over the ocean at night. At 8.30 pm the aircraft was seen operating normally. Radar plots showed the aircraft approaching the airfield from the north and passing over it at a height of 2,000-3,000 feet. At 9.13 pm, when the aircraft was 18 miles to the south of the airfield, the radar plot suddenly faded. A report



came in from a naval vessel that an aircraft had crashed into the sea about 10 miles south east of Shiant Island towards the Isle of Skye, and the same vessel was later able to locate the wreckage. The following day searchers could recover only the body of Flight Lieutenant Young and some more wreckage. The remaining seven members of his crew could not be found.<sup>5</sup>

No known picture of Flight Lieutenant Young exists, but he may well have known the men pictured to the left. They were ground crew from 58 Squadron, probably photographed sometime between December 1942 and March 1943 at RAF Holmsley South in Hampshire.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Information taken from <http://uboat.net/allies/aircraft/halifax.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Details taken from 'Missing with no Known Grave' By Alan Storr  
[https://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RC09125\\_019--1-.pdf](https://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RC09125_019--1-.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> New Forest Remembers <http://www.newforestheritage.org/handley-page-halifax-grii-aircraft-58-squadron-rafcoastal-command-raf-holmsley-south/>