

KIPLING WORLD WAR TWO DEATHS – 1940-41

Captain John Wilson Kipling

The first first Kipling death in WW2, and the only one in 1940, was that of Captain John Wilson Kipling on 20th May.

KIPLING, Capt. JOHN WILSON, 56131. 10th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry. 20th May, 1940. Age 37. Son of Charles and Isabella Harrison Kipling; husband of Doris Kipling, of Spenny-moor, Co. Durham. A.C.I.S. Plot 8. Row C. Grave 8.

John was of the **Mickleton** Kipling Family Group, his father being Charles Kipling, in 1911 a cashier in the Co-op at Counden, County Durham.

John had long been a Territorial soldier with the Durham Light Infantry, a promotion to 2nd Lieutenant being gazetted in 1933.

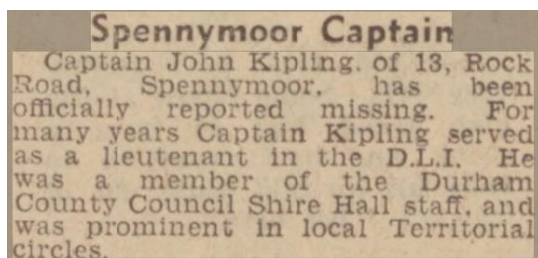
6th Bn. Durham L.I.—John Wilson Kipling to be 2nd Lt. 28th June 1933.

The London Gazette. 27 June 1933

After war broke out, John was transferred to the newly-formed 10th (Territorial) Battalion, which was deployed on the France/Belgium border in April 1940 as part of the 70th Brigade. John died on 20th May when the brigade was spread along the roads south of Arras travelling west. Here they were ambushed by German armour, and without heavy weapons their defence became a series of isolated and confused company actions.

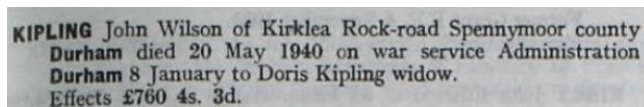
He is buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, south of Arras. The inscription on his headstone reads “EVER REMEMBERED BY WIFE DORIS AND SON PETER JOHN, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM, ENGLAND”

His loss was reported in the local newspaper.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle - Tuesday 16 July 1940

Probate was granted in 1942.



Sgt Bernard Kipling RAFVR

On the night of 9/10 May 1941, Sgt Bernard Kipling was an observer (navigator) on Whitley bomber P5106 MH-O of 51 Squadron when it was shot down by a nightfighter (Lt. Reinhold Knacke, 1.NJG1) and crashed at 03:05 over Boshoven (2 km West of Weert, in Belgium). Their target that night was Ludwigshaven. The crew of P/o P.Myers (pilot), Sgt H.G.Browne, Sgt B.Kipling, Sgt G.A.Selby and F/Sgt A.Jackson had taken off Dishford at 21.59, so were presumably on way home when intercepted. They are buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery.

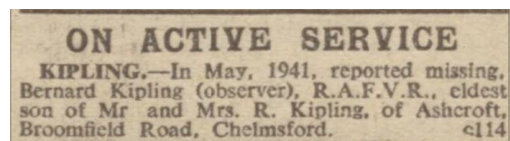


shot
from
their

This is the log entry for that last flight.

9 May 1941

Aircraft Type and No.	Crew.	Duty.	Time Up.	Time Down.	Details of Sortie or Flight.
P.5106.	P/O. Myers SGT. Brown SGT. Kipling SGT. Jackson SGT. Selby	Bombing	2159	-	<p>MAS.274. LUDWIGSHAVEN was attacked at 0147 hrs with 4 500lbs and 2 250lbs bombs and 4 cont. of incend. Heard from a/c 1 hour after operations completed message was received, but A/C failed to return.</p> <p>... LUDWIGSHAVEN at 0220 hours from</p>



Essex Newsmen - Saturday 24 May 1941

Bernard was of the **Dean** Kipling family group, son of Robert and Rosa Kate Kipling of Chelmsford, Essex. His twin brother Guy was also an RAF sergeant and was killed later in the war, as was a second brother in the army. Bernard's gravestone is inscribed as follows:

754444 Sergeant
B. Kipling
Observer
Royal Air Force
10th May 1941 Age 23
(Cross)
One of three brothers
Who gave their lives
For humanity
"Lest we forget"

Sgt Matthew George Kipling RAF



Matthew George was also a sergeant (air gunner), this time in 35 Squadron, flying the Halifax. He was killed on 31 December 1941. The account of his death from the squadron record is as follows : "1941/197 35/V9979 T/o 1125 Linton-on-Ouse similarly tasked. From eyewitness statements it is reported that the bomber, with one engine ablaze, passed low over the village of Lanildut [Finistere], NW of Brest, pursued by a fighter which in turn was shot down by Sgt Kipling just moments before the Halifax hit the sea, finishing up on rocks at Porspoder a few kilometres to the north of Lanildut. Soon after the crash the Germans requisitioned some seaweed boats and

having searched the area returned to the small harbour at Mazou with a number of badly burned bodies though it is believed some were still alive. All were examined by a German doctor but those who had survived succumbed to their injuries. A few days later a teenage girl found the body of the wireless operator whom she identified from his tag as Sgt Maflin. All rest in Kerfautras Cemetery."

The log entry of the fatal flight is below.

V.9979 (E)	S/Ldr.S.A.Middleton " "	11.25	-	Took off from LINTON for BREST at time stated.
	P/O.R.A.F.Frew.			Aircraft missing, seen to be shot down over
	P/O.L.J.P.Foster.			target area.
	Sgt. Orton.			
	Sgt.Maflin.			
	Sgt.Kipling.			
	Sgt.Greenwood.			

LINTON-ON-OUSE. 31 DEC. (Contd) Roll of Officers and Airmen Pilots on strength (contd).

The following are missing while on Operations:-	
SGT. COLLINS, SGT. GRIGG, P/O. H. D. BUCKLEY, F/S. T. BELL, SGT. CROCKER, SGT. WAKELING, SGT. KENT,	
SGT. KETTERINGHAM, S/LDR. S. A. MIDDLETON, P/O. R. A. F. FREW, P/O. L. J. P. FOSTER, SGT. ORTON,	
SGT. MAFLIN, SGT. KIPLING, SGT. GREENWOOD.	

Matthew George Kipling was the son of Matthew George and Ethel Kipling of Darlington of the **Melsonby** Kipling family.