

In Memory of Flight Sergeant Eon Arthur Cairns

1922 - 1944

(Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve)

Age: 22

Parents: Robert Cairns & Mary Campen

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Country of Death: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Relation: Paternal 6th Cousin 1X Removed



Eon Arthur Cairns was born in 1922, in Bedfordshire, and belonged to a generation whose youth was overtaken by war before adulthood had fully begun. By the early years of the Second World War, he was living in Whiteley Village, Surrey, and preparing for service at a time when the demands placed on young airmen were both sudden and severe.

He enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, training for service with Coastal Command, whose task was the protection of Britain's maritime approaches and vital sea lanes. Flight Sergeant Cairns was posted to No. 4 Operational Training Unit, where aircrew were prepared for operational flying under demanding conditions.

During his training, he flew aboard a Short Sunderland Mk II, a four-engined flying boat used extensively for long-range maritime patrol and reconnaissance. Even outside combat, flying operations over northern waters carried constant risk, particularly in poor weather and remote areas.

Flight Sergeant Cairns was killed whilst flying during a training exercise east of the Orkney Islands. His aircraft was lost without trace, and no wreckage or remains were recovered. He was twenty-two years old.

He has no known grave. His name is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, where airmen of the Commonwealth who were lost on duty and have no resting place are

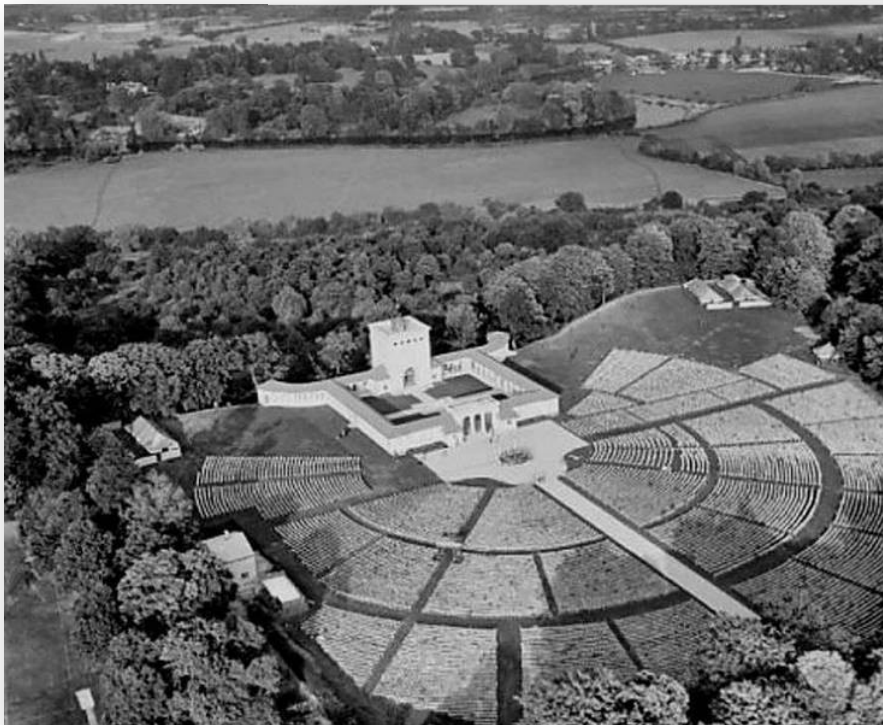
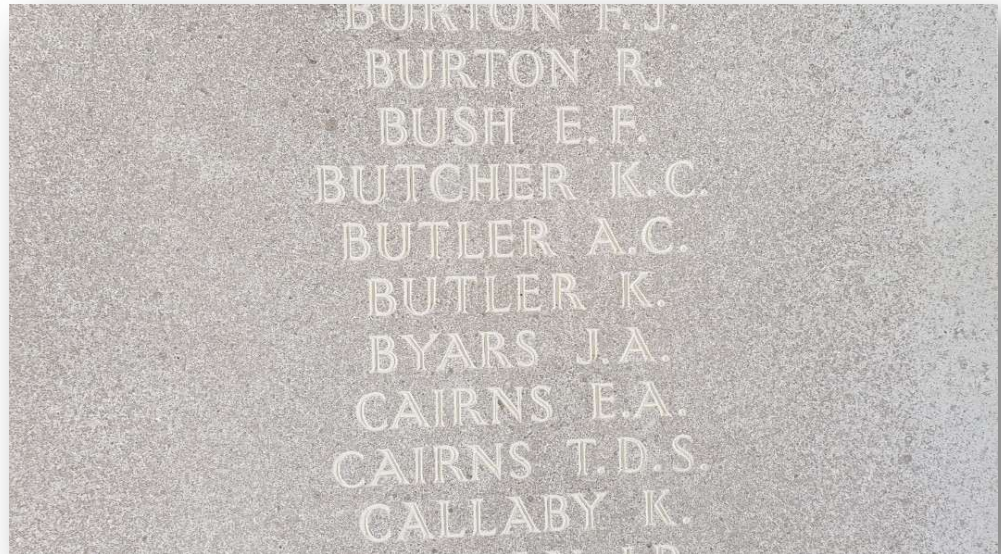
*Flight Sergeant
Royal Air Force*



remembered. There, his name endures among those whose service ended in the air and at sea.

Flight Sergeant Eon Arthur Cairns did not return. He is remembered.

*Panel on the Runnymede Memorial
Remembering FS Cairns*



*Runnymede Memorial
Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial
Englefield Green, Surrey, United Kingdom*