

John Joseph CORBETT (c. 1923-1943)

John Joseph Corbett's connection to South Lopham is by mother's residency.

John's brother Leonard James was also killed in The Great War.

John Joseph CORBETT, son of William CORBETT (c. 1894-) and Florence Ellen BREWSTER (c. 1895-), was born circa 1923.¹

Very little has been found about John's time in the forces. He is listed on the Bomber Command Losses Database: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Group 3, Squadron 115, Sergeant, 1321331, flying in Avro Lancaster II No. DS630 KO-H, an air gunner. (It may be that the 115 Squadron was based at Little Snoring in Norfolk in August 1943.).

John died on 18 August 1943 - It is thought that John died at the time Bomber Command saw major operations, notably the highly significant Operation Hydra (August 17-18) targeting Germany's secret rocket research at Peenemünde, a costly but successful raid that delayed the V-weapons program. Did he die during this operation?

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave registration entry for John was "CORBETT, Sgt. JOHN JOSEPH, 1321331. R.A.F. (V.R.). 115 Sqdn. 18th August, 1943, Age 20. Son of Florence Ellen Corbett and stepson of Richard Alfred Thurston, of South Lopham, Norfolk."

John is commemorated at Runnymede Memorial - Panel 267.

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1923 Q1 Lambeth London Vol 1D Page 484. Cit. Date: Q1 1923.