

# Durrington

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War II



563772 SERGEANT

**A. W. EGGINGTON**

OBSERVER

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

20TH SEPTEMBER, 1939

*Always Remembered*

*By His Mother, Dad,*

*Brothers And Sisters*

*Rest In Peace*

## **Alfred William EGGINGTON**

Alfred William Eggington's birth was registered in the March quarter, 1914 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. His mother's maiden name was recorded as Dance. Ernest Eggington married Eliza Jane Dance in 1909 & their marriage was registered in the December quarter, 1909, in the district of Andover, Wiltshire.

The 1911 Census, before Alfred William Eggington was born, recorded his parents living at No. 1 The Beeches, Durrington, Wiltshire, which was a six roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Ernest Eggington (Canteen Waiter, aged 25, born Clanville, Hants) & Eliza Eggington (aged 24, born Andover, Hants). Ernest & Eliza had been married for 1 year & had a daughter – Elsie Eggington (aged 10 months, born Durrington).

Alfred William Eggington joined the Royal Air Force. He was given the service number of 563772. Alfred William Eggington's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to 88 Squadron with the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Alfred William Eggington was killed when the plane he was Observer on, was shot down by enemy aircraft on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1939. He was aged 25 years.

A death was registered in GRO War Deaths R.A.F. (1939-1948) for Eggington, Alfred W., Sgt., 563722, of 88 Sqdn., 1939 (Volume 5, page 48).

Sergeant Alfred William Eggington was buried in Choloy War Cemetery, France – Grave reference 2A. C. 14. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Sergeant Alfred William Eggington, 563772, as the son of Ernest & Eliza Jane Eggington, of Durrington, Wiltshire.

### **Enemy Action:**

Sergeant Alfred William Eggington, was Observer on 311 Fairey Battle 1 aircraft – serial number K9245 of No. 88 Squadron, Bomber Command, R. A. F. on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1939. K9245 was one of 3 Fairy Battle bombers on a reconnaissance mission that day & were airborne at 10.00 hrs from Mourmelon airport, France. The aircraft were fired on by French anti-Aircraft guns before they crossed the border. Over Aachen they were engaged by three Messerschmitt Bf109 fighters. K9245 was shot down in flames at 10.45 hrs & crashed in Allied territory near Saarbrücken. Also killed was Flight Sergeant Douglas Aubrey Page (Pilot) & Aircraftman First Class E. A. W. Radford. The three men were buried together in Choloy War Cemetery – 2A. C. Graves 13, 14 & 15. K9242 was also lost on this operation – Flying Officer R. C. Graveley was injured & awarded the George Cross medal for his attempts to rescue his crew from the burning aircraft; Aircraftman 1<sup>st</sup> Class D. J. John & Sergeant W. S. Everett died. Sergeant F. Letchard of K9243 claims that he shot down a Bf109 which was not officially confirmed at first but evidence later, from French sources, confirmed the action thus making this one of the first British shoot downs. German records list no Bf109 being lost in combat on the Western Front that day.



**A Fairey Battle Bomber**

## **No. 88 Squadron, R.A. F.**

No. 88 squadron was reformed in 1937, after being disbanded in 1919 after WW1, as a bomber squadron equipped with the Fairey Battle.

It began the war as part of the Advanced Air Striking Force, making it one of the first squadrons to be sent to France and suffered very heavy losses during the Battle of France.

Bomber Command WW2 Base – Mourlemon-le-Grand, France – September, 1939 – May, 1940

On 20th September 1939, during a reconnaissance patrol over the enemy's front lines, one of its Battles scored Britain's first air combat "kill" of World War 2 when it shot down a Bf.109. (The person actually responsible for this "kill" was Sergeant F. Letchford, an air observer; he was flying in an aircraft piloted by Flying Officer L. H. Baker.)

No. 88 Squadron returned to England in June 1940 - after having seen some very heavy fighting and having suffered heavy losses.

## **Choloy War Cemetery, France**

Choloy is a village 28 kilometres west of Nancy and 5 kilometres west of Toul, a town on the N4 road from Paris to Nancy.

Choloy War Cemetery was created by the Army Graves Service for the re-burial of casualties recovered from isolated sites, communal cemeteries, and small churchyards in north-eastern France where permanent maintenance of the graves was not possible. In 1950, for the same reason the Commonwealth War Graves Commission found it necessary to move in to this cemetery more than 100 graves from a number of churchyards and civil cemeteries in the same area. Those who lie in Choloy War Cemetery are mostly airmen; but there are also soldiers belonging to the forces of the United Kingdom who died in the Saar region during the first few months of the war, i.e. up to May 1940, or as prisoners of war.

There is now 1 Commonwealth burial of the 1914-1918 war and 461 of the 1939-45 war commemorated in this site. Of these, 23 of the 1939-1945 burials are unidentified.

In addition there are 7 Foreign National burials, 2 of which are unidentified and 334 non world war burials here.



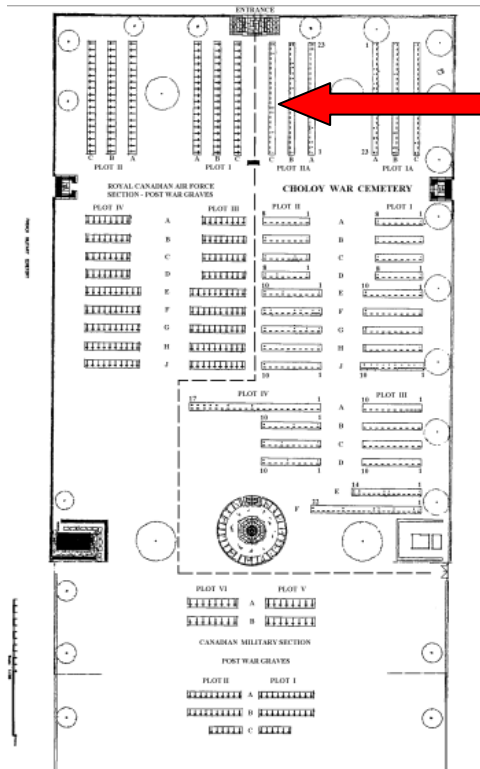
(Photo by [Ben](#))



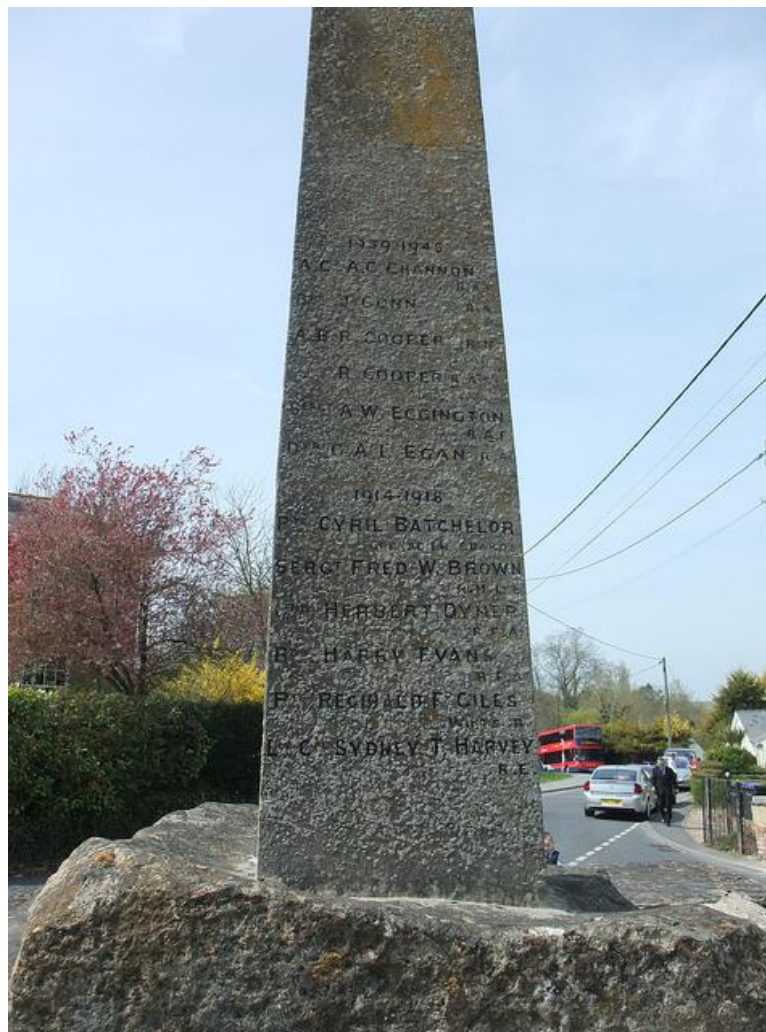
**Choloy War Cemetery**

*(Photos & information from CWGC)*





Sergeant Alfred William Eggington is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



**Durrington War Memorial** (Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)