ROSS-HOFF, Stanley Jack



Sergeant, 902896
83 Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Place of Birth: Bombay
Killed in Action: Tuesday 2nd June 1942
Memorial: Runneymede
Aged: 32 years

Stanley Jack Ross-Hoff was the son of Sybil (Cymbeline) Nora nee Radford and her husband Stanley Richard Ross Hoff.

Sybil was the daughter of John and Caroline Radford. On 31st August 1909, Sybil married accountant Stanley Richard Ross-Hoff in Bengal, India. He had been born there in 1881. Their son Stanley Jack was born in Bengal on 14th May 1910. In 1919 Jack and his mother Sybil came from India (Bombay) to London on the Nankin.

Sybil's father was a Corn and Coal Merchant with business premises in Queen Street and sometime between 1916 and 1919 her parents moved to Cambridge House in the High Street. In between their travels abroad, Sybil and her husband Stanley Richard lived at Cambridge House.

After the death of brewer, F C Christmas, Glenbrook in Camps Road was bought by Sybil's parents and in 1925 the family was residing there.

Stanley Jack established a business locally. He was a Corn and Coal Merchant who ran his business from 45 High Street from at least 1927, however, in September 1939 it was reported in the London Gazette that he was bankrupt.

Stanley Jack joined the RAF shortly after this. On 30th November 1940, Stanley Jack married Jeanne Elsie French, the daughter of Builder and Contractor, Walter French, from The Elms, Birdbrook. The ceremony took place in St Augustine Parish Church. At the time, Stanley Jack was serving as an LAC with the RAF at Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland.

296	November 30th 1940	Jack Stanley Ross-Hoff Jeanne Elsie French	30 22	Bachelor Spinster	L.A.C. RAF -	With R.A.F. Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland The Elms, Birdbrook, Halstead, Essex	Stanley Ross-Hoff Walter French	Accountant Builder & Contractor

He was, in time, promoted becoming a Sergeant while serving with 83 Squadron, RAF.

On 1st June 1942, Lancaster R5564/OL-P took off from RAF Scampton at 23.10 hrs piloted by P/O Busby, taking part in Operation Essen, a huge bomber raid on the German city. Essen was the home of the Krupp arms works, and the industrial centre of the Ruhr and the heart of a great network of railways linking the Westphalian iron and coal fields and as such was an important target. Out of the 956 aircraft which took part in the raid, 31 failed to return.

One of the thirty one missing aircraft was Stanley Jack's Lancaster and it is thought it was lost over the North Sea, west of Katwijk, Netherlands.

Nearly two months later, the body of P/O Lelvin Cholwill Billing, RNZAF, was found washed up on the Dutch coast. He was buried on 1st August 1942 in Amsterdam's New Eastern Cemetery. His fellow crew members have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey

Their names are:
P/O Frank Rumsey Busby, RAF (Panel 68)
Sgt Leonard Frederick Smith, RAF (Panel 94)
Sgt Clifford Baines, RAF (Panel 77)
Sgt Joseph Dick Dodsworth, RAF (Panel 81)
Sgt William Anderson Hall, RAF (Panel 84)
Sgt Stanley Jack Ross-Hoff, RAF (Panel 92)

ROSS-HOFF, Sgt. STANLEY JACK, 902896. R.A.F. (V.R.). 83 Sqdn. 2nd June, 1942. Age 32. Son of Stanley and Sybil Nora Ross-Hoff, of Haverhill, Suffolk; husband of Jeanne Ross-Hoff, of Birdbrook, Essex. Panel 92.



Stanley's daughter Jeanette was born in 1942 just a few months after the death of her father. In 1947, Stanley's widow married Joseph Wells.