

Tell Them of Us

commemorating The Fallen from two World Wars in
Commonwealth War Graves and cemeteries.

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Figure 1.

*When you go home, tell them of us, and say,
for your tomorrows these gave their today.*

The Kohima Epitaph (Prayer)
John Maxwell Edmunds
(Smith, 1919)



Figure 2.

John Northend's Observer Course at No 12 OTU (Operational Training Unit), RAF Kinloss.
Of the 12 'Observers' (Navigators) on the course -

- Eight were killed in action in bomber command during World War 2.
- Three - including John Northend - were posted to 61 Squadron at RAF Syerston.
- All three posted to 61 Squadron were killed in action in the first 5 weeks of 1943.

My second Cousin John Northend was killed in action in January 1943 whilst serving in Bomber Command as a Lancaster navigator. Coming from a military family, the narrative of the World Wars is woven into our family history. In many ways, our family has been defined by military service.

In researching John's story further, it became clear to me that we, as a family, got off lightly in both World Wars. Whilst others were wounded, and in some cases maimed, John Northend was the only member of our close family to lose his life. His loss however was the catalyst for this project.

As I began to travel to visit Commonwealth War Graves both here in the UK and abroad, I became acutely aware that every grave, each headstone in the immaculate cemeteries, each name on the impressive memorials, represented a life lost, and an abrupt end to an unfinished story. Most were young men - fathers, sons, brothers or uncles who would not achieve their dreams, have a family or see their family grow up. In some cases, like John's, the loss of an only male child was the end of that branch of a family tree. The majority of those remembered in the Commonwealth War Graves died in their 20s.

Once again, we are in an era of worldwide conflict. With my project I wanted to reflect not only on the monumental loss of life represented by the Commonwealth War Graves, but also to remember that The Fallen paid the ultimate price to secure the freedoms that we take for granted, but which may be at risk once more, today.

Lest we forget.

Memorial Architecture



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Runnymede Commonwealth Air Forces
Memorial to the Missing



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.



Figure 13.



Figure 14.



Figure 15.

Municipal Cemeteries (Individual Graves)



Figure 16.



Figure 17.



Figure 18.



Figure 19.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.

FAMILIAL / INDIVIDUAL MEMORIALISATION



Figure 22.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.



Figure 26.



Figure 27.



Figure 28.



Figure 29.



Figure 30.



Figure 31.

NATIONAL MEMORIALS



Figure 32.



Figure 33.



Figure 34.



Figure 35.



Figure 36.



Figure 37.



Figure 38.



Figure 39.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the Sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

The Exhortation.
Excerpt from 'For The Fallen'
Robert Laurence Binyon
(Binyon. 1914)

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