

## SIX OLD NEWTONIANS – CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR TWO COMMEMORATED IN THE NETHERLANDS

**Additional information courtesy of Jan de Jager, TracesOfWar, Netherlands  
Also Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**All men are commemorated on the War Memorial plaque of Alderman Newton's Boys  
Grammar School Leicester, now held and preserved by the Leicester City, County and  
Rutland At Risk War Memorials Trust.**

### Gordon Harry Bodycot

Date of birth: 1915  
Date of death: 20 February 1944  
Place of death: North Sea, Netherlands  
Place of burial: Vredenhof Cemetery, Netherlands  
Grave no. 105  
Service number: 1624767  
Nationality: British

Gordon Harry Bodycot (29 years old) from Leicester (GB), Son of Harry Goude and Alice Bodycot. Married to Sadie Bodycot. Father of Gail Bodycot. Sergeant RAFVR, (air gunner), RAF 626 Squadron. Crew member of the Avro Lancaster M589 UM-D2. The aircraft took off from RAF Wickenby for a mission to Leipzig. On the way back, his aircraft was shot down by a German night fighter, killing the entire crew. In early May 1944, his body washed ashore at Schiermonnikoog and was buried on 8 May 1944 at the Vredenhof cemetery in Schiermonnikoog, grave no. 105.

### Frank Wilson Cuer

Date of birth: 1921  
Date of death: 21 September 1944  
Place of death: Heteren/Gelderland, Netherlands  
Place of burial: Heteren Commonwealth War Graves Commission General Cemetery,  
Netherlands  
Plot 2, Row A, Grave no. 19  
Service number: 183590  
Nationality: British

Frank Wilson Cuer (23 years old). Pilot Officer, No. 271 Squadron RAF. Son of Frank H. and Elizabeth (Lily) Cuer, from Leicester; married to Jean Margaret Cuer from Knighton, Leicester. On 21 September 1944, Frank Cuer's DC3 Dakota KG340 took off from RAF Down Ampney together with 11 other aircraft with the task of dropping supplies for the troops in the Arnhem area during Operation Market Garden.

After dropping their cargo, the formation was attacked on its return by German fighter planes, resulting in the loss of three of the 11 aircraft, including Frank Cuer's. His aircraft crashed near the Achterstraat in Heteren. Of the eight crew members and observers in the aircraft, three were killed, three were taken prisoner and two managed to escape. Frank Cuer and the two other victims are buried in the General Cemetery of Heteren.

### Edward Wright Hey

Date of birth: 8 January 1919 (Bristol)  
Date of death: 14 December 1944  
Place of death: Near Nijmegen/Gelderland, Netherlands  
Place of burial: Jonkerbos Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery,  
Netherlands  
Plot 11, Row F, Grave no. 1  
Service number: 249249  
Nationality: British

25-year-old Lieutenant Edward Wright Hey, Northamptonshire Regiment, was killed in action on 14 December 1944 during fighting around Nijmegen and was initially buried at the Jonkerbos temporary military cemetery. After the war, his remains were transferred to Jonkerbos War Cemetery.

### Leslie Herbert Knight

Date of birth: 26 October 1914 (London)  
Date of death: 23 June 1943  
Place of death: Beugt-Dinther/Noord-Brabant, Netherlands  
Place of burial: Eindhoven-Woensel Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Cemetery, Netherlands  
Plot EE, Grave no. 16  
Service number: 128902  
Nationality: British

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Herbert Knight, pilot, 78 Squadron RAF. Son of Herbert T. and Louise Knight from East Cosham, Hampshire. Husband of Freda Knight from East Cosham. His Handley Page Halifax II was shot down on 23 June 1943 during a mission to Mulheim above Veghel by Hauptmann Wilhelm Herget (I/NJG1). The aircraft, which had taken off from RAF Brighton, crashed at 01.55 on the border with Dinther. Five crew members, including Leslie Herbert Wright, were killed, two were taken prisoner of war and the eighth crew member, Sgt. George Duffee (DFC), managed to reach England with the help of the Resistance.

### Ernest Leslie Moore

Date of birth: 1922  
Date of death: 2 October 1942  
Place of death: Kronenberg, Municipality of Horst a / d Maas, Netherlands  
Place of burial: Jonkerbos Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery,  
Netherlands  
Plot 20, Row D, Grave no. 4  
Service number: 1211456  
Nationality: British

Sergeant Ernest Leslie Moore 149 Squadron, RAFVR, son of Ernest William and Kate Moore of Leicester.

On October 2, 1942, the Short Stirling R9167 with call code OJ-N of 149 Squadron RAF crashed after being shot at by a German night fighter of I.NJG1. The plane crashed on the Bedelaarspad in Kronenberg, Municipality of Horst a / d Maas (L).

On October 7, 2017, a monument was unveiled at the site of the crash in honour of and in memory of the seven crew members of this aircraft. The three-metre-high Corten steel work of art consists of a jacket that represents a bullet / grenade / bomb shell. When standing in this shell, one looks out on the crash location. The bomber's silhouette balances on top of the bullet shell. When one looks up into the sleeve, one can read the names of the seven crew members who were killed, lasered into the steel of the silhouette. Inside the sleeve wall, the artist has placed a rose that he made from the aluminium remains of the aircraft. From this rose seven loose rose petals fall down, portraying the tears of sorrow for the loss of these seven young lives. The bed in which the monument is placed is laid out in the shape of an omega sign.

The design is by artist Ruud van der Beele from Arcen.

Realization: Dion Stoop Metaalbouw Sevenum

Organization: Kronenberg War Tracks Working Group.

### Frank Archibald Whitehead

Date of birth: 1919  
Date of death: 21 April 1941  
Place of death: Houthulst-Arrondissement Diksmuide/West Flanders, Belgium  
Place of burial: Houtholst Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery,  
Belgium  
Row 4, Grave no. 6  
Service number: 745480  
Nationality: British

Frank Archibald Whitehead, Flight Sergeant RAFVR, Pilot, 83 Squadron RAF. Son of Archibald and Ethel May Whitehead from Leicester. Killed in action when his Handley Page

Hampden X3119 was shot down by enemy fire over Belgium after taking off from RAF Scampton on a mission to Cologne.

Frank Whitehead is buried in Houthulst Cemetery. The inscription on his gravestone reads: "RESTING WHERE NO SHADOWS FALL".