

Hubert Stanley Mitchell

Sergeant Flight Engineer 1637351, 576 Squadron., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died December 24th 1943, aged 39

Commemorated Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery

Son of Francis and Eleanor Mitchell;

husband of Marion Mitchell, of Port Isaac, Cornwall



Hubert Stanley Mitchell is not on our war memorial. He was born in 1904 to Francis Walter and Eleanor Mitchell in Lewisham. In the 1911 census, the family is living in Kenley, Surrey, just south of Croydon. Hubert was one of 10 children, and his father gave his occupation as a jobbing gardener. The Mitchell family moved to Port Isaac before the war, and lived in Middle Street.

Hubert joined the RAF, where he was in 576 Squadron as a flight engineer on Lancaster bombers. The flight engineer's job is to operate and monitor the engine and aircraft systems, and rectify and eliminate any faults. In the Lancaster bomber, the flight engineer is seated in the cockpit next to the control panel.



Flight engineer in a Lancaster bomber

576 Squadron was formed on November 25th 1943 from C Flight of 103 Squadron, and was based at RAF Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire. Its first operation was on the night of December 2/3 1943, when seven Lancasters were sent to bomb Berlin. Lancaster bomber serial number ED913 was on that first raid, and it was on this plane that Hubert was the flight engineer on the night on December 24th 1943. The plane left Elsham Wolds at 00.05 on bombing operations over Berlin. It is believed to have been shot down near Altkunkendorf, about 40 miles NNE of Berlin. All but one of the eight crew died as a result of enemy action. The one survivor, bomb aimer Sergeant G Evans, became a POW and spent time in Stalag Luft 3 (Sagan).

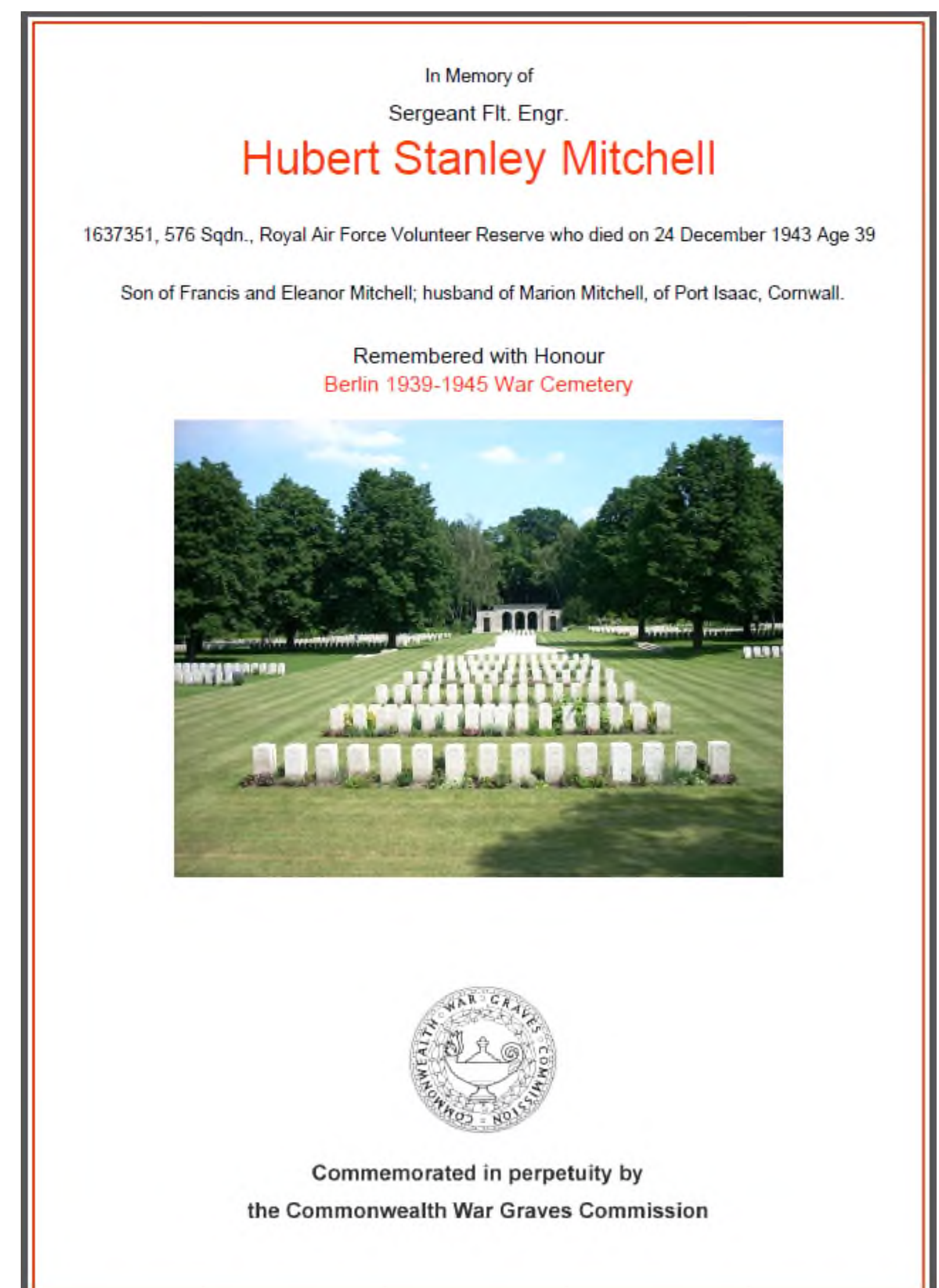


Sergeant Hubert Stanley Mitchell with Engineer's (E) wings



The grave of Sergeant Hubert Stanley Mitchell

Sergeant Hubert Stanley Mitchell is buried in Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. This cemetery contains the graves of 3,595 casualties, approximately 80% of whom are airmen lost in air raids over Berlin and towns in eastern Germany.



Sources

Flight Engineer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_engineer

576 Squadron: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._576_Squadron_RAF

RAF Elsham Woods: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Elsham_Wolds

Photo of Hubert Mitchell: <http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/80213950/person/30415627914/photo/f1039b16-998c-4b38-9fa6-b490aa6e9e78?usePUBJs=true>

Fate of Plane: http://www.craigside.com/html/john_richards.html and http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:1dk-cmLYpq8J:lostaircraft.com/database.php%3Flang%3Den%26mode%3Dviewhistory%26e%3D3D3696%26changeset_id%3D4+%cd=10&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=uk

Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2081150/BERLIN%201939-1945%20WAR%20CEMETERY>