



A Bibliography and a Note

WGH, 1941

The short life of my father's cousin, William Grayson Huddart, is the subject of this poem.

Although you should not expect a poem to require explanation, I feel I need to add some reference to the sources I've used.

- ***For Johnny*** – by John Pudney. This poem from the end of the War was popular and celebrated at the time. It salutes the sacrifice of those who flew and fought, and emphasises the Keep Calm and Carry On mood that was genuinely felt at the time.
- ***William Grayson Huddart's RAAF record***, digitised by the Australian Government and available online. This amounts to list of dates, courses, and postings, but many things may be inferred – for example a 7 day leave after his promotion, and the name of a 2nd next of kin in Cumberland, who can only be his aunt, and is surely where he would have gone to take it.
- ***No 168 Squadron, 1942-1945***, by Phil H Listemann, which identifies two of the aircraft that he flew, and illustrates the Typhoon he gained his aerial victory in. Brief accounts of his combat and his final flight are provided, doubtless from a squadron history I have not yet seen.
- ***From Sapper to Spitfire Spy*** – by Sally-Anne Greville Heygate. Another account of an RAF pilot, David Greville-Heygate, who very briefly served in 168 squadron. He attended the concert mentioned, the day before WGH's promotion. It is likely WGH would have gone to it – rather than stay in the convent. This account fills in some of the background to Eindhoven, and B78.
- ***CWGC data from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website***– The website provided information about his burial at the Reichswald War Cemetery at Kleve– and his interim burial at Sythen Cemetery, doubtless close to the site of his death.

The Images:

- WGH's identity photo, clearly in civvies, and therefore likely to have been taken at enlistment.
- The Google Earth photo of the office where he worked as a school leaver, now a wine bar. Who can blame him for enlisting out of this marble-fronted sarcophagus?
- A photo in Lindemann's pamphlet of the squadron after D-Day in a meadow in Normandy. WGH may be among them – dressed up and posed as they are for the camera.
- The programme to the Concert on 3.12.44. The notes are by David Greville-Heygate
- Artwork depicting the Typhoon WGH flew on 29.12.44. As a lockdown activity, I have made this aircraft using an Airfix kit, with assistance from Katie my daughter, who helped fashion parts of a diorama to display it.

Finally, I hoped to write this as a means of paying tribute to a young man I never met, and whose short life was never mentioned by my father or his siblings. From 75 years, it's hard to convey the mood and significance of wartime events as they were felt by the young men and women who participated, and often died in the conflict. Many things must have felt to them the same as we who have not known total war. Still others would have been accepted, and not spoken of as being appropriate. Also, our culture has moved on, and the nations of the world subscribe to different views and allegiances, and believe in other myths.

Their world is now almost too late to know, as that generation's members who lived on, collect their knighthoods, and succumb, joining their comrades and brothers of all those years ago.



Croydon War Memorial : 26-November-2011

Finally, in his home town of Croydon, Victoria, WGH is recorded on the town war memorial – a modest fountain in the centre of a roundabout. The W is missing from his name. An error? Was he known as Grayson, or Gray? I may never know.