

# Hindon

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War 2



1286547 SERGEANT

**G. E. WILSON**

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

27TH JUNE, 1943

# George Edmund WILSON

Sergeant George Edmund Wilson was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1943. He was attached to No. 143 Squadron, Royal Air Force, flying in a Bristol Beaufighter XI - JL948 on the day he was killed. He is remembered on Panel 170 of Runnymede Memorial in Surrey, England.

Sergeant George Edmund Wilson's death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Sergeant George Edmund Wilson, 1286547, of 143 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. No family details are listed.

## 143 Squadron

143 Squadron originally formed in 1918 & was disbanded in 1919. On 15 June, 1941, No. 143 reformed at R.A.F. Aldergrove as a long-range fighter unit in Coastal Command equipped with Bristol Beaufighters and became operational almost immediately. Early in June the Squadron moved first to north-east England and then to Scotland for convoy patrols along the east coast. In December, 1941, No. 143 returned to Ireland and became non-operational, giving up its Beaufighters for Blenheims and becoming a training unit. In August, 1942, the Squadron moved to East Anglia for convoy patrols and air-sea rescue missions and in September once more began to re-equip with Bristol Beaufighters, becoming operational on anti-shipping raids in November. In August, 1943 No. 143 moved to Cornwall to provide fighter support for anti-submarine aircraft operating over the Bay of Biscay. In February 1944, it returned to North Coates to resume attacks on enemy shipping and in May moved to Manston to fly anti-E-boat patrols. In October 1944, No. 143 moved to northern Scotland where it converted to Mosquitoes as part of the Banff strike wing for attacks on enemy shipping off Norway for the rest of the war. On 25 May 1945, the Squadron was disbanded and its personnel transferred to No. 14 Squadron.



143 Squadron Badge – “To conquer is to live”

143 Squadron was located at R.A.F. North Coates, Lincolnshire between August, 1942 & August 1943. The Squadron was flying Bristol Beaufighter XI's between March 1943 & April, 1944. The Beaufighter was a two-seat all-metal fighter using components from the Beaufort torpedo-bomber. First flown on July 17, 1939, the Beaufighter eventually equipped 52 R.A.F. squadrons, giving outstanding service during World War II, in particular as a night-fighter and torpedo-bomber (where the aircraft were affectionately known as 'Torbeaus').



**Beaufighter torpedo bomber 'Torbeau' in flight**

On the afternoon on 27th June, 1943 R.A.F. attacked a convoy off The Hague shortly after 15:00 hrs. The attacking force consisted of Beaufighters from 16 Group escorted by Spitfires from 12 Group. During the mission 118 Squadron claimed one destroyed and two damaged Fw 190s (including Flight Lieutenant Acworth), 402 Squadron claimed one destroyed Bf 109, 416 Squadron claimed one shared destroyed Fw 190 and finally Wing Commander Chadburn who claimed a probable Fw 190. During these combats, the Beaufighters pressed home their attacks in spite of heavy and accurate flak and three of the minesweepers in front of the convoy were hit by the rockets and were left smoking. Beaufighter JL948 of 143 Squadron was lost & its 2 occupants were killed in action – Flight Officer Joel Brooks Mann (Royal Canadian Air Force – J/13317) & Sergeant George Edmund Wilson (Royal Air Force – 1286547).

Later reports from Feldwebel Erich Kaiser of 1./JG 1 that he claimed a Beaufighter at 300 meters altitude west of Scheveningen at 15:04. No German losses were known during the attack.

Flying Officer Joel Brooks Mann, J/13317, 143 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force was the son of Joel Brooks Mann & Christine Paulsen Mann, of Dowagiac, Michigan, U.S.A. & was aged 21 years when he was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1943. He is remembered on Panel 174 of the Runnymede Memorial.

The Casualty List from the *Winnipeg Tribune* Newspaper, U.S.A. dated February 22, 1944:

*Previously Reported Missing on Active Service Now for Official Purposes Presumed Dead - .... MANN, Joel Brooks, FO, Dowagiac, 1 Mich.*

George Edmund Wilson is remembered on the Hindon War Memorial, Wiltshire.



### Hindon War Memorial

*(Photos courtesy of Linda Robson 2013)*



## Runnymede Memorial

This Memorial overlooks the River Thames on Cooper's Hill at Englefield Green between Windsor and Egham on the A308, 4 miles from Windsor in the county of Surry, England.

The Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede commemorates by name over 20,000 airmen who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe, and who have no known graves. They served in Bomber, Fighter, Coastal, Transport, Flying Training and Maintenance Commands, and came from all parts of the Commonwealth. Some were from countries in continental Europe which had been overrun but whose airmen continued to fight in the ranks of the Royal Air Force.

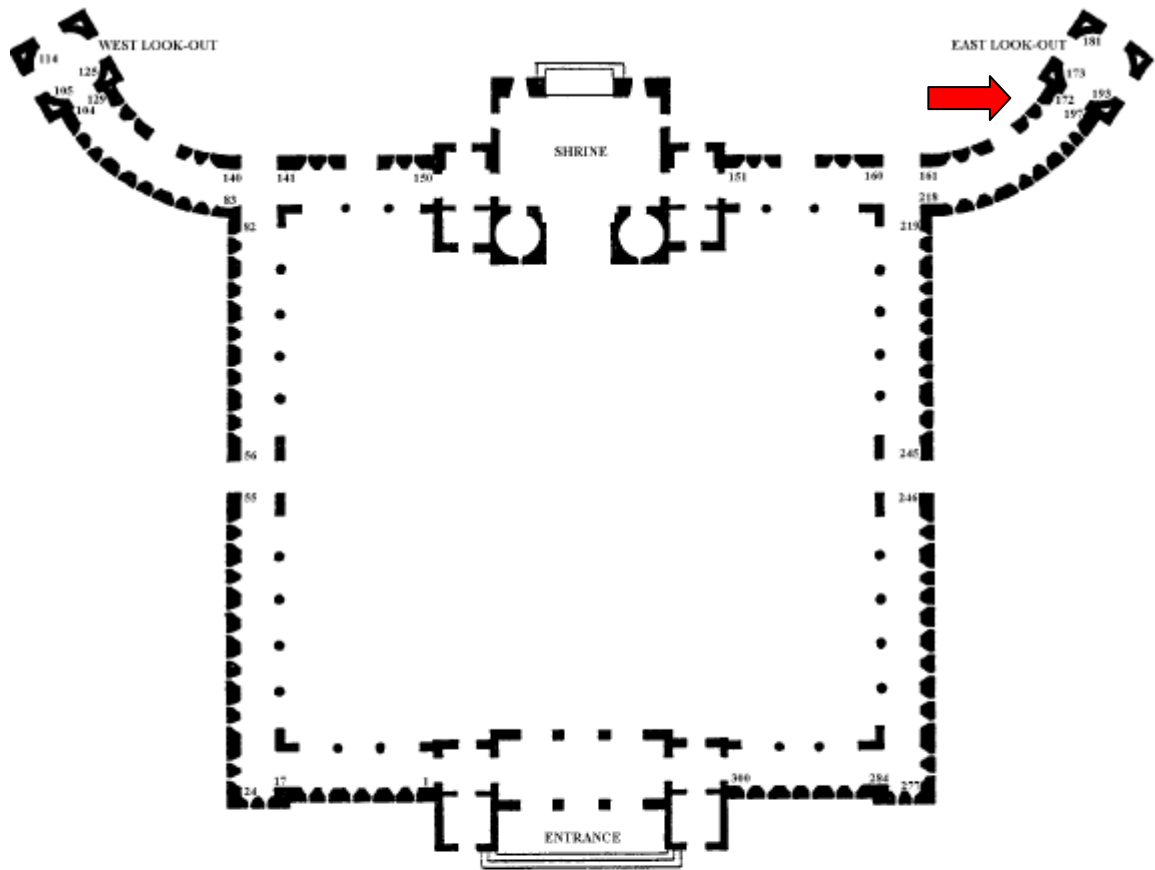
*(Information & photo from CWGC)*



**Runnymede Memorial**



**Example of Panels at Runnymede Memorial**



PLAN OF THE RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL  
INDICATING THE POSITIONS OF THE NAME PANELS