

War Service

Stanley served as a Sergeant (Flight Engineer) in 51 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, based at RAF Snaith just SW of Goole in Yorkshire. On 29 Jul he took part in his fourth mission as one of seven crew on board a Halifax II bomber taking part in a 777 aircraft attack on the German city of Hamburg, the third such attack on the city in a week. Unfortunately for this raid, the Germans had adjusted their night fighter tactics to allow their crews much greater freedom of action with devastating results. 28 of the bombers, representing 3.6% of the force, were shot down including Stanley's which is presumed to have crashed into the North Sea in the early hours of 30 Jul 1943. All on board were killed with the body of only one of them recovered when washed up on the German coast a week later. Stanley is commemorated on the Air forces Memorial at Runnymede which lists the names of over 20,000 airmen lost during the Second World War with no known graves. His widow gave birth to their son in early 1944.

Photo**Connection to Waldringfield**

Stanley was born on 19 Dec 1917 to William Joseph and Annie Maude Sherrington (nee Bloomfield) of River View Cottages, Waldringfield. The family had moved to Chelmsford by 1924.

Life after the War NA. Photo of Runnymede Memorial, Surrey.

