John Kerfoot

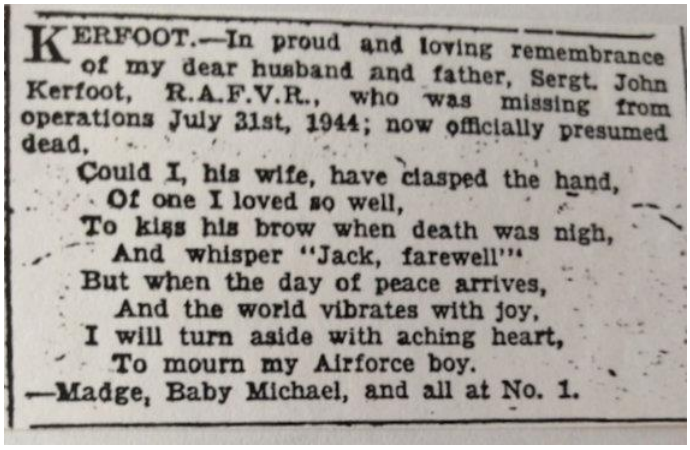




Photo courtesy of Bill Berry

Sergeant (Air Gunner) 1490317 Royal Air Force Volunteer reserve 9 Squadron Died 31 July 1944 Buried at Clichy Northern Cemetery, France Plot 16 Row 11 Grave 2

John was born in 1923 the son of Edward and Bridget Kerfoot nee Leech who had married earlier that year. His sister Mary was born in 1930 and in 1939 they were living at Cliffe Street, Batley. In early 1944 he married Margaret Pinder and Michael was born later that year.



KERFOOT.—In proud and loving remembrance of my dear husband and father, Sergt. John Kerfoot, R.A.F.V.R., who was missing from operations July 31st, 1944; now officially presumed dead.

Could I, his wife, have clasped the hand,
Of one I loved so well,
To kiss his brow when death was nigh,
And whisper "Jack, farewell"'
But when the day of peace arrives,
And the world vibrates with joy,
I will turn aside with aching heart,
To mourn my Airforce boy.

—Madge, Baby Michael, and all at No. 1.

There is no account of Sgt. Kerfoot's death in the local papers. The first announcement was in the Roll-of-Honour column of the Batley News of 28 July 1945.

There were two raids on two different targets in France, on the night of July 31 1944, one at Joigny-la-Roche (losses one Lancaster) and the other at Rilly-la-Montage (losses two Lancasters, including that of Bill Reid, V. C. who survived). Clichy Northern Cemetery is on the northern boundary of Paris.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-45 War Medal.

John is remembered with Honour at: - Carlinghow Working Men's Club (now hanging in St John's Church, Carlinghow); Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Thanks to Bill Berry.