

John Gilbert Keymer, Bury Court Cottage

John Gilbert Keymer was the second son of Reverend Bernard Keymer who had been vicar of Farnborough when he died in **1925**. He, his brother Michael and his mother Ellen had been living in Farnham in **1937**. They moved to Bentley where they lived near the church in Bury Court Cottage.

John's father had been a chaplain in the First World War. John's brother Michael, also a pilot in the RAF, had been killed in **1940**, the year before John. Another brother Philip served in the Army and was awarded a Military Cross for actions at Tobruk. Their eldest brother, Bernard, born in **1908**, was too old to be conscripted into the Armed Forces.

Left to right: Rev Bernard Keymer, John, Philip and Michael.

Rank	Sergeant 904428
Regiment	149 Squadron
Date of death	10 th May 1941
Died	Over the North Sea, west of Wesselbüren
Buried	No known grave. Runnymede Memorial Panel 46
Age at death	28
Marital status	Single
Address	Bury Court Cottage



John joined the RAF flying Wellingtons as a Sergeant with 149 Squadron. During April and May **1941** John was captain and pilot on a series of high intensity night time bombing raids. On the night of 10/11th May **1941** leaving RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk at 22.37 hrs to bomb the shipyards, Altona Power station with 119 other aircraft, his aircraft (Wellington Ic R1512 OJ-H) was lost without trace on a raid to Hamburg. John and the rest of the crew of six all died.

They are all remembered on the Runnymede Memorial which commemorates more than

20,000 airmen and women who were lost during operations during the Second World War who have no known grave.



Wellingtons of 149 Squadron at Mildenhall, Suffolk (left) and in flight (right)