

Alfred Jack Sherfield, The Cage

Jack, as he was known, was born in **1920** in Bentley, the youngest son of Henry and Ellen Sherfield's very large family. They lived at The Cage, near the pond in Bentley.

He married 18 year old Catherine Blanchard on 1st April **1944** whilst he was on two weeks leave. They had met at Bentley Church where Jack was in the choir. When he had to go back on duty, he wrote to Cath everyday although she used to receive 2 or 3 at a time once the censors had done their job.

Jack was in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Service. After the fall of Rangoon in March **1942** the probability that the Japanese would occupy the whole of Burma constituted a grave threat to India and Ceylon. Air force strength was increased and Ranchi became an important base. Jack died in India of heatstroke and was buried at Ranchi War Cemetery with over 700 other servicemen.

Rank	Leading Aircraftmen 1228170
Regiment	Royal Air Force Volunteer Service
Date of death	6 th June 1945
Died	India
Buried	Ranchi War Cemetery India 19 Plot 9 Row M Grave 9
Age at death	24
Marital status	Married to Catherine Blanchard
Address	The Cage

Jack's young widow remarried in **1950** to Harvey Bonner in Bentley.

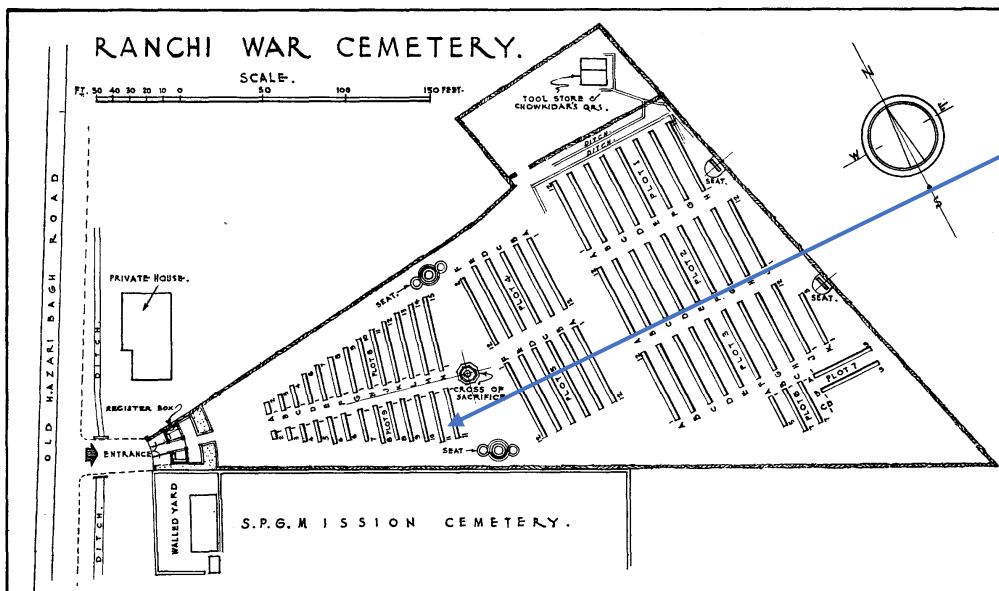
Bentley Parish Magazine :-

Harvest 1945

'He died with tragic suddenness, on active service in India. His young widow has been very brave and his mother has had much sympathy in her double loss. We had a beautiful service for "Jack" at the church to which he was so devoted. We feel he is still with us in the worship he loved.'

INSCRIPTION

WE'LL MEET AGAIN, OH! HAPPY WORDS,
AND BE FOR EVER WITH THE LORD



Ranchi War Cemetery,
India
Plot 9, Row M, Grave 9