

Tony Bird RAF DFC

Tony Bird DFC died in a care home in Bognor on 15/7/2018! He went to Selhurst Grammar School in the 1930s. A Bomber Command Lancaster pilot, he was shot down on his 23rd mission over Germany and was a POW in Stalag Luft III. The following items have been sent to us by Adam Hermitage, son of Edward Hermitage who was a schoolfriend of Tony Bird's.



The author in 1944.



A Bird Over Berlin

A Lancaster pilot's
story of survival
against all the odds

TONY BIRD DFC

01 May 1944 letter reporting the pilot missing in action.

Gerrard 9234.

Casualty Branch

77, Oxford Street

London, W.1.

| May, 1944.

P.416262/1/P.4.4.2.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to express to you their great regret on learning that your son, Acting Flight Lieutenant Anthony Bird, D.F.C., Royal Air Force, is missing as the result of air operations on 23rd April, 1944, when a Lancaster aircraft in which he was flying as pilot set out to bomb Brunswick and failed to return.

This does not necessarily mean that he is killed or wounded, and if he is a prisoner of war he should be able to communicate with you in due course. Meanwhile enquiries are being made through the International Red Cross Committee, and as soon as any definite news is received you will be at once informed.

If any information regarding your son is received by you from any source you are requested to be kind enough to communicate it immediately to the Air Ministry.

The Air Council desire me to convey to you their sympathy in your present anxiety.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Evans.

A.C. Bird, Esq.,
25, Kingscote Road,
Croydon,
Surrey.

Pilot's logbook

My final logbook entry of World War 2.
I have been marked down as 'missing'.

RAF Skellingthorpe

Year 1944	AIRCRAFT		PILOT, OR 1st PILOT	2ND PILOT, PILOT OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING HOURS AND REMARKS)
	Type	No.			
APRIL	LANCASTER	LN476	SELF	CREW	Cancelled
5		LN476	SELF	CREW	TV BE FACTORY OPS. TOOLHOUSE 12,000 ft
6		LN476	SELF	CREW Flt Pullman	Wellesbourne & Base
7		LN476	SELF	CREW Flt Bean	TO SWINDORBY. MR & SEN Fld
8		LN476	SELF	CREW w/c snooden	N.L.B.
8		LN476	SELF	CREW	Special Exercises
10		LN476	SELF	CREW	Air test
10		LN476	SELF	CREW	OPS. TOURS. 5,000ft B.L. 15,250 ft
11		LN476	SELF	CREW	OPS. BACHEN 15,000ft
12		LN476	SELF	CREW	Bombing. Air test
16	D		SELF	CREW	TO SKELLINGTHORPE
19	LN476		SELF	CREW	B.L. 15,000 ft OPS. PARIS AREA 8,000ft
19	LN476		SELF	CREW	TO CRANWELL & RETURN
20	LN476		SELF	CREW.	N.F.T.
20	LN476		SELF	CREW	OPS. PARIS
22	LN476		SELF	CREW	NFT BOMBING.
25	LN476		SELF	CREW	OPS. BRANDWICK <u>MISSING</u>

Summary for April 1944
 Unit: 161 Sqdn
 Date: 15/4/44
 Signature: J. ...


AIRCRAFT
 1. ...
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. ...

[Handwritten signature]

GRAND TOTAL (Cols (1) to (10))
 1630 Hrs 55 Min

TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD

POW Record Card

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		25	
Personalkarte I: Persönliche Angaben Gefangenenlager Nr. 3 d. Lw. (Oflag Luft 3)																										Verstellung der Identifikationskarte Nr. <i>1000000</i> Lager: <i>Oflag Luft 3</i>																							
Name: <i>BIRD</i> Vorname: <i>Anthony</i> Geburtsort: <i>London</i> Geburtsdatum: <i>1914</i> Geburtsort des Vaters: Profession des Vaters:													Staatsangehörigkeit: <i>England</i> Dienstgrad: <i>F.</i> Truppenteil: <i>R.F.F.</i> <small>Kod. usw. 1</small> Zivilberuf: <i>Chemiker</i> <small>Beruf 6</small> Matrikel Nr. <small>aus dem Lager</small> : <i>55045</i> Gefangenennummer (aus dem Lager): <i>4000000</i> Ob gesund, krank, verwundet, eingeleitet:																																				
Bild: 													Frühere Personalbeschäftigung: Tätigkeit: <i>Blond</i> Dienststelle: <i>LEA KINGSLOTE Rd. Epsom Surrey</i> Von und bis: <i>1936</i>																																				
Beschreibung der Erkennungsmerkmale Nr.: Merkmale:													Lager: _____ Name: _____																																				
Personalsbeschreibung: Haar: <i>blond</i> Augen: <i>blau</i> Nase: <i>gerade</i> Mund: <i>gut</i> Zähne: <i>blond</i> Statur: <i>1,70</i> sonstige Merkmale: sonstige Spezialbeschäftigung:													Name: <i>BIRD</i> Vorname: <i>Anthony</i> Dienstgrad: <i>F/Lt</i> Lk. Marke: <i>423/OFLAG LUFT 3</i> Serv. Nr.: <i>155 025</i> Nationalität: <i>England</i>																																				

My POW record card and identity card, liberated from the offices at Stalag Luft III after our liberation by the US 3rd Army under General Patton.

Newspaper article

**WOUNDED, BUT WENT
ON TO
BOMB TARGET
Then Made Successful
Crash Landing**

**PILOT OFFICER ANTHONY
(TONY) BIRD**, of Kingsste-
road, Addiscombe, an old boy of
Selhurst Grammar School, has
been awarded the Distinguished
Flying Cross.

Aged 20, Pilot Officer Bird has
numerous operational flights to his
credit. In one recent big raid over
Germany he was shot up twice and
knocked unconscious for a time.



PILOT OFFICER A. BIRD

When he recovered he went on to
bomb the target. He brought home
his Lancaster and those of his crew
who had not baled out and made a
successful crash landing. This re-
markable feat was performed with-
out a navigator. Members of the
crew were awarded the D.F.M.

Pilot Officer Bird volunteered for
the R.A.F. in 1941 and gained his
"wings" in Canada in 1942. After
distinguished conduct in one raid he
was congratulated by his Command-
ing Officer and later given a com-
mission.

**PLA
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**PILO
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