

Memorial Service for 33 Servicemen Killed During an

Airborne Exercise in 1944

4th April 2022

The memorial event takes place on 4th April at Peake Farm (SO32 3LA) beside the South Downs Way. Several senior retired members of the Regiments involved will be present, including Major General Tim Toyne Sewell DL, who will represent the KOSB and lay on behalf of the Association. Lt-Colonel Russell Combe, Vice-Chairman, will represent the Trustees.

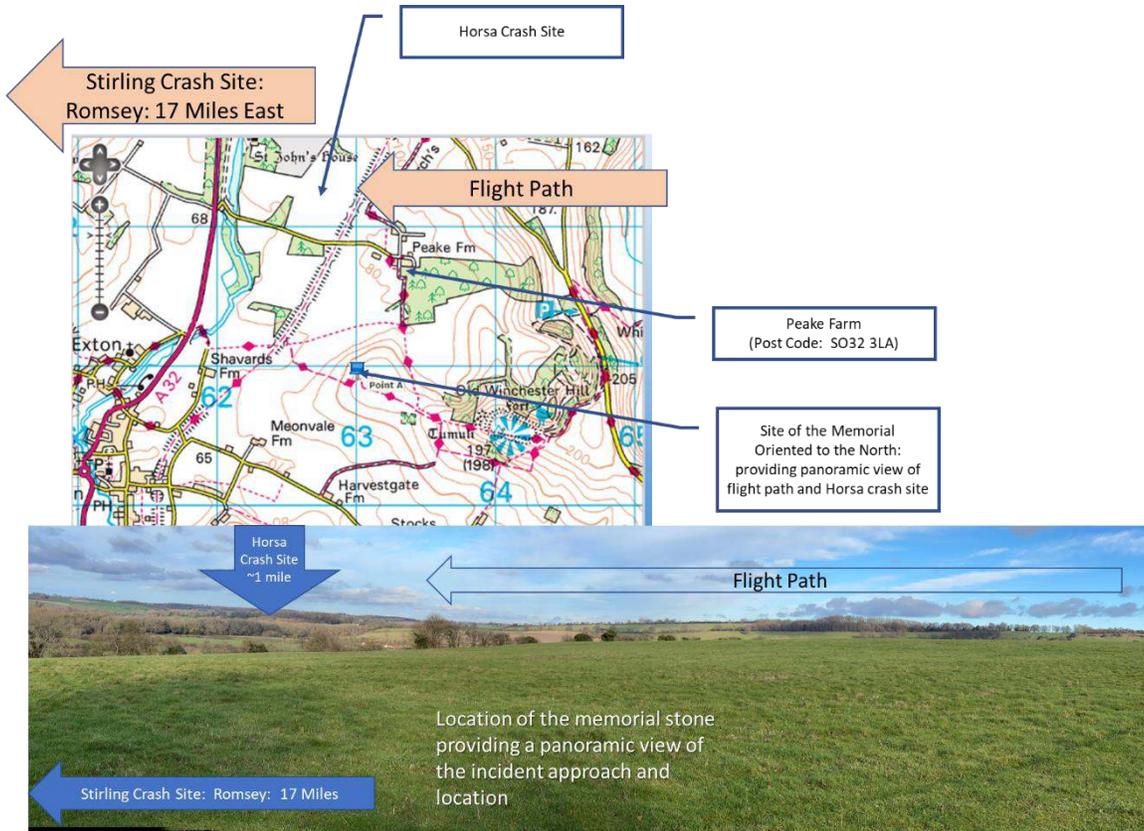
There was a large airborne exercise on 4th April 1944 preparing the 1st Airlanding Brigade and RAF aircrew for subsequent airborne operations in Europe. It was a night time exercise involving over 100 gliders and their RAF 'tug' aircraft flying a circuit from RAF Keevil (Salisbury Plain) via east Sussex and routing back over the Meon Valley to then release the gliders over RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. The weather that night was very poor with low cloud. This forced the aircrew to fly very low. Moreover, due to the blackout, there were no lights on the ground. Collectively meaning that flying conditions were exceptionally challenging.

One of the Stirling 'tugs', towing a Horsa glider, struck a tree. This led to the Horsa crashing immediately in Warnford Park and the Stirling struggled on and then also crashed near Romsey. All on board both aircraft were killed. 27 on the Horsa (2 x Glider Pilots, 24 from 7 (Airborne) KOSB and one RAMC medic) and six on the Stirling aircraft (two of whom were Australians).

The stone will be unveiled and there will be a service of remembrance at the site. The site is beside the South Downs Way and overlooks the flight path and the Horsa crash site.

The service will commence at 10.30 on Monday 4th April 2022 with a short brief on the incident. The service will start at around 11 AM and conclude before 12. We are hoping that there will be a fly past at 12 though this will be subject to several factors.

The map below shows the exact site of the memorial stone and the service. Parking will be available at Peake Farm.



Annex A: Roll of Honour

ANNEX A: ROLL OF HONOUR

Number	Name	Rank	Regiment / Corps or Service	Age
No. 3 Platoon A Company, 7th (Airborne) Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers				
284937	Leslie Albert Eastman	Lieutenant	KOSB	26
4751147	Henry James Vernon Read	Lance Sergeant	KOSB	27
3193060	Robert Fowler Foley	Corporal	KOSB	24
3187776	Thomas MacGregor	Corporal	KOSB	28
14213409	David Provan	Lance Corporal	KOSB	29
3189248	John Murdoch Dirom	Lance Corporal	KOSB	22
3056450	Roy Murray Stewart	Lance Corporal	KOSB	37
7372035	Horace AB Pope	Lance Corporal	RAMC	25
14351878	Benjamin Philip Bamforth	Private	KOSB	20
4613955	William Henry Battye	Private	KOSB	25
14377951	George Frederick Jones	Private	KOSB	34
3314631	William Love	Private	KOSB	23
4751048	Joseph Lucas	Private	KOSB	27
14620742	George Mole	Private	KOSB	18
991164	Charles Myles	Private	KOSB	28
14210673	William McMillan	Private	KOSB	37
14211483	Thomas McNamara	Private	KOSB	21
3190876	William McWhirter	Private	KOSB	22
14211484	James Ramsay MacPherson	Private	KOSB	21
14202004	John Park	Private	KOSB	21
3192882	Thomas Harper Reid	Private	KOSB	26
5571917	Frank Stapleton	Private	KOSB	24
3323987	John William Steel	Private	KOSB	29
1645311	Robert Donald Wells	Private	KOSB	27
14645622	Kenneth William Scott-Browne	Private	KOSB	23
Glider Pilot Regiment: Horsa Glider Pilots				
2058248	Henry Thomas Joel	Pilot: Staff Sergeant	GPR	22
2581834	William Geoffrey Walker	Pilot: Sergeant	GPR	24
No 196 Sqn RAF: Stirling IV Crew: (RAF & RAAF)				
410069	John Hugh Lees	WO: (Captain, Pilot)	RAAF	28
1697800	Shayrene Meera	Sgt: (Flight Engineer)	RAFVR	19
145397	John Robert Teece	FO: (Navigator)	RAFVR	32
1532527	John Thomas Wilkinson	Sgt: (Air Bomber)	RAFVR	29
408353	Kenrick Payne	F/Sgt: (Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner)	RAAF	21
1229967	Sidney Claypole	Sgt: (Air Gunner)	RAFVR	23