

Other Deaths in Service

FRANCIS JOHN MARRIOTT (27/4/40 – 8/8/62) R.A.F

Francis attended School from 1951 to 1958 earning A Levels in Advanced Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. He played in the Hockey 2nd XI, was Treasurer of the Chess Team and Corporal in the C.C.F. He was a House Prefect and gained a County Major Scholarship.

He went on from School to Manchester University where he joined the University Squadron in 1958.

An entry in the London Gazette, dated 30th May 1961, states that Francis, Service Number 2617667, was appointed to a commission in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (General Duties Branch) as Acting Pilot Officer (one year) effective from 8th February 1961. A second entry in the same publication dated 14th November 1961 states that, with effect from 2nd October 1961, he was appointed as Acting Pilot Officer to “direct entry commission in the R.A.F.”

Sadly, the Forces War Records include the following details of the crash on 8th August 1962 of a Vampire T11 of 4FTS based at R.A.F. Valley: “Stalled while in the circuit at Mona, Anglesey. It crashed into trees and then a cottage, crossed a road and disintegrated in a field. The pilot did not eject and was killed”.

Francis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour Wall of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffs in the section devoted to servicemen killed in peacetime. The adjacent photograph of the memorial entry was taken by Gordon Reddish with whom he had shared a double desk in 2BBA back in 1951.

Francis is buried in Hasland Cemetery.

