



THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT



In Association
with the CWGC



News from the Front line

Autumn 2010

The last three months seems as though it has been a summer of The Battle of Britain Anniversary with Spitfires and Hurricanes droning through the summer skies here in the South of England. The Battle of Britain Flight must have had an extremely busy year with numerous engagements and even for someone who was not born during WW2 the sound of the Merlin engine still sends a shiver down the spine. We attended one such event at Tangmere and took the opportunity to re-shoot the graves of the airmen in the local church, including those German airmen who had perished. Unusually there have been far more requests for German Airmen's graves from the project than Commonwealth forces. This has obviously been down to the fact that more research is being conducted on raids in the UK where the Luftwaffe has received casualties. Just this week we have had one in from USA, via Ralph Bowles, for the complete crew of a Dornier aircraft. A nephew of one the crew was unaware of TWGPP so it was good to be able to supply the image. An article will be forthcoming about how the Dornier was in collision with a Spitfire over Kent which makes interesting reading.



If the CWGC are busy then that normally means TWGPP will be as well. Website Statistics for the week of the Fromelles dedication soared peaking at 1096 on one day alone. Fortunately for us we always have a volunteer close at hand so were able to put the pictures of the graves from Fromelles on site within a day of the dedication, along with those this month of the newly erected Indian Memorial at Patcham Down in Sussex.

Although we have been 'live' for over three years now there are still many who are blissfully unaware that TWGPP exists and are often most surprised to find that those using this service can actually get a picture of a grave or memorial rather than just details of where the grave is. We are helped immensely in spreading the word by articles that are now a regular feature of magazines like Family Tree, Family History and Who Do you think You Are. Over the last three months the Project has been voted best site for pictures (WDYTYA) and also amongst those that 'save you money' (FT). A recent presentation to Hampshire Genealogists has brought in a few more engagements for next year where we can promote our work.

Steve Rogers