

In Memory Of

Pilot Officer

# JOHN SEYMOUR MACLEOD CLARKE

Service Number: 177011

158 Sqdn., Royal Air Force who died on 25 May 1944 Age 25

Son of Arthur Denison Macleod Clarke, and of Nancy Clarke (nee Woolcombe); husband of Mary Clarke, of Pilley Bailey,  
Hampshire.

LIFE, TO BE SURE, IS NOTHING MUCH TO LOSE, BUT YOUNG MEN THINK IT IS, AND WE WERE YOUNG

Remembered with Honour

DONGEN ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Grave 7.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

**Name:** CLARKE, John Seymour Macleod

**Date of Birth:** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918, in Bombay, India

**Date of Death:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 1944

**Age at Death:** 25

**Service Number:** 177011

**Rank:** Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force

**Unit:** 158 Squadron



Handley Page Halifax MK III NP-G "Clueless" of RAF 158 Sqn

### **Military Service**

John was flying a Handley Page Halifax III, with the serial number LW653, which took off at 2259 hours on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> May 1944 from RAF Lissett. The raid was to attack two railway yards at Aachen. Of the 442 aircraft in the raid 25 were lost including LW653. Because this raid was on German railway infrastructure rather than French or Belgium, the bomber force was considerably larger than normal. Much damage was caused to the railway yards particularly those to the east of the town.

LW653 was either hit by flak, or shot down by a German night fighter, on the homeward bound leg and crashed at De Hei alongside the Dongense Vaart near Dongen, 12 Km North West of Tilburg Holland.

### **Commemorated/Memorial**

Dongen Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grave 7.

The 158 Squadron Association has erected a memorial to the 851 personnel who perished whilst with 158 squadron. It consists of Seven 8-foot tall airmen made of 15mm thick steel, with the names of the 851 personnel etched either side of the figures. The memorial is situated on the edge of the old airfield site on Gransmoor Road, Lissett.



### **Colwall Connection**

John was the son of Arthur Denison Macleod Clarke, and of Nancy Clarke (nee Woolcombe). John married Mary Naime-Mansour, of Pilley Bailey, Hampshire, in 1940. A Colwall connection has not been made.