

Cotham School Rugby Players who were killed in WW2 Listed by the CWGC

William Stuart Martin

27 December 1939 Champigny, France

- Born 21 August 1918 at 119 Bishop Road, Horfield, Bristol
- Son of Bertie Benjamin Martin, Printer, and Florence Ada (née Wileman) of Bristol
- Played rugby for Old Cothamians
- Insurance Clerk Northern Assurance Company
- Aircraftman 1st Class 540304 RAF 18 Sqn.
- Died when flying from Meharicourt to Metz, his aircraft crashed enroute at Champigny.
- Buried in Row B. Grave 12. Le Quesnel Communal Cemetery Extension.
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial



John Joseph Brimble

14 September 1940 Kent

- Born 25 November 1915
- Son of William Henry Brimble, Shipping Clerk, and Emily Annie (née Rossiter) of Knowle, Bristol
- Worked for W.D.& H.O.Wills
- Played rugby for Imperial
- Sergeant 741563 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 73 Squadron
- He was shot down in combat over Tonbridge during the Battle of Britain. His Hurricane P2542 came down at Parkhouse Farm, Chart Sutton near Maidstone but his body was not recovered and he was commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. The crash site was excavated on 14 September 1980 and his remains were found, still in the cockpit. He was buried with full military honours at Brookwood on 16 October 1980.
- Buried in grave 24.D.13 at Brookwood Military Cemetery
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial



John Colston Fry

24 May 1941 Battle of Denmark Strait

- Born 21 August 1920 Bristol
- Son of Frank Colston Fry and Mabel (née May) of 27 Sion Hill, Clifton
- Worked for Prudential Assurance
- Played rugby for Old Cothamians
- Ordinary Coder PJX/229360 Royal Navy, HMS Hood
- HMS Hood was struck by several German shells and sunk while chasing the German battleship Bismark. Hood sank with 1418 men aboard. Only three survived
- Commemorated on Panel 53, Column 1 of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and the Cotham School Memorial



Leonard Harold Ellis

30 September 1941 Stettin, Poland

- Born 1921 Bristol
- Son of Harold Francis Ellis and Fanny (née Tyler), of Fishponds, Bristol
- Played rugby for Old Cothamians
- Sergeant Pilot 921460 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 115 Squadron
- Shot down while on a bombing raid on Stettin, Poland.
- Buried in grave 14.C.6 at Becklingen War Cemetery
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial

Frederick Whyatt Treeby

14 October 1941

- Born 1917
- Son of James Albert Treeby, Police Inspector, and Kathleen Louise (née Westbury). His father had played rugby for Broad Plain and Bristol.
- Worked for British Gas Company. Previously Clerk at Bristol Aerospace Company
- Husband of Betty Doreen (née North) of Ki-Ora, High Street, Portishead
- Played rugby 6 times for Bristol United between 1935 and 1939. Also played rugby for Broad Plain and Old Cothamians
- Sergeant 1250021 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
- He was part of the crew of Blenheim T1951 which was detailed to carry out a low dive bombing attack on troop concentrations in a defined area south east of Kent. The aircraft struck a tree while in a left hand turn, and crashed out of control near Shepherdswell, Kent. All on board were killed.
- Buried in grave 296 at Portishead (St Peter) Churchyard
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial



Geoffrey Seaby Hayden Mott

30 November 1941

- Born 1915 Bristol
- Son of Seaby Saynor Mott, Fish, Game and Poultry Dealer and Alice Elizabeth (née Hayden) of Bishopston, Bristol
- Bishop Road School, Bishopston.
- Played rugby for Old Cothamians and Bishopston
- Sergeant 922320 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 58th Squadron
- Killed after his plane crashed going to a bombing raid over the Blohm & Voss shipyards, Hamburg
- Commemorated on Panel 49 of the Runnymede Memorial and the Cotham School Memorial
- His brother Douglas was killed one month later



Ronald Ivor Chaffe

22 February 1942 Malta

- Born 1914
- Son of John Lionel Chaffe and Florence Mabel (née Bryant) of 132 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol
- Cotham School
- Husband of Betty Joan (née Dingle) of 132 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol
- Principal of John Lampier, Insurance Brokers, Baldwin Street, Bristol
- Played for Bristol once (1935-1936)
- Also played for Old Cothamians and Bristol United
- Squadron Leader 79529 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
- Took command of 185 Squadron at Hal Far, Malta in February 1942
- Killed when his Hurricane, Z3452, was shot down off Delimara Point, Malta
- Commemorated on Panel 2, Column 1 of the Malta Memorial, Valletta, Battle of Britain London Monument, and the Cotham School Memorial



Charles Jack Pitchford

7 March 1942 Rangoon

- Born 1917
- Son of Walter Pitchford and Mary Ann Frances (née Howers)
- Bristol University
- Played rugby for Bristol University and Old Cryptians
- Husband of Margaret Brenda (née Quinsee), of Gloucester
- Teacher at Cotham Secondary School, Bristol
- 2nd Lieutenant 186120 Gloucestershire Regiment 1st Battalion
- Killed in action at the road block near Taukyan during the evacuation from Rangoon
- Commemorated on Face 12 of the Rangoon Memorial, Malvern Priory Memorial, Cotham School Memorial and the Bristol University WW2 Memorial
- His death was not reported in the newspapers until January 1946

Ronald Edward George Nation

14 April 1942

- Born 1920 Bristol
- Son of Harold Joseph Nation and Elizabeth Annie of 20 Goldney Road, Clifton, Bristol
- Cotham School
- Played rugby for Old Cothamians
- Sergeant (Navigator) 925007 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 144th Squadron
- His plane, a Hampden Bomber, (Serial No. AT110) was on a mission to bomb the port of Le Havre in France from RAF North Luffenham, when the engine caught fire and the plane crashed killing all 4 crew
- Buried in Section Q, Grave 94 at Canford Cemetery, Bristol
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial and at the crash site on Sea Road, Felpham, West Sussex

Douglas Philip Venn

16 January 1944 Cheti Region, Italy

- Born 1913 Bristol
- Son of Vivian George Venn, Clerk Post Office, and Ida (née Pick), of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
- Bishop Road School, Bishopston. Cotham School
- Showroom Staff British Gas
- Played rugby for Bristol Gas
- Major 164146 Royal Tank Regiment 50th Battalion
- Taken ill and died in a British Field Hospital near Orsogna
- Buried in Grave XIV.E.31. at the Sangro River War Cemetery
- Commemorated on the Cotham School Memorial



Robert James Cresswell Smith

4 November 1944 India

- Born 1913
- Son of Frederick James Smith, Railway Official, and Ethel Julia of 31 Rock Road, Keynsham, Somerset
- Cotham School
- Played rugby for Keynsham and Old Cothamians
- Worked in the Civil Service, London
- Captain 156959 Royal Artillery, attached 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment
- Died of Typhus
- Buried in grave 7.K.11 Kohima War Cemetery, Nagaland, India
- Commemorated on the Keynsham Memorial Park Gates and the Cotham School Memorial



Those who are known to have played rugby for the school

Kenneth Raymond John Clothier

24 May 1941



See <http://www.bishopstonatwar.co.uk/ww2-service-men/ken-clothier>

Paul Fraser Collis

12 October 1941



Eric Hubert Dee

6 September 1943

