



John Joseph Duffy

1312519 Flight Sergeant, Royal Air Force

He died on 3rd June 1944, on the island of Fernando Po, Equatorial Guinea, aged 27

John was buried in Malabo Cemetery, Bioko, Equatorial Guinea

John Duffy was born in Lissummon Jerrettspass, County Armagh, eldest of the four children of James and Bridget Duffy. Affectionately known as Jack, as a teenager he came to England to find work as a landscape gardener, eventually setting up his own business. He was contracted to lay out the tennis courts on the recreation ground in Harleston, and while lodging in the area, met and married Dorothy Lily Dalliston on Boxing Day 1939.

Dorothy's uncle, Edward Bly Dalliston, died during WW1, not in action, he was a store man in Aldershot, but is still, quite rightly, commemorated on the Harleston War Memorial.

Flight Sergeant Duffy took part in numerous missions in the Sunderland Flying boats and served in the Far East. In 1943, his plane came down in the sea off Portugal. Although injured, he and the crew were rescued and recovered. They were posted to East Africa, and ordered to follow the west coast of Africa, south to Nigeria, then head east to Uganda. While crossing the Gulf of Guinea, they flew into a severe tropical storm, causing their plane to crash-land on the island of Fernando Po (now known as Bioko). There were no survivors.

All of the crew were given a very dignified funeral in Santa Isabel (now known as Malabo), the capital of the island. John is also commemorated on the Harleston War Memorial.