

Gilbert MACKENZIE

518372, Sergeant (Pilot), Royal Air Force
died Sunday 19th May 1940, aged 23.

Memorial Book text:

*Home address was 14 Newton Street,
Olney.*

*1939 – Sergeant’s Mess, RAF
Manston, nr Ramsgate, Kent.*

1940 – Reported “missing”.

*Information from the Commonwealth
War Graves Commission. “Gilbert
was killed on 19 May 1940 and is
interred in Cysoing Communal
Cemetery, France, (FR41), Grave 5.
Aged 23”.*

*Stepson of Mr A G Clark. Son of Mrs
Mackenzie who kept a small sweet
shop at 14 Newton Street.*

*Information from Mr Jack Barnes
cousin of Gilbert and late husband of
Mrs Gwen Barnes (nee Smith).
“Gilbert was killed in action in aerial
combat over the Low Countries during
the 39/45 War”.*

*Photo kindly supplied by brother
Kenneth Mackenzie, of Moulton
Lodge, Northampton.*



CWWG information:

Gilbert MACKENZIE
518372, Sergeant (Pilot), 253
Sqdn., Royal Air Force.
Stepson of Mr. A. G. Clark, of
Olney.
Died Sunday 19th May 1940,
aged 23.
Buried in Cysoing Communal
Cemetery (Grave 5), France.

Additional information:

This was a desperate time as the RAF, in support of the British Expeditionary Force, tried to stop the German Army's advance into France. On the 12th May 1940 the French Government were forced to abandon Paris, and on the 14th May the defence of the Netherlands collapsed under the threat of massive area bombing and Queen Wilhelmina along with members of her family and government escaped to London.

[2] Royal Air Force Fighter Command Losses of the Second World War. Volume 1. Operational Losses: Aircraft and Crews 1939-1941

p26: 19th May 1940. 253 Sqn. Hurricane I L1667. Sgt G Mackenzie (k). Shot down by Me 109 of JG3, 1030 hours. Buried at Cysoing, France. Aged 23.

other 253 Squadron aircraft lost ...

253 Sqn. Hurricane I L1660. P/O F W Ratford (k). Shot down by Me 109s of JG3 south of Arras. Buried at Riencourt les Cagincourt, France, and ...

253 Sqn. Hurricane I L1674. F/Lt H T J Anderson (k). Shot down by Me 109 of JG3, 1030 hours. Buried at Lille Southern, France.

[Gilbert's was one of three 253 Squadron Hurricanes, out of a total of 27 Hurricanes from 14 Squadrons, lost this day - a bad day for the RAF].

253 Squadron ORB [AIR 27/1511]: at Kenley

19/5/40 F/Lt Anderson & Sgt McKenzie [sic] + 4 others (P/O Jenkins, P/O Clifton, P/O Dawburn, P/O Greenwood) up at 1200hrs for Interception. One Me109 shot down by P/O Greenwood (con); one by P/O Clifton (uncon). F/Lt Anderson and Sgt McKenzie [sic] reported missing.

later same day...

F/Lt Harris (Hurricane N2590) & P/O Ratford (Hurricane L1660) + 2 others up at 1500hrs for Patrol. Cambria-le-Cateau. Met 30 EA. F/Lt Harris and P/O Ratford shot down. F/Lt Harris subsequently reached English Base Hospital. No EA confirmed.

Day before (18/5/40) entry for Interception sortie (same 6 as 19/5) says – “Contact made with 20 EA. (Do215 and Me110). One Do215 (con) and Me110 (uncon) shot down by P/O Jenkins; one Do215 (con) by P/O Greenwood; one Do215 (con) by P/O Clifton; one Do215 (uncon) by F/Lt Anderson; and one Do215 (uncon) by Sgt McKenzie.”