



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

Commemorating the sacrifices of members of the  
armed forces and of civilians in times of war.

NOVEMBER 11TH 2021

**The Lonely grave of Alfred Tizzard**



In a lonely corner of the Cill Muirbhigh graveyard of Cnocán na mBan lies a well maintained grave with the distinctive headstone of a British commonwealth soldier. Here is the final resting place of a young English airman, Alfred Tizzard, whose body was discovered in Galway Bay by two Aran Island fishermen in 1941.

His was just one of two bodies found after a R.A.F. seaplane, with a crew of nine, disappeared on April 21st, 1941. The other body came ashore in Donegal.



Their Catalina Flying boat had been based in Scotland but had taken off from the flying boat base on Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. They were providing air cover for one of the great Atlantic convoys from North America which were keeping the Allied war effort going.

Although their comrades had searched as best they could, no sign of them or their plane was found in the vastness of the North Atlantic.

As they returned from their fruitless search, which extended as far south as Slyne Head, the Sunderland rescue plane came under attack from a German Focke-Wulf Condor but managed to fight it off.



Catalina flying boat similar to Alfreds

The only other body recovered was that of the young 20 year old wireless operator, Flight Sergeant Horace Tann from Essex. He was recovered in early August by fishermen and is buried on the island of Cruit near Kincasla in Donegal.



Much feared WF Condor which may have played a part in the loss of the Catalina



Alfred Tizzard came from a family of railway people. His father Cecil Tizzard was a Train driver operating the London, Brighton and South Coast line. He was driving the train that left the tracks at Toddington in 1937.

His brother and uncles were all signal men operating at stations in the local area. Alfred grew up in a house at the back of Ferrabyrne Ltd, in Gloucester Road.



He had qualified as a plumber before joining the Royal Air Force in 1937. He had qualified as an Air Gunner, just a few weeks after war broke out in September 1939. At twenty six, Alfred would have been a senior airman as many others who answered the call, were little more than boys.



Alfred (Right) pictured with his brother Cecil who was a signal Porter.

Flight Sergeant Alfred Tizzard would have spent over four months lost at sea before, on the 9th of September 1941, two Cill Muirbhigh fishermen, Brian Peter Stephen Hernon and Bartley Bhabba Hernon, found his badly decomposed body in their nets.

There are many stories from around the coast of bodies being left to the ocean but the men who found Alfred felt it was their God given duty to afford him a decent burial.

Led by Brian Peter Stephen Hernon, his crew-mate Bartley Bhabba Hernon, and with the help of the two Feeney Hernon brothers Tom, Bartley and others, they proceeded to bury the dead airman.

Shortly afterwards a fine wooden cross was made by Cill Rónáin shipwright, Robert's son, the late Coley Gill, which remained until the War Graves commission sent a headstone.



Alfred Tizzard's parents, Cecil and Emily, asked that his name not be inscribed on the Littlehampton town war memorial. They held out that impossible hope that their young son might be alive as he was only identified by some documents. Up until her death in 1964, his mother Emily would regularly set a place at dinner for her beloved Alf. Recently, Alfred's niece, Heather Tizzard Perry, has had this rectified and his name has now been added to the Littlehampton war memorial.



Pictured above, Cecil and Emily. Cecil being a Train driver for many years operating in Littlehampton. Both Cecil and Emily died in 1964 a few months apart. Neither knowing the fate of their son.

Today we remember him...

