

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

FLT. SGT. JOHN HENRY COBBOLD

February 2017

John (#5218 on the family tree), born in Ellesmere, Shropshire in 1924, married in Cockermouth, Cumberland in 1947 was lost at sea in 1950. He had joined the RAF and risen to the rank of Flight Sergeant and was with 202 Squadron (based at Aldergrove) on a meteorological flight 15 miles off Barra Head in the Outer Hebrides when his plane, a Halifax ST 798 was lost on December 29th.

The crew members on the plane were:

- Sqn. Ldr. Terence Anthony Cox (Pilot)
- Plt. Off. Donald Nattris (Pilot)
- Sgt. Edward Arthur Keeble (Navigator)
- Flt. Sgt. John Henry Cobbold (Signaller)
- Sgt. John Frederick Stanley (Signaller)
- Sgt. William Richard Martindale (Engineer)
- Sgt. Stuart Gordon Purches (Air Met. Observer)
- Sgt. Gerald Walklate (Air Met. Observer)

The cause of the crash has never been determined but some reports suggested the Halifax was on fire before impact. On 16th January 1951 a Fleetwood trawler, Milford Countess was fishing 20 miles west of Castle Bay, Barra when they found the body of Squadron Leader Terence Anthony Cox DSO DFC in their nets with some debris from the plane. Cox had married the daughter of a London doctor the previous March. The other crew members have not been found.



The Handley Page Halifax equipped 34 squadrons of the RAF



Barra Head, Outer Hebrides