

Two Commonwealth Commission War Graves in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard.



William George **Longhurst**. Lance Bombardier 2039704, 468 Bty. 29 Searchlight Regt., Royal Artillery died on 18 May 1943 Age 22
Husband of Margaret Ellen Longhurst, of Dartford, Kent.



Alfred Vernon Samuel **Masey**. Gunner 2038263, 468 Bty., 29 Searchlight Regt., Royal Artillery died on 19 May 1943 Age 23
Husband of Elizabeth Catherine Veal Masey, of New Romney, Kent.

Cause of their death.

Flight Sargent F. V. Peters (1312272) 286 Sqn on detachment at RAF Harrowbeer, (Yelverton) whilst taking off from the Aerodrome struck an Army Lorry Park on the Aerodrome – three army personnel were killed instantly another died later, Flight Sargent Peters was seriously injured and the aircraft, a Defiant, was completely written off.

There were Searchlights here in Saltash during WW2.

Maybe Longhurst and Masey were based here in Saltash and at that time their wives were living here, and they wanted them buried near where they then lived and served? But that's just speculation on my part.

I don't know why these two were buried in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard; and why the other two of the four killed were not.

I don't know why they were in an Army Lorry at RAF Harrowbeer.

Longhurst was one of the three killed instantly, Masey died next day.

They are not named on the Borough of Saltash WW2 Memorial. *Maybe that's because as they were not native to Saltash they did not meet whatever the criteria used for inclusion was? But I don't know or can prove that.*

They are 'Commemorated in perpetuity' by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

We will remember them.

Peter Clements