

## Brian Routley Honeybun

### Sub Lieutenant Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve – Fleet Air Arm



Brian was the eldest son of Arthur Emsley Honeybun and Dorothy Grace Honeybun. He was born in Fulham on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1922 and had one younger brother, Anthony, born in 1923.

Brian's mother Dorothy became the Head Teacher of Shipley School in the spring of 1932 and he and Anthony attended the school. They lived in School House, attached to, but at that time separate from the school. Anthony recently visited Shipley and told of his and Brian's childhood growing up in the village where there was no running water or electricity in either School House or the School. One of the brothers' tasks was to clean and trim the oil lamps at the end of each school day. Both brothers attended Collyers School in Horsham for their secondary education. Brian then went on to study science at Kings College London from 1941 – 1942 and is commemorated in Kings College Chapel.

Brian left university in 1942 to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was training as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm and was sent to New Brunswick, Canada where by complete chance he met his brother Anthony who had joined the Royal Air Force. Both had been sent by their respective units for flying training. Anthony recalled sadly that this was the last time he saw his brother as Brian was killed in a flying accident over Scotland on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1943.



Brian was flying a Mark 1 Fairey Swordfish K8444 with 769 Squadron based at HMS Condor, Arbroath (shore establishment) accompanied by Sub Lieutenant Arnold Waterhouse. They were on an instrument practice training flight when the Swordfish developed a fault and crashed, killing both young men. The biplane came down over Gask Farm on the outskirts of Letham, Arbroath and a wooden memorial was erected at the site of the crash. Over time the memorial decayed but the original bronze plaque was found and is now mounted on a new stone memorial, erected in 2016 by Arnold Waterhouse's family. The memorial was re-dedicated in November 2016 with

standard bearers from Legion Scotland in attendance. Brian was awarded the War Medal 1939 – 1945 and 1939 – 1945 Star.



**Pictured above: Brian and Anthony at School House, Shipley in the 1930s.**

Brian was laid to rest in Shipley Churchyard in March 1943. The Log Book from Shipley School records that the older children attended his burial and laid violets and primroses on his grave. Brian's mother Dorothy had retired as head teacher by this time but was still living locally. When she passed away in 1985 she was laid to rest with her son.



Re-dedication of the Memorial at Gask Farm, Arbroath November 2016 from The Bradford Telegraph and Argus newspaper.

[\(Link to video of re-dedication ceremony\)](#)



Left: 1939 – 1945 War Medal



Right: 1939 – 1945 Star Medal



In Memory of

Sub-Lieutenant (A)

## Brian Routley Honeybun

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 27 February 1943 Age 21

Son of Arthur Emsley Honeybun and Dorothy Grace Honeybun, of Northfields, Ealing, Middlesex.

Remembered with Honour

Shipley (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission