

## SQUADRON LEADER SIDNEY EDWARD KELLAWAY

Service Number: 43448

Enlisted: RAF Bramcote, adjutant to Polish Squadron

Born: 17 February 1901 Moseley, Birmingham

Died: 24 October 1946, Aged 45

Memorials: Burbage War Memorial

St Catherine's Church War Memorial



Sidney Kellaway was born in Birmingham, the son of Percy Warburton and Harriet Mary Kellaway. At the time of his death Sidney was living at 1 Brockhurst Avenue, Burbage with his wife Barbara.

Born in Moseley, Birmingham on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1901, he grew up at 91 Russell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham. Sidney was not old enough to serve in the early days of war but enlisted as soon as he was able.

Sidney enlisted with the Royal Air Force in the closing months of World War 1. Private Kellaway 2<sup>nd</sup> class wireless operator (learner), started his military career on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1918 at the recruits training wing, Blandford, Dorset. After the armistice in November 1918, he remustered as a general clerk. Promotion was rapid and after service based at Ruislip and Uxbridge he was promoted to Sergeant in 1922 and posted to Egypt.



RAF Depot, Aboukir, Egypt

By the early 1930's, Sidney was married with a young family. In 1937 with wife Barbara and children Eric and Margaret, he was posted to Aden serving as a warrant officer. Whilst in Aden (now Yemen) war broke out in September 1939, the Kellaway's made two attempts to get back to England. The women and children were evacuated because of the fear of attack from Italian troops in Ethiopia, but when the danger subsided, they were sent back. Finally, in May 1940 after a treacherous journey the family made it back to England.

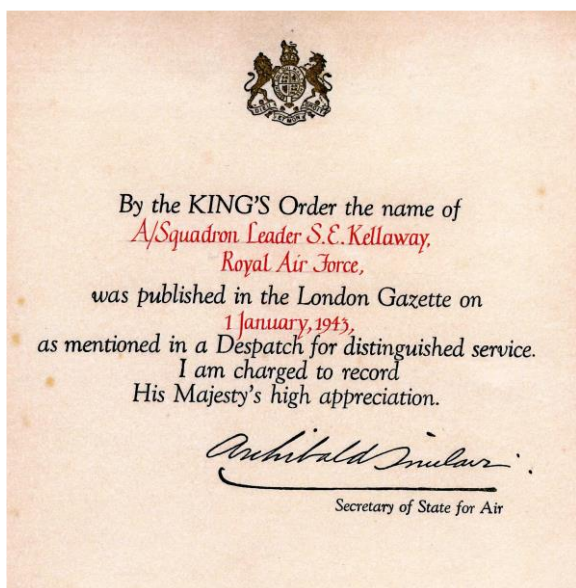


His five-year's service in Egypt was at one of the most interesting times in modern archaeological history. Lord Carnarvon discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen in November 1922, Sidney visited the pyramids and the sphinx, which was then only half excavated.



The family moved to 1 Brockhurst Avenue, Burbage when Sidney became Adjutant for No. 1 Polish Squadron at Bramcote Barracks in May 1940 and by August he was the 305 Squadron Adjutant. Group Captain A P Davidson formed the No. 3 Polish Squadrons on 1st July 1940 at their Parent Station Bramcote.

He was mentioned-in-despatches three times: In June 1942, January 1943 and June 1943. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942, he was made Administrative Squadron leader to the No. 18 Operational Training Unit Bomber Command.



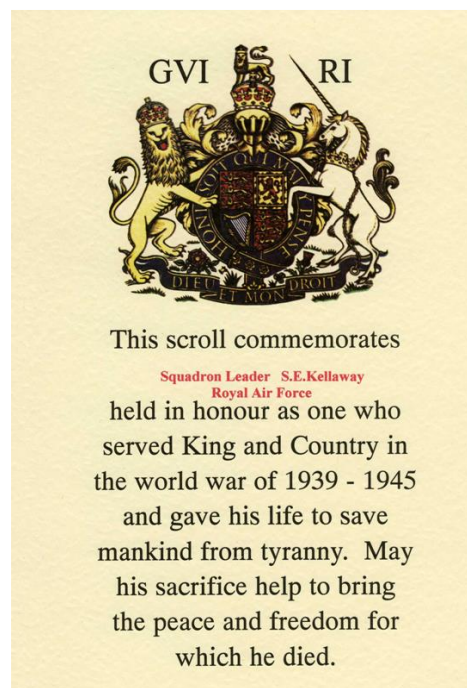
In 1946, Eric his son was in the RAF stationed at Cottesford and Mrs Kellaway was an active committee member of the Burbage Branch of the British Legion, Women's Section.



At the end of the War in May 1945, he moved back to Bramcote. His service period in the Royal Air Force was drawing to a close and Sidney applied to extend his service commission. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1946 after attending a medical board in London, which he successfully passed, he was driving home to Burbage when he was fatally injured in a road accident near Towcester on the A5.

The funeral took place at St Catherine's Church with full military honours. In the obituary in the Hinckley Times it states, "in all spheres of service he proved an efficient officer and was three times mentioned in despatches, the junior ranks had always found him a great friend, to whom they could always go when in trouble, never failing to find help and sympathy".

Sidney was so highly thought of that after his death the Commanding Officer of RAF Bramcote presented his widow with a silver salver which was engraved with all the names of the Officers who were serving with the squadron at its formation in 1940. The names being arranged in the form of the Polish Flag. Commissioned in 1940, this was one of two such Salvers, that were the prize possessions of the Officers Mess at RAF Bramcote.



St Catherine's Churchyard