

## WARRANT OFFICER JOHN LORD

Service Number: 955266

Enlisted: 405<sup>th</sup> (RCAF) Squadron Royal Air Force  
Volunteer Reserve

Born: 6<sup>th</sup> December 1918

Died: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1945, Aged 26

Memorials: Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Brandenburg, Germany - Plot  
2, Row N, Grave 7

Burbage War Memorial

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Individual Plaque St Catherine's South Side Chancel



John Lord was born on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1918 at Diamond Cottage, Coventry Road, Burbage. The eldest child of Ernest Lord a hosiery hand, John grew up in the village starting at the Burbage National School in January 1924. John was well known in the Hinckley area being a regular player for Hinckley United Rugby Club.

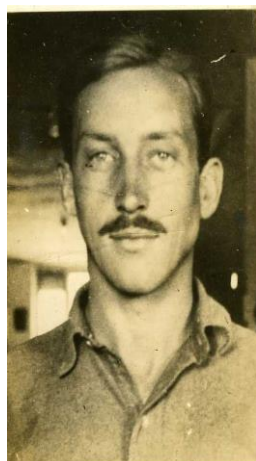


One of many school photographs which seemed to have been taken quite frequently in the 1920's. This particular one, chosen from many, was taken at the Church of England School in 1927, and shows (left to right)—  
Back Row: Miss Dudley (Teacher), Harry Powers, Donald Gent, Jim Robins, Harold Robinson, Ray Whitmore, John Lord, Jack Briggs, Wally Smith, Stanley Meadows, Frank Reece, Bernard Colkin, Jack Simpson.  
2nd Row: Myrtle Wright, Madge Spinks, Joan Scattergood, Ivy Reynolds, Alice Bass, Gwen Herbert, Mag Shilton, Nelly Shilton, Mabel Bennett, Edna Harding, Alice Cooper, Mary Craythorne, Alice Moore.  
3rd Row: Ivy Bates, Mona Wright, Edna Howkins, ?, Nancy Goodwin, Eilene Robinson, Winnie Harding, Nelly Jordan, Peggy Cliff, May Puffer, Eadith Beecher.  
Front Row: Arthur Higginson, Fred Howarth, Jack Middleton, Kenneth Hill, Joan Higginson. Headmaster: Stanley

National School Photograph

On the outbreak of war in 1939, John joined the RAF and was posted to a base in Scotland. As an observer, he flew missions on bombing raids over Germany. On one such mission in 1941 his plane came down, he was captured and taken prisoner of war.

Although a prisoner the family hoped, he would be relatively safe. Letters were exchanged and parcels sent via the Red Cross. The family even had a photograph sent from a POW camp that shows him looking well.



In April 1945, the family learned of the relief of the prison camp at which he had been interned and were awaiting news of his homecoming. Instead, they learned that he had died of wounds during a long march from one camp to another. While on the march, the prisoners were mistaken for enemy troops and were attacked by allied bombers, John and a number of his comrades receiving wounds. Some of the prisoners had been force marched from camps in Poland to Germany in front of the advancing Russians.



John was taken to Boizenburg on Elbe. He was badly wounded in the right leg on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and the German Surgeon was compelled to amputate. In addition, he had a deep wound in the left side of his back in which he developed gangrene, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April he was operated on at 11 am, but in spite of all the Doctors could do, he died at 2 pm the same afternoon. His funeral took place the following day at 8 am with six of his comrades in attendance.

Boitzenburg on Elbe. John was very badly wounded in the right leg on the 19th of April and the German surgeon was compelled to amputate. In addition he had a deep wound in the left side of his back in which he developed gangrene on the 22nd. He was operated on at eleven o'clock but in spite of all the doctor could do he died at two o'clock the same afternoon. The funeral took place at eight o'clock on the 23rd with six of his comrades present.

this is the information they got from the Hospital at Gosford



Ref. No. P.362414/41/S14Gas(a) 3.

The Under Secretary of State for Air presents his compliments to Mr. E. Lord and begs to forward herewith photographs of cross marking the grave of No. 955266, Warrant Officer John Lord. These have been received from the Army Graves Service, who are responsible for the temporary marking of war graves.

Temporary crosses will be replaced in due course by permanent headstones to be erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Details of the inscription on the temporary cross will be carefully checked at that stage and any errors rectified before the permanent headstone is erected.

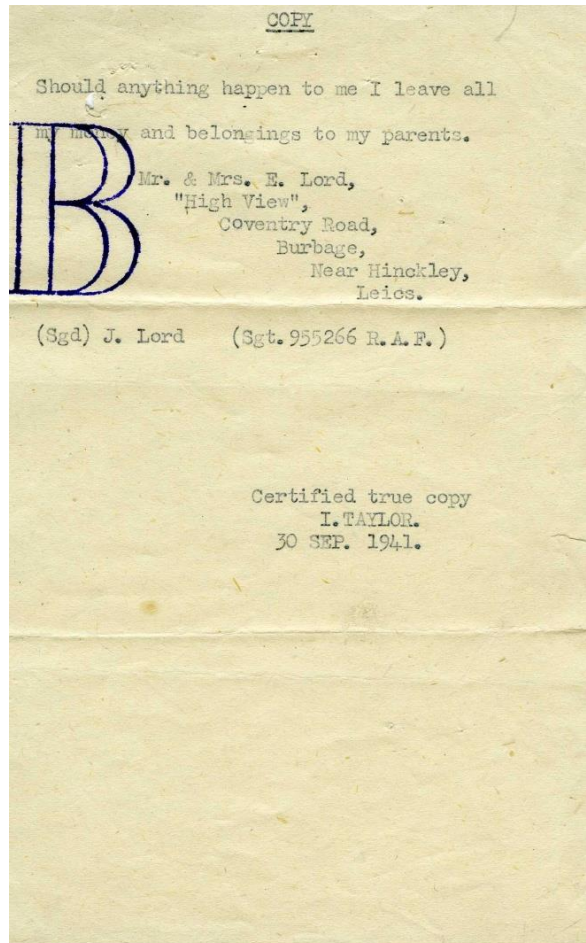
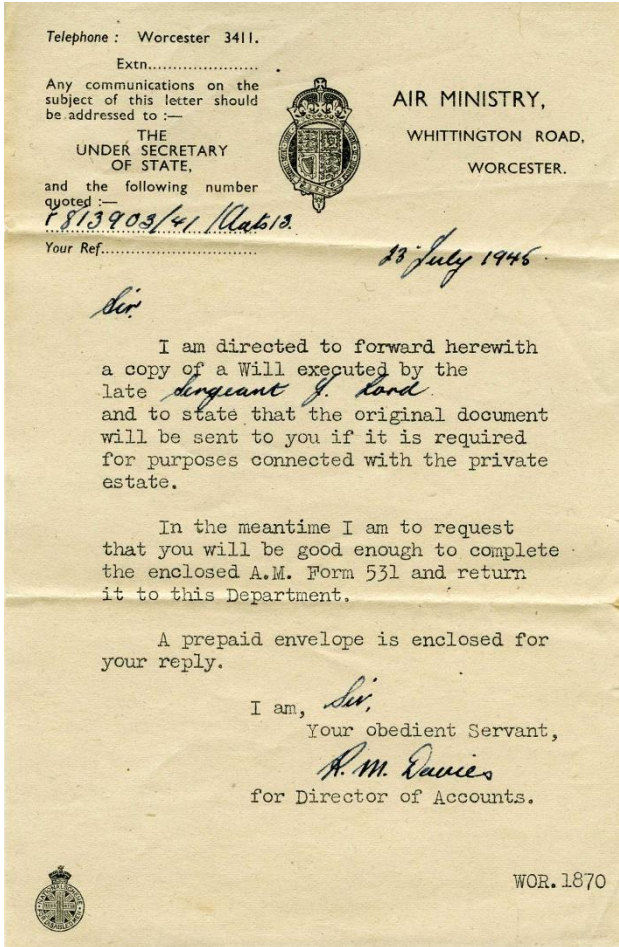
Air Ministry, London, S.W.1 Date... 6 July 1949.



1939 – 1945 War Cemetery, Berlin



St Catherine's Church





John Lord with his squadron in Scotland

