DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL



Dunstable Act of Remembrance

Sunday 8 November 2026

S/Lieutenant (SCC) K Hollis RNR
Parade Commander

Sunday 8 November 2026

11.00 am

Maroons (marks the start of 2 minute silence)
Last Post (marks the 2 minute silence)

Silence

11.02 am

Maroons (marks conclusion of 2 minute silence)
Bugler sounds Reveille
Exhortation – Mr Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive)
Kohima Epitaph – Mr Rupert Groves (Royal British Legion Chairman)

Laying of Wreaths

Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Cynthia Gresham
Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Attwell
MP Alex Mayer
Central Bedfordshire Council Vice-Chairman, Vicky Malone
Veterans Organisations
Local Organisations
Local Schools

Prayer and Blessing

The Reverend Ricky Turner
Rector of Dunstable

All attending are invited to participate in an inter-denominational service in The Priory Church

Each year this Remembrance programme features one of the people commemorated on Dunstable's War Memorial.



Sgt Charles Clifford Stenning

Charles Clifford Stenning, known to his friends as Cliff, was an air gunner in Bomber Command. He died, aged 18, on the night of August 31 1943 when his aircraft was shot down near Berlin. He has no known grave.
He was born in Barnet on January 23 1925 to Charles and Dorothy Stenning. The family moved to Dunstable and lived at 48 French's Avenue before buying a house in Furness Avenue.

Cliff had been an avid Sea Scout and at some point left home to join the training ship T.S. Arethusa II, permanently moored on the Medway, as a boy sailor. When war broke out in 1939 his mother brought him back to Dunstable and he began training as an apprentice at AC Sphinx.

But at some point he ran away from home. Weeks later his father, who was a haulage contractor, was driving a truck in London when he spotted Cliff in army uniform working as an army despatch rider! Cliff was under-age for service in the armed forces, so he was once again brought back to Dunstable.

But he ran away once more, and the next his family heard was a letter informing them that had joined the RAFVR and was in Canada training to be an air-gunner.
He came back to the UK with the rank of sergeant and was posted to 78 Squadron based at RAF Breighton in Yorkshire. On the evening of 31 August 1943, he and his crew took off in a Handley Page Halifax II serial number JD328, Code EY-O for an attack on Berlin. Somewhere near the city their aircraft was shot down. Four of the crew managed to survive - three were killed. The tail gunner, Sgt Bovacant of the Royal Canadian Air Force, was buried in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in Berlin.
Cliff left a wife and a son. In January 1942, aged 17, he had married Ivy Margaret Guess in Aylesbury.

This article was researched and written by David Underwood, of Dunstable and District Local History Society.