

Memorial: (WMR 88176) Halling, Kent

PRIVATE

ERIC ARTHUR HARRIS

Service Number:	14755395
Regiment & Unit/Ship	Wiltshire Regiment 5th Bn.
Date of Death	Died 08 March 1945 Age 18 years old
Buried/commemorated at	REICHSWALD FOREST WAR CEMETERY 57. G. 12. Germany
Additional Info	Son of Herbert George and Alice Maud Harris, of Lower Halling, Kent.
Personal Inscription	DEATH DIVIDES, BUT DOES NOT TAKE GOD'S GREATEST GIFT, REMEMBRANCE

HISTORY INFORMATION

Reichswald Forest War Cemetery was created after the Second World War when burials were brought in from all over western Germany and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country.

Some of those members of the land forces buried there died in the advance through Reichswald Forest in February 1945. Others died crossing the Rhine, among them members of the airborne forces whose bodies were brought from Hamminkeln, where landings were made by the 6th Airborne Division from bases in England.

Some of the airmen buried in the cemetery lost their lives in supporting the advance into Germany, but most died earlier in the war in the intensive air attacks over Germany. Their graves were brought in from cemeteries and isolated sites in the surrounding area.

There are now 7,594 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 176 of the burials are unidentified. There are also 78 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish.

Special Memorials to 9 airmen are located at the East boundary wall, near Plot 10. Further Special Memorials to 7 airmen are located within Plot 31, near the Cross of Sacrifice. The cemetery was designed by Philip Hepworth.