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Memory revived from ashes of

History: One man's effort to find out about old photos leads to poignant act of tribute

BY ANDREW YOUNGSON

The ultimate sacrifice of a Scots airman and his crew is to be commemorated in the Netherlands - thanks to the efforts of a retired London builder.

Tuesday, April 14, will mark 75 years since Aberdeen-born Sergeant John Rose Proctor and two comrades were shot down in a

"I just had the photos to go on with. As you get older, you feel the clock ticking away'

dogfight with a German fighter above the Dutch village of Babberich.

Today, the nephew of one of the crewmen is reaching out to any remaining relatives of Sgt Proctor to invite them to attend a special ceremony to rekindle his memories of him and his fellow crew.

the past six months arrang- hem - just 15 miles from MK IV bomber.

Retired builder Jim ing the ceremony at where the crew crash Shuttleworth, 68, has spent Moscowa Cemetery in Arn- landed in their Blenheim

It is at this particular cemetery where his uncle – aircraftsman 1st class James Shuttleworth - Sgt Proctor and pilot officer HG Graham Hogg were buried in civil graves after a military funeral

A piped procession of Mr Shuttleworth jun's family members will be joined by representatives of the Royal Dutch Airforce at 11am on April 14 at the Dutch cemetery where a Royal British Legion chaplain will lead the commemoration

Local schoolchildren will lav wreaths at the three men's gravestones, and also lay wooden crosses on the graves of their fellow 34 World War help with this from every-II-era British and Polish servicemen

FIRING PARTY: The 1940 funeral in Arnheim, Holland, when the air crew shot down 15 miles away received military honours but were buried in civilian graves Adding to the poignancy of the occasion, a former colonel of the Dutch air force, who will be in atten-

> military flypast. Initially planned as a small family affair, the ceremony has developed considerably since it has garnered interest from the Royal Dutch Airforce, the Royal British Legion and the British Jim Shuttle Embassy

dance, has arranged for a

been nicer." The Londoner The response, Mr Shuttleworth said, has been recently became aware "hrilliant" that Sgt John Rose Proctor He said: "You can imagwas from Aberdeen and

that he was son of Alexan

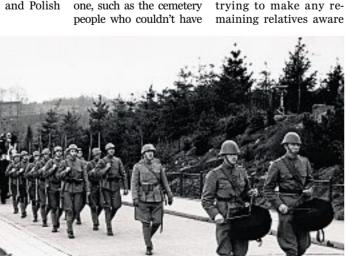
der Wright Proctor and

Jane Henderson, though

no further details beyond

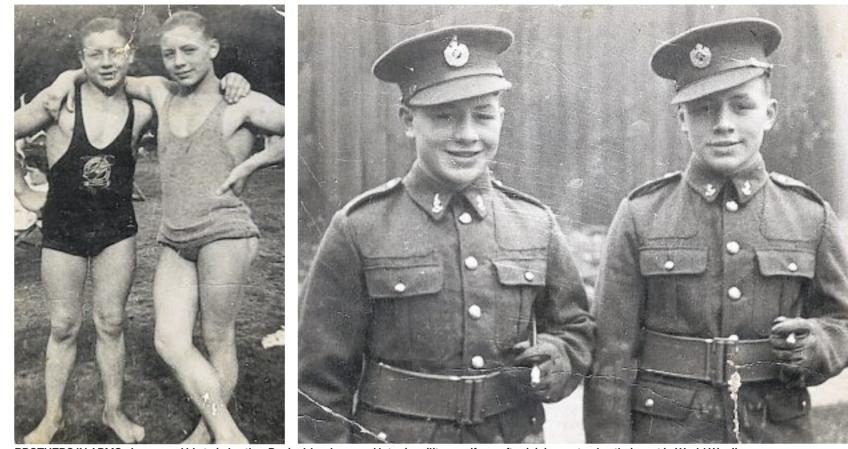
ine I'm quite emotional about it. "It's nice how everybody has taken it on board

"I've really had super that are known. Mr Shuttleworth is now one, such as the cemetery



Dutch soldiers are led by slow drumbeat in funeral tribute to the lost air crew





BROTHERS IN ARMS: James and his twin brother Reginald as boys and later in military uniform after joining up to play their part in World War II

of the event in the hope they will be there on the the event a reality have day too. "My kids will be coming with me, but I just think it would be so nice if we could get in touch with the relatives of the other guys to invite them along too," he said. His journey to arrange

ing April's ceremony has been a long and emo tional one. He was only four years old when his father, Regi-

nald - Jim sen's twin brother - died, so he did not get the chance to ask him about his uncle or the sad story of his death.

He said: "I just had the photos to go on with. As vou get older, vou feel the clock ticking away and so vou take more interest in things like this





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lost Scot and his air crew

been clear from the outset. In a year when high-profile anniversaries such as that of the Dunkirk evacuation marked, Mr Shuttleworth fears that lesser-known sto-

"They got shot down and they're buried in a civil cemetery and haven't had a lot of recognition"

ries of bravery during tion of Auschwitz WWII could be sidelined.

ing to detract from such events, he wants to do his same. bit to make sure this

His reasons for making is not forgotten. He said: "Really, it's from the point of view that these three guvs took off to do a simple reconnaissance mission, they got shot down of June 1940 will be and now they're buried in a civil cemetery and haven't had a lot of recognition

"But they made the ultimate sacrifice, just like everyone else.

"It's coming up to the 75th anniversary, and there will be a lot going on this year about the Blitzkreig and Dunkirk, and also the 70th anniversary of the liberawhich are all important, While by no means try- but these three guys gave their lives just the

"I think my dad would

Time rewound: Brothers known as Heavenly Twins

James and his twin brother Reginald were born on February 25. 1919, but they would only meet for the first time when they were aged 17.

Conceived out of vedlock at the tail-end of WWI, the twins were fostered out separately soon after their birth.

A serendipitous encounter at Ilford baths

vears later would provide the spark for a firm and fast friendship. "They were called the Heavenly Twins because apparently they were so mischievous," said Mr Shuttleworth

"My dad certainly had a reputation for playing practical jokes. On May 13, 1940, barely four weeks after his brother's death,

Reginald was shot down. He survived but spent the rest of the war in PoW camps, including Stalag Luft 3 at the time of the Great Escape.

He returned to Ilford in north-east London after the war, married and had two sons - the elder, James jun - but died from cancer in

Dutch honour young heroes as thousands line the streets

FUNERAL

When James Shuttleworth crash-landed near the Dutch-German border in April 1940, the Englishman was aged just 21.

He and his fellow RAF crewmen were on a simple photo-reconnaissance mission for 57 Squadron when, at around 4.15pm they were chased by four lighter German planes

The crew of the British Blenheim bomber were able to destroy three of the German aircraft before being shot down themselves, exploding in the air before crash-landing in Babberich village in a meadow next to the house of the Van Bindsbergen family.

All three crewmen were killed but were given a remarkable funeral with full military honours by the people of Arnheim. Thousands lined the

route as their remains were carried in a hearse drawn by two white horses

Senior diplomats from the British Embassy attended and the event was reported in the Ilford Recorder - James's local paper - and the London

APPEAL Are you a relative of Sgt John Rose Proctor? If you are, or know of someone who is, please contact and rew. youngson@ajl.co.uk

Pro-life campaigners to fight on

NEWS 21

Christian pro-life campaigners have vowed to push on with the private pros ecution of a doctor accused of planning an abortion based on the sex of an unborn child, after a judge at Manchester Crown Court failed to provide a summons for video evidence of the alleged offence.

The Christian Legal Centre is taking ac tion after the Crown Prosecution Service decided against charging Dr Prabha Sivaraman.

Fifty Shades of success



Fifty Shades Of Grey looks set to be a box office hit with one cinema chain alread boasting of taking in more than £1million in ticket sales a week before it opens. The film version of EL James' bestseller, which stars Jamie Dornan, pictured, as Christian Grev, is in cinemas from Friday

Reporter 'a true legend'

The Sun's chief reporter John Kay, 71, was hailed a "true legend" as Fleet Street friends and colleagues flocked to his defence over alle gations of paying cor rupt officials for stories. The Sun roval photographer Arthu Edwards told an Old Bailey trial yesterday that the two-time British Press Awards Reporter of the Year was on a "pedestal" in the industry.

Great Train Robbery sale

A wristwatch and signet ring worn by Ronnie Biggs during the Great Train Rob bery in 1963 are to be offered for sale at auction. Northamp tonshire-based auc tioneer JP Humber said the items belonging to Biggs, who died in 2013, would go under the hammer on February 18.

The Blenheim bomber that was shot down in 1940 with the loss of pilot and crew