

Francis William Yorke Batley
Lieutenant (E) - Pilot in the Royal Navy
Aged 26

Francis was born at Sevenoaks in July 1919. the son of the Reverend William Yorke Batley and Frances Grace Batley.

William Yorke Batley aged 43 married Frances Grace Grange aged 20 in April 1918 at St Martin, London. They had two sons, Francis and Ian.

William Yorke Batley aged 32 had firstly married Ella Parnell Knowles aged 20 in 1907 at Bromley. They had three daughters and two sons. Ella died aged 29 in 1916 not long after the birth of her last son, and the baby died within the year.

William was curate of Holy Trinity at Beckenham, and was appointed to the incumbency of St James's at Leeds in 1906. At the 1911 census the family were living in London. He became vicar of Beckenham in January 1915 where he had previously been a curate.

In September 1917 it was reported that The Rev. William Yorke Batley vicar of Holy Trinity, Beckenham, had been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field. He had joined the Royal Army Chaplains Department in the middle of 1916. He relinquished his commission as army Chaplain in August 1917.

William died in 1960 aged 85 and Frances died in 1996 aged 98.

In September 1939, Reverend William Batley and his wife and family were living at Kit's Close, Corfe Castle, and were still there in 1945.

Francis passed out as a midshipman in the Royal Navy on 22 April 1937. According to the Navy Lists, by June 1939 Francis was Acting Sub-Lieutenant, then appointed Sub-Lieutenant. He was appointed to the temporary rank of Lieutenant Commander in August 1940.

He was reported missing presumed killed at sea on 17th September 1945, some four months after the end of hostilities in Europe, whilst flying a Seafire from HMS Perseus, just before Perseus was commissioned.

Administration of his estate was granted to his father in London on 25th September 1945. Effects £736 2s 10d. This was revoked in February 1998, and a further grant was made in London in January 1999.

Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial and
on the Memorial at Corfe Castle, as well as on his
parents headstone in God's Acre at Corfe Castle.



HMS Perseus



Seafire