



77 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

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77 Squadron Reunion 2018



Vulcan pilot and YAM Trustee, Martin Withers DFC enjoying our President Bill Ballantyne's contrasting story of his time in the RAF flying Halifaxes in the 1940s

Photo— Rachel Semlyen

Vaughan Ward

20th June 2014

Biography

GLYN JONES

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Glyn Jones was born on 28th March 1912 in the small coastal town of Llanfairfechan in North Wales. He was the seventh child of ten, brought up in a modest cottage with strong connections to the local Methodist Chapel. In common with his siblings, he was unable to speak English until his second year at school as his upbringing was entirely conducted in his native tongue of Welsh. He barely knew his father as the latter put in long working days at the granite quarry in order to feed his large family; he subsequently died while Glyn was still a youngster. Thus his elder brothers took on the mantle, in turn, of becoming the 'breadwinners'. A popular boy, both with his classmates and siblings alike, Glyn had a fairly undistinguished school career. However, he had shown a leaning towards matters engineering and was keen not to follow his older brothers to the quarry. Consequently, he found himself a job in a factory in Bangor assembling machinery. Despite his popularity and easy going nature, the right girl never seemed to come into young Glyn's life, and so he stayed a bachelor through his twenties. As war broke out, the call-up system started to come into effect. Of the ten youngsters at Gwyllt Cottage, there were seven boys for the War Ministry to take its pick from. The eldest was medically unfit. Brother number two had been involved in a quarrying accident with explosives, so he too was excused. Number three was a professional jockey and was far too short to be considered. However he was drafted nonetheless as a civilian to work alongside trained aircraft mechanics. Numbers four, five and seven were, one by one, called into the army, missing out Glyn. It was never clear why. Possibly the Ministry felt three Jones boys was enough for one family. Possibly his work at the factory, as it switched to war production, was considered a 'Reserved Occupation' in all but name. Perhaps his diminutive stature at just 5 feet 4 inches also didn't help. But he wasn't called up and with four brothers being taken away and no father, he felt his place was at home with his mother and his two other elder brothers who were not in the best of health.

The war ground on, but *Glyn* went about his business, helping to support his mother, attending chapel and being a model citizen. But not, it seemed, in everyone's eyes .