

WWII pilot finally laid to rest

The remains of a World War II fighter pilot which were found 63 years after he crashed have been buried in his family plot.

William "Scotty" Gordon was shot down in his Spitfire over the Sussex Downs on 6 September 1940 and part of his body was returned to his family and buried in Dufftown, Moray, Scotland.

But at the beginning of June a licensed excavation of the field where he crashed in Hadlow Down, near Heathfield, uncovered a number of bones belonging to the airman, who was 20 years old when he died.

His remains were then returned to his surviving family who buried them in Mortlach cemetery in Dufftown on Thursday, when a funeral service was held.

About 100 people from his close family, the RAF and the town paid tribute to the pilot during the 40-minute service.

It ended at noon with a fly-past by a single Tornado.

The pilot's remains were placed in a foot-long coffin and buried next to his body and that of his sister, who died last year.

Sue Raftree, of the RAF central casualty section, said the department had been able to trace Pilot Officer Gordon's niece, Elizabeth Ogilvie, who attended the service.

She said: "The remains that have been found are small and will be buried, along with his uniform which has also been found, in accordance with his family's wishes.

"He was a Battle of Britain pilot, and for that he is remembered as a hero, as they all were."

Pilot Officer Gordon was one of 15 RAF pilots shot down on that day, seven of whom were killed.



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Sue Raftree, RAF