

PLAYFAIR, Anthony Richard

Service Number 39679

Rank Pilot Officer
Royal Air Force, 7th Squadron

Born approximately 1913, India
Died September 5, 1939, Yorkshire, England

Occupation Hotel clerk
Marital Status Single

Anthony Richard Playfair started life in India, where his father Lieutenant Colonel Alan Playfair was a deputy British Commissioner in the districts of East Bengal and Assam. The family emigrated to Canada on his retirement in 1921. Anthony attended Shawnigan Lake School and with his brother, Brentwood College. Afterwards he assisted his father in operating the Sunset Inn in Qualicum. Anthony's mother, Caroline, and his father were very active in church and community.

Anthony obtained a commission with the Royal Air Force in 1937 and received his pilot officer certificate in 1938. On the afternoon of September 5, 1939, he climbed into the cockpit of a Hampden L4161 aircraft and took off from Doncaster Airfield for a training flight. The aircraft flew normally for approximately twenty minutes before it went into a steep spiral dive and crashed, disintegrating and killing Anthony. It was the first Yorkshire flying fatality of the war. An investigation proved inconclusive as the possibility of structural failure couldn't be ruled out.

Anthony Richard Playfair is buried in the Finningley Churchyard Extension, Nottinghamshire, England.

Sources: British Columbia Directories / Vancouver Public Library
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
Yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk
Worldnavalships.com / aircrew
Imperial Vancouver Island, by J F Boshier

