

## **Sergeant John Adrian Carroll, RAF**

died 23 December 1940, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, aged 26.

## **Sergeant James Maurice Carroll, RAF**

died 17 June 1943, Esch, near Boxtel, the Netherlands, aged 23.

John Adrian Carroll was born on 25 June 1914, and his younger brother James Maurice was born in October 1919. They were both born in Bath. They were the younger two children of John Sedrick Carroll, a chef, and his wife Ann nee McMullan who were married in 1899. John Carroll senior and Ann McMullan were both born in Liverpool and lived there after their marriage where their first child Ann was born in 1901. In the 1911 census the family were still in Liverpool with John senior described as a 'Club Chef'.

By 1914 the family had moved to Bath where John Adrian was born. John senior joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a cook in 1915, despite being aged 40, and served in France, where he was wounded, until the end of the First World War. At the time of the 1921 census the family were still living in Bath, where John senior was employed as a Chef at the Southborne Hotel, though daughter Ann was working away from home.

In the 1939 register parents John and Ann, with daughter Ann, were all living in a flat in



Gravestone of John Adrian Carroll in Cunnery Road Cemetery with his parents John and Ann Carroll

Tiger Hall, Cunnery Road, Church Stretton. John was employed as a Hotel Chef and Ann junior was a Hotel Waitress. John Adrian appears to have been working as a Barman at the Bell Hotel in Walthamstow. James also seems to be in the south east, in Chigwell, in Essex working as a General Labourer.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War both brothers joined the Royal Air Force. As single men in their 20s they would have been among the first conscripted. Following their training they both attained the rank of Serjeant. John is described as a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner and James as an Air Gunner. They both flew on bombers.

John was killed on a night training flight from his base at Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire. His plane, a Wellington, crashed into houses at Bassingbourn in bad weather when attempting to land. All six members of the crew were killed. John is buried in Cunnery Road Cemetery in Church Stretton. John is also commemorated on the Church Stretton War Memorial.

James served in the RAF until 1943. He was killed on a night raid on Cologne on 17 June 1943. His plane, a Lancaster, was part of 103 Squadron, based at Elsham Wolds Airfield in Lincolnshire. The plane was shot down by a night fighter at Esch in the Netherlands. He is buried in Woensel General Cemetery, in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, along with a number of his crewmates. The cemetery holds over 650 casualties, the vast majority of whom are Allied Air Crew. James is also commemorated on the Church Stretton War Memorial.

John and James' parents continued to live in Church Stretton until their deaths. John senior died in 1968, and Ann died in 1967. They are commemorated on John Adrian's gravestone in the Cunnery Road Cemetery. Their daughter Ann also continued to live in Shropshire until her death in 1970. She never married.



Woensel General Cemetery, Eindhoven