George Stephen Meakin 1211173
Sergeant, W.Op./Air Gnr, Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve, 44 Squadron

George Stephen Meakin was born on 12th November 1922 and was the eldest of 5 children to parents George and Alice. His Father was from Newton Solney and his mother from Woodville, but by 1911 they were in Repton. George Stephen was baptised in St Wystans in Repton on 7th January 1923. By this time, the family were living in Milton Road. By the time of the 1939 register that were living in Ferry Villas on Tanners lane in Repton and George, now 17, was an apprenticed French Polisher. His father was a porter at the Repton School Sanatorium just along the road at the junction with the Burton Road. Also with them were siblings Kathleen, Ronald, Kenneth and Georgina – all still at school.

George Stephen married Ivy Noreen Dawes in 1942 and they lived at Mill House on Repton Road on the way to Hartshorne.

George joined up and became an air gunner with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve – 44 Squadron and rose to become sergeant. As a bomber squadron, they were based in Lincolnshire.

Tragically, he died on 1st October 1943 aged just 20 and he never knew his son Stephen who was born shortly after. He is buried in grave 31 A 16 Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrehin-Westfalen, Germany – close to the Dutch border.

Ivy remarried to Christopher Warner after the war, and George's parents moved to Monsom lane when they retired. His father died in 1979 and his mother in 1981 and Ivy died in 2005.

The war memorial in St Peter's Churchyard, Hartshorne.

George Stephen Meakin is not only recorded on the Roll of Honour in St Wystans and on the village war memorial, but also on the war Memorial at Hartshorne.

44 Squadron
In 1941 the squadron was renamed No. 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron in honour of Rhodesia's contribution to Britain's war effort, and also to recognise that up to twenty five per cent of the ground and air crew were Rhodesian.
During WW II the squadron suffered the third highest overall casualties of RAF Bomber Command.