



IN MEMORY OF FLYING OFFICER FREDERICK ERNEST REX GURDEN



Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Killed on air operations on 22nd December 1944
BLUE PLAQUE F

Rex was born in Harbury in 1921 to Benjamin and Emily Gurden. They had an elder son Ralph. Benjamin ran Hillside Farm at the top of Treen's Hill. Benjamin's brother, Ernest, was killed in the First World War.

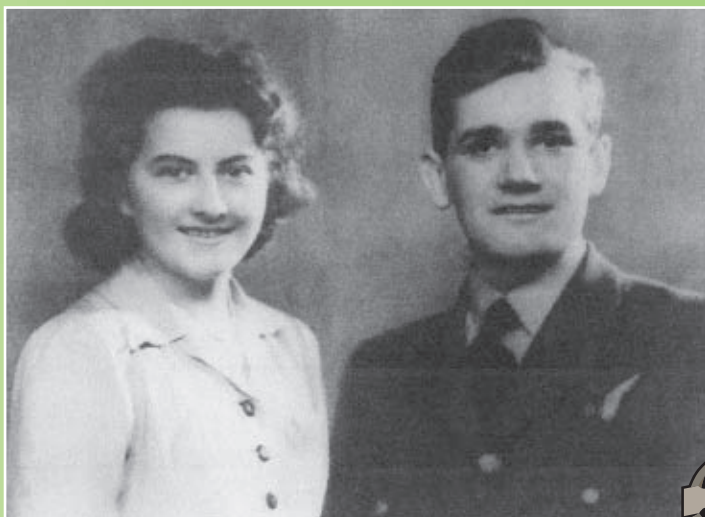
Rex won a scholarship to Leamington College for Boys and then trained as a teacher at Saltley College in Birmingham. He was appointed to the staff at Bishops Itchington School. Rex joined the RAF at the outbreak of war and trained as a bomb aimer in Canada. He then flew in Lancasters with 626 Squadron.

In July 1943 Rex married Joy Wiles in Coventry but they had little time

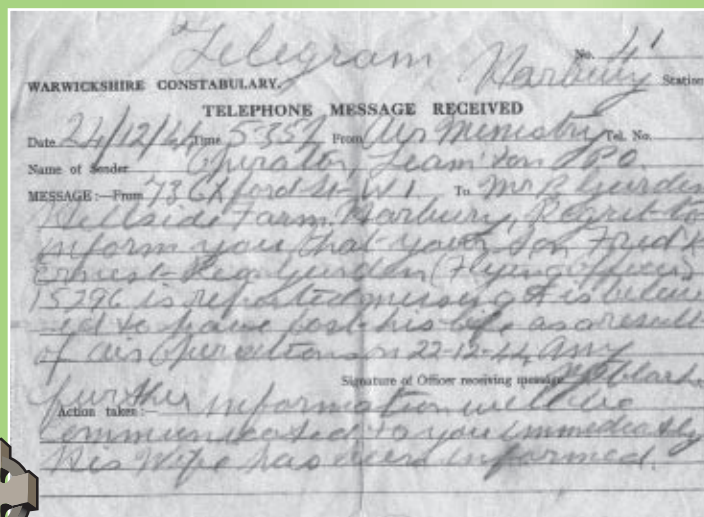


Rex Gurden

together. Rex was stationed at RAF Wickenby in Lincolnshire and Joy continued to work in Coventry as a telephonist and lived with her parents. On December 22nd 1944 Rex and his crew were returning from operations and crashed on landing in severe winter conditions. There were no survivors. News of Rex's death came in a telegram to Joy which came when she was at work. Her father took a bus to her office to tell her and she immediately cycled to Harbury in a blizzard to tell his parents of their son's death. Rex is remembered on the beautiful RAF Memorial at Runnymede.



Rex and Joy



Telegram sent to Rex's parents at Hillside Farm

