

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Robert Henry Cowley

In memory of
Flight Sergeant

Robert Henry Cowley

July 19, 1943

Military Service:

Service Number:	R/143634
Age:	28
Force:	Air Force
Unit:	Royal Canadian Air Force

Additional Information:

Son of John A. E. and Edna J. Cowley, of Ottawa, Ontario.

Commemorated on [Page 149](#) of the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*.
[Request a copy](#) of this page.

Burial Information:

Cemetery: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL ; Surrey, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: Panel 181.

Location: During the Second World War more than 116,000 men and women of the Air Forces of the British Commonwealth gave their lives in service. More than 17,000 of these were members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, or Canadians serving with the Royal Air Force. Approximately one-third of all who died have no known grave. Of these, 20,450 are commemorated by name on the Runnymede Memorial, which is situated at Englefield Green, near Egham, 32 kilometres by road west of London. The design of the Runnymede Memorial is original and striking. On the crest of Cooper's Hill, overlooking the Thames, a square tower dominates a cloister, in the centre of which rests the Stone of Remembrance. The cloistered walks terminate in two lookouts, one facing towards Windsor, and the other towards London Airport at Heathrow. The names of the dead are inscribed on the stone reveals of the narrow windows in the cloisters and the lookouts. They include those of 3,050 Canadian airmen. Above the three-arched entrance to the cloister is a great stone eagle with the Royal Air Force motto, *Per Ardua ad Astra*". On each side is the inscription:

IN THIS CLOISTER ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF TWENTY THOUSAND
AIRMEN WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE. THEY DIED FOR FREEDOM IN RAID
AND SORTIE OVER THE BRITISH ISLES AND THE LANDS AND SEAS OF
NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE In the tower a vaulted shrine, which provides a
quiet place for contemplation, contains illuminated verses by Paul H. Scott."

Information courtesy of the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#).

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1085111>