

14. GEORGE FREEMAN PRATT- Rank: Leading Aircraftman.

Trade: Obs. U/T (*observation Under Training*).

Service No: 1002544. Date of Death: 28/01/1941. Age: 19.

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Grave Reference: South of church. Cemetery: **WAVERTON (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD**

Additional Information: Son of George Archibald and Hilda E. A. Pratt of Rowton.

George was a pupil at King's Chester before volunteering for the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was also a promising cricketer at Boughton Hall Cricket Club in Chester, and was an articled Chartered Accountant in Foregate Street Chester.



No.1 Air Observer and Navigator School AONS was at Malton Ontario and was equipped with Avro Ansons. Trainees were taught to navigate by dead reckoning and visual methods using aeronautical charts with magnetic compass, watch, trip log, Douglas protractor and Dalton Navigational Computer

An Avro 652A Anson T21 of Air Atlantique Classic Flight on a take-off run at Hullavington Airfield, Wiltshire, England.



RAF 652A Avro Anson Mk I / N4939 Nickname: Faithful Annie

The Avro Anson was an adaptation of the civilian Avro 652 aircraft in use by Imperial Airways. The Anson was the first aircraft in RAF service with a retractable undercarriage. The aircraft was flown initially by No. 48 Squadron of RAF Coastal Command.

The Anson was used for coastal reconnaissance and maritime patrol; and, latterly, for crew training, light transport, and communications purposes. Among many of its crew members, however, the Anson was considered to be a cold, draughty, and very noisy aircraft.

Account of Leading Airman George Freeman Pratt's death.

*On 28 January 1941, Anson N4939 of No. 1 AONS was on a navigational training exercise (Navex) from **RAF Prestwick** when it flew into the high peak at **Mullach Buidhenear, Goat Fell on the Isle of Arran.***

The aircraft was not found until 2 February. Crew Casualties

All five crew members died in this accident. They were:

- Sgt Basil Roper Cooke (22), Pilot, RAF, (Monkton and Prestwick Cemetery, Ayrshire).
- Kenneth Douglas McKenzie, Civil Instructor, (Bute, Argyll).
- James Chancellor Neill, Civil Wireless Operator, (Bute, Argyll).
- LAC Thomas Bell Pearson (18), Obs., RAFVR (Edinburgh (Liberton) Cemetery).
- LAC George Freeman Pratt (19), Obs., RAFVR, (Waverton, (St. Peter Churchyard), Cheshire).