

# Stillwell, Stanley Howard

**Age:** 20

**Nationality:** British

**Rank:** Sergeant (RAFVR)

**Unit:** No. 32 OTU

**Occupation:** Pilot

**Service No:** 1268426

**Birth:** 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1921  
Edmonton, Middlesex, England



**Home Town:** Harrow U.D., Middlesex, England

**Death:** 29 May 1942  
  
Crash of Bristol Beaufort N1026  
In Sea near Sidney, BC Canada

**Burial:** Cremated Royal Oak Burial Park, Ottawa  
Ashes returned to family in England  
Commemorated on Ottawa crematorium memorial

**Others:** F/S G. Hall (WAG); Sgt. D. MacColl (WAG);  
Sgt. M. O'Brien (WAG)

## Biography

Stanley Howard Stillwell was born in the third quarter of 1921, in Middlesex, England. His father was Leonard Stanley Stillwell, a coach painter, who had served in the Royal Field Artillery in WW1. His mother was Eleanor Edith Morgan who married Leonard in 1915. There were three sons, Stanley, Peter John and Clifford Arthur. Peter and Clifford survived WW-II.

Stanley joined the RAFVR in or after 1939, to become a pilot and was eventually sent to Canada for further training with No. 32 OTU in Patricia Bay, BC.

On 29 March 1942, he was the pilot of Bristol Beaufort N1026 when the engine failed shortly after take-off and it rolled and plunged into the sea just off Sidney, BC, Canada, killing all four occupants.



## Details of Crash

On 29 May 1942, Bristol Beaufort N1026 took off at 1:15 pm carrying a crew of four airmen:

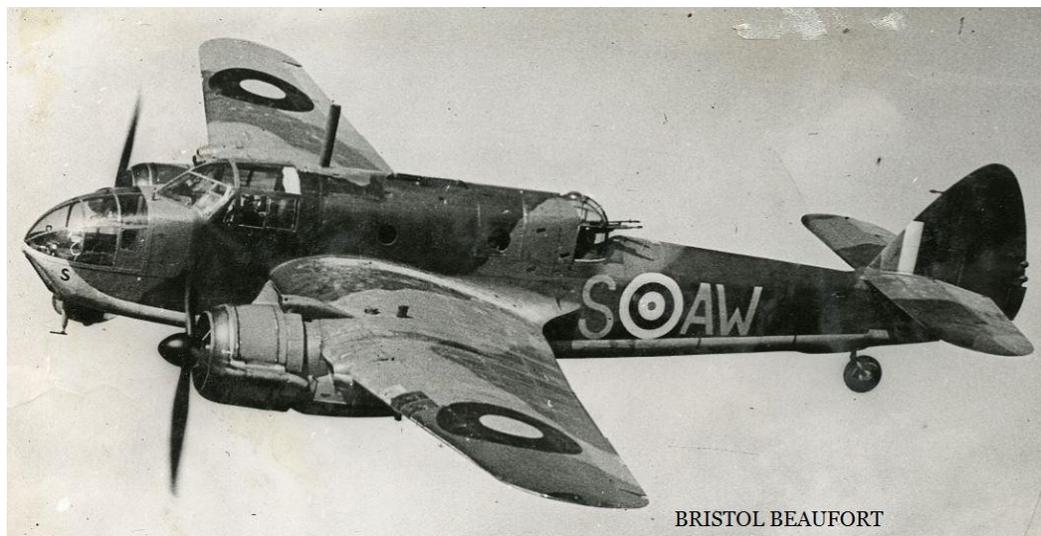
Flight/Sergeant	George Graham Hall	Air Gunner
Sergeant	Donald Duncan MacColl	Air Gunner
“	Martin Joseph Patrick O’Brien	Air Gunner
“	Stanley Howard Stillwell (RAF)	Pilot

Sergeant Stillwell was thought to be an above average pilot.

Almost immediately after take-off, while the aircraft was at about 500 feet and still climbing over Sidney, BC, smoke was noticed coming from the port engine followed by a continuous sheet of bright red flame passing under the mainplane. This continued for about 30 seconds when the port engine cut out completely and, soon after, the starboard engine was seen to be just ticking over. The aircraft banked to the left, the nose went down and after about two and a half turns it struck the water about half a mile north east of Sidney Pier.

The fuselage sank immediately in about 19 fathoms. The marine section began to salvage the wreckage right away. The aircraft was raised and the bodies of the four airmen removed.

The cause of the crash was found to be failure of the port engine due to a broken crankshaft. This was the third such failure and Beauforts of this type were grounded, except for emergency operational duties, until the reason for the failure was determined.



BRISTOL BEAUFORT

SSH3

