

# John Allan William Jarvis (1899-1983)

John Allan William Jarvis known as 'Jack' was born at Alfreton, Derbyshire, in 1899. He was the only child of Leonard Alfred Jarvis and Annie Brewer, who moved to Crich in approximately 1912 when Leonard became the licensee of the Jovial Dutchman public house. Jack received a higher grade education at Herbert Strutt Secondary School at Belper and commenced work with the London City and Midland Bank.

During the First World War, Jack received a commission into the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) along with fellow Crich resident and Herbert Strutt School alumnus, Joseph Curzon. As a cadet in late 1917, Jack passed the RFC observers course. William Wright Tunnicliffe (headmaster of Herbert Strutt School, Belper) attested that Jack had attained the standard of education suitable for commissioned rank. With effect from 3 August 1918 Jack received a temporary commission to 2nd lieutenant (observer officer) in the recently formed Royal Air Force, and soon went over to France. Jack's wife's nephew recalled Jack talking about his experiences of air combat during the war. He was transferred to the RAF unemployed list in January 1919.



**Broken propeller from Jack's crashed plane in 1918  
A scene depicting the accident was painted on to it**



**Close-up of the painting labelled France, October 1918**



**Jack Jarvis pictured as an officer during  
WW 2 with the Air Training Corps**

After the war, Jack returned to his employment with the Midland Bank, where he remained for the rest of his working life. He married Florence Simpkin in 1927 and by the 1930s they were living at Retford, Nottinghamshire. In May 1941, Jack was granted a commission as an acting pilot officer for the duration of hostilities during the Second World War, working with the Air Training Corps. After the war, Jack remained heavily involved with the ATC for a number of years.

After the Second World War, Jack and his wife relocated to the village of Pinchbeck, near Spalding in Lincolnshire. After his wife's death in 1962, Jack married Harriet Elizabeth (Hettie) Shaw the following year. Jack enjoyed a long retirement at Pinchbeck and passed away at Spalding in 1983, aged 83 years.

## **Derbyshire Courier, 29 December 1917**

Cadet J. Curzon and Cadet J. Jarvis who are over on leave from the south coast have recently received promotion in the Royal Flying Corps. The former has passed as pilot and the latter as observer.