



GLIMPSES OF HOLT AIR CRASH

August 19th 1968

On a stormy August night, an RAF Victor bomber collided with an RAF Canberra at 13,000 feet over Holt. All seven crew members were killed but no one on the ground was injured and there was no significant damage to buildings.

Much of the debris fell in fields around Holt Hall but some landed near properties on the Hempstead Road.

Mary Slator recalls watching pieces of wreckage descending like sycamore fruits, and a large metal shard sticking in the ground like a spear not far from their back door in High Kelling.

Nineteen-year old Andrew Hills, returning from the pub with a friend, heard a thud and watched, spellbound, as the sky lit up, before running for cover as hot debris fell around them.

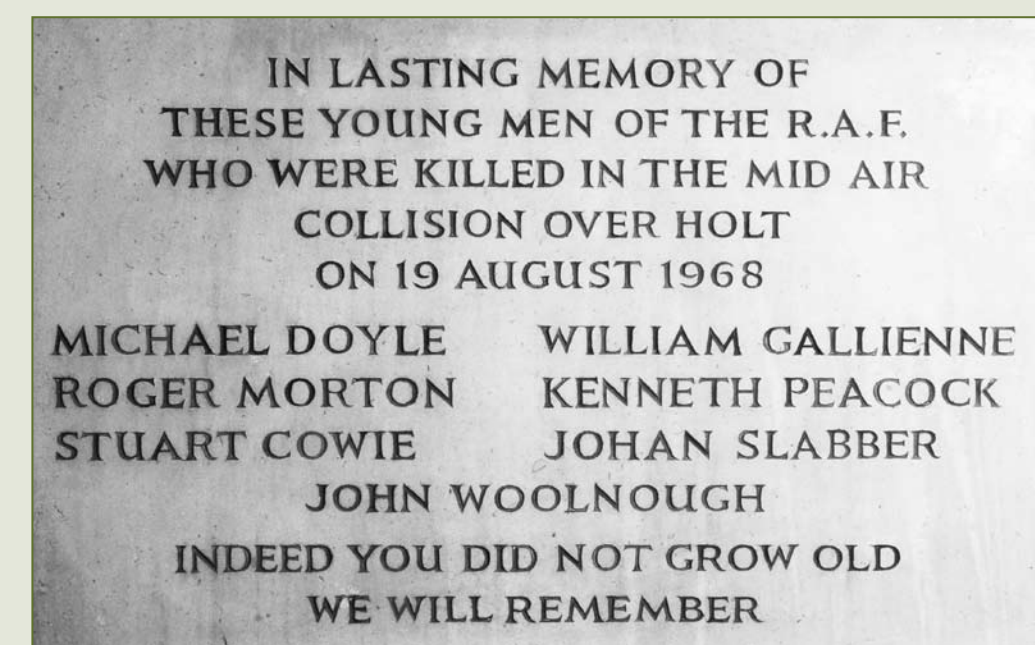


A huge piece of the Canberra bomber fell in a garden in Gravelpits, off the Hempstead Road. Photograph by Peter Mills



When Holt fireman David Bartle heard the impact, saw the orange light and glimpsed large pieces of wreckage falling, he set off for the fire station without waiting for the call.

Wendy Metcalfe (née Brown) was thirteen. She lived with her parents in the last bungalow on the right on Kelling Road and remembers her father pushing her and her sister under the bed.



The memorial plaque on the interior north wall of St Andrew's Church.