



William Guy Cadman DFC Distinguished Flying Cross

179139 Flying Officer, 141 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

He died on 7th February 1945 in Germany, aged 22

William was buried in Hanover War Cemetery, Germany

Guy Cadman (and we have it on the authority of Debrett's that Guy is the name he went by) flew in the all-round gymnast and workhorse of the RAF – the mosquito. Built of wood and canvas this extraordinary plane, came in a total of 33 variants during the war and 7 shortly after. Light in construction, lightly fitted out, the Mosquito was speedy and versatile.

The Mosquito was an unarmed bomber with a crew of two, able to carry a bigger bombload farther than a B-17. It was also a fighter-bomber and a night fighter with an eight-gun nose battery. It was the most productive photoreconnaissance aircraft of the war. A high-speed courier. A weather-recon airplane. A carrier-qualified torpedo bomber (though too late to see combat). A pathfinder and target-marker for heavy bombers. The war's most effective extreme-low-altitude intruder. A multiengine trainer and a high-speed target tug. A decoy frequently used to convince the Luftwaffe that three or four spoof-raid Mosquitos dropping chaff were a bomber stream of Lancasters.

Many other airplanes did many of these missions, but none did them all.¹

Cadman had earned himself a Scholarship to Emmanuel College Cambridge, seems to have completed his degree and then, having been a member of the R.A.F.V.R. was commissioned as a Pilot Officer for the duration on 24th June 1944.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission.

As Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—

Wt. Offs.

19th June 1944.

1378185 William Guy CADMAN (179139). 24th

June 1944.

1227802 David William THOMAS (170102) 25th

London Gazette No. 36767, Dated 1944-10-27

¹ <https://www.historynet.com/the-miraculous-mosquito.htm>

Within 4 months of being commissioned, Cadman obtained his DFC as part of a two-man team, Flt Lt Peter Anthony Bates, also from the R.A.F.V.R. being the other part of the team. Bates was the Pilot, Flight Officer Cadman was the Observer, Navigator and Wireless Operator.

THE award of the Distinguished Flying Cross is announced by the *London Gazette* to Flight-Lieutenant Peter Antony Bates, R.A.F.V.R., and Pilot Officer William Guy Cadman. The citation states:—

“As Pilot and Observer, respectively, these officers have completed numerous sorties on their second tour of operations. They have at all times displayed a high degree of skill and keenness, setting an excellent example. They have destroyed three enemy aircraft.”

Pilot-Officer William Guy Cadman is the eldest son of Major W. H. Cadman, brother of Mr. James Cadman, of Walton Hall, Eccleshall.

* * * *

Staffordshire Sentinel
20 Nov 1944

A foray into the Squadron history reveals that on the 11th/12th of September they had destroyed a Bf110 and that as well as the planes they were credited with destroying they also destroyed one locomotive, damaged a train and three more locomotives and also damaged a ship. These lads in their lightweight machine had been very busy.

Four months after Cadman and Bates were decorated, and 8 months after Cadman obtained his commission their plane left Little Snoring, crossed the North Sea and was shot down over Hollage, not far from Osnabruck, their plane exploding as it crash-landed. Cadman and Bates were aged 22 and 23 respectively when they died; their remains to be buried in adjacent plots in the Hanover Cemetery, Germany amongst almost 2 ½ thousand other WW2 burials. Many were relocated from prisoner of war cemeteries, small German cemeteries, and other isolated burials.

Cadman's parents chose those evocative lines from Laurance Binyon's iconic poem of the first world war: The Fallen.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning, we will remember them.

We know more of Cadman's death than we do of most of the men who are commemorated on our War Memorial, particularly those who fell in WW1 but what do we know of the all too short life of this young man?

First of all, Cadman is not a local name even though, when the CWGC were doing their work after the war, his parents, Maj. William Henry Cadman, M.B.E., and Lucy Lloyd Cadman gave their address as Redenhall, Norfolk.

Herts Home Guards Honoured

The London Gazette, in a special supplement, contains the names of Home Guards whom the King has honoured with appointments to various Divisions of the Order of the British Empire, or with awards of the British Empire Medal, in recognition of meritorious service in the Home Guard. Honours are as follows:—

HERTFORDSHIRE

To be Additional Commander of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire

Colonel Reginald William West, Central Sector.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire

Major William Henry Cadman, 8th Battalion.

Major Herbert Leslie Doble, 5th Battalion.

Lieut. Kenneth Piggott Drummond, 8th Battalion.

Major Arthur George Howard, 2nd Battalion.

Major John Kenneth Maitland, M.C., T.D., 6th Battalion.

Captain Eric Arthur Wilde, 1st Battalion.

Major Cadman was a gentleman who appears in Debrett's and, having achieved the rank of Capt, in the first World War, being mentioned in despatches, he then became a Major in the Home Guard and that is the title he retained when dealing with the CWGC after the war that claimed his son's life. It is telling of the calibre of this man, that having served in the Hertfordshire Home Guard he attained an (M)OBE for his work with that splendid institution.

Herts and Essex Observer
23 Dec 1944

Skipping through Debrett's, although the Cadmans were pillars of the community and stalwarts of the establishment, the gallant Major was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth but instead was born with a keen awareness of the duty that his family owed towards their king and nation.

In 1851, Guy Cadman's great grandfather, John Furnival Cadman, was employed as a book keeper in a colliery although, living in Stoke on Trent, he was surrounded by potters! 10 years on and John Furnival had made it to the

position of colliery manager, had three children, a number that was to swell to six by 1871, the year before John Furnival's death at the age of barely 50. In 1871, the oldest son, James Cope Cadman, aged 19 was training as a surveyor and by 1881 he was a fully qualified Mining Engineer with four children of his own, including 6 months old William Henry destined to be the father of (William) Guy Cadman. By 1891, the family had swollen to 10 children, at least two more were to follow and the Cadmans were living in some style with 3 live in female servants. Roll on 1901, oldest son John was, like his father, a mining engineer, the next son down was a timber merchant and William Henry could proudly claim to be a Science Student, pursuing his further education.



The wealth of the family steadily increased, in 1911, James, his wife, the three children left at home (all involved in Mining Administration of some sort) a widowed sister and a nephew were rattling around in a 20-room-house, The Cloughs, with two live in servants.

The Cloughs
Gallows Tree Lane
Newcastle under Lyme.

Major Cadman excelled in Chemical Engineering, his father in Mechanical Engineering and his oldest brother became the 1st Baron Cadman in 1937 embodying both his fathers' Mechanical Engineering skills and his brother's

Chemical Engineering ability to specialise, initially in Mining Engineering moving into the Petro-chemical Engineering Field whilst maintaining a strong academic presence. This was a family of highly intelligent people excelling in rigorous specialist fields; our hero Guy Cadman was cut from the same cloth having won a scholarship to Emmanuel College Cambridge where he first got involved in the Air Corps.

Major Cadman's oldest brother John, became the first Baron, next brother, James, served in the RNVF during WW1, Major William, as we know achieved the rank of Capt and was mentioned in dispatches as was the next brother, Charles, who was killed in WW1 having also been awarded the MC, youngest brother Richard beat the odds and not only survived service in RFC during WW1 but went on to also serve in WW2. Guy Cadman's father and uncles collected more orders and awards than you could shake a stick at.

was remission.

Among those who received war decorations in the hands of the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday were Lieut. James Cadman, R.N.V.F., who won the Distinguished Service Cross, and Lieut. Charles Cadman, R.E., who was awarded the Military Cross. They are sons of the late Mr. J. C. Cadman, of Wolstanton, and brother of Professor John Cadman, D.Sc., Professor of Mining at the Birmingham University.

Lts Staffordshire Advertiser

11 Mar 1916

James and Charles Cadman were fortunate to be honoured, side by side, with a personal presentation of their medals at Buckingham Palace; James for coolness and daring in charge of armoured cars over a three day period whilst under very severe shell and shrapnel fire and Charles for his work as a motorcycle messenger whilst, simultaneously their slightly older brother, John Cadman, who did not actually enlist in the military during the war but doubtless was making an equally important contribution by keeping mines running and efficient was also given a royal award – a fact that much was made of in the local papers. It is more than worth mentioning that in 1917, John Cadman was awarded the Legion 'd'Honneur by the French for the work he was undertaking with the Ministry of Munitions.

Not to belittle the brother's amazing achievements, quite the reverse in fact, it is worth remembering that this was not a family with a military tradition. Like millions of others, these highly intelligent well-educated men, whose peak of military ambition was possibly being an NCO in the school cadet corps, put their lives on hold, indeed risked those lives to serve their country.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE BROTHERS HONOURED.



PROFESSOR JOHN CADMAN, D.Sc.



LIEUT. JAMES CADMAN, R.N.V.R.



LIEUT. C. J. CADMAN, R.E.

The story of "How Jim Cadman won the D.S.C." has already been graphically told by Commander J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., and reported in these columns. Two brothers of Lieut. James Cadman have now been also honoured by the King—namely, Professor John Cadman, D.Sc., Professor of Mining at Birmingham University, who has been appointed Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Lieut. C. J. Cadman, Royal Engineers, who was mentioned in despatches and has just received the Military Cross.

They are the sons of Mr. James Cope Cadman, who died on New Year's Day, 1914, and who was a well-known figure in North Staffordshire. Mr. J. C. Cadman was associated with the Apedale and Chesterton Collieries as surveyor, and he was general manager of the Butterley Company's collieries and ironworks at Silverdale for many

years. In 1902 he removed to Madeley, Staffs., where he practised as consulting engineer, and was general manager of the Madeley Wood Collieries. He was an original member of the North Staffordshire Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, and was president from 1898 to 1900; he was president of the Institution of Mining Engineers during the institution year.

Lieut. C. J. Cadman was studying at Birmingham University for his B.Sc. in mining when the war broke out, and he is now 2nd-lieutenant Royal Engineers. He joined the University O.T.C. as a despatch rider, and went out with the first British Expeditionary Force in those memorable early days of August, 1914. He was attached to the Royal Engineers, and in October he was mentioned in General French's despatch for plucky conduct under trying circumstances.

Dr. Cadman, who has made his mark in the scientific mining world, is Professor of Mining at Birmingham University, and consulting petroleum adviser to the Colonial Office and the Government of Trinidad. He was educated at the Newcastle High School and the Armstrong College, Durham University, where he took his B.Sc. degree. He took his M.Sc. in 1902 and D.Sc. in 1908. In 1907 he married Miss Lilian Harrigan. He has successfully held appointments as manager of the Silverdale Collieries, in 1900; assistant agent of Walter Scott, Ltd., Durham, 1901; H.M. Inspector of Mines for East Scotland, 1902, and for the Stafford district in 1903; Government mining engineer at Trinidad and Tobago, and inspector of mines at Trinidad in 1907, while in 1907-8 he was appointed to conduct special research for the Royal Commission on Mines.

In 1911, shortly after the census of that year, due to his continuing ill health, James Cope Cadman left Staffordshire and moved to Llandudno where he died on New Years Day 1914. It is there in the town of Llandudno that the death of his son Charles Cadman is marked – see <https://llandudno-parish.org.uk/wordpress/extra/the-great-war/c/cadman-charles-joseph>. His death is marked in at least 7 places in addition to his CWGC memorial:

- Llandudno Roll of Honour
- Llandudno War Memorial
- Llandulas War Memorial
- Memorial Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno
- Derby School Roll of Honour & War Memorial
- Llanrhos Parish War Memorial, All Saints' Church, Deganwy
- Birmingham University Memorial Tablet

James Cadman DSC did not escape tragedy, even after the end of hostilities. His wife died unexpectedly 8 days after the birth of their third child in March 1919 – she too came from a coal mining dynasty. Was it due to childbirth or had she been a victim of the flu that was still circulating the world?

WOLSTANTON.

DEATH OF MRS. JAMES CADMAN.—Succor & grief is felt by a large circle of friends at the death of Mrs. James Cadman, of the Old Marsh House, Wolstanton, which occurred on Saturday. Mrs. Cadman, who was the wife of Mr. James Cadman, D.S.C., died unexpectedly eight days after the birth of her third child. She was a Durham lady, whose father was well known in the coal trade, and she was greatly loved and esteemed by her friends for her charming personality. The funeral took place at Wolstanton Parish Church on Tuesday.

The period between the wars was one of great mobility for the Cadman family, William Guy's birth was registered at the Cairo Consulate in 1922, although the family (mother at any rate) were back home for Martin Henry's birth to be registered in Croydon in 1924. The girls, Evelyn Lloyd and Jane Shireen, were both born in Mohammerrah, Iran. I get the feeling our chemical engineer, like his older brother, the 1st Baron, was following the Petro Chemical industry!

*Informal Picture of John
The first Baron Cadman*



The 1939 Register locates the Cadman family, as expected, living in Hertfordshire, at an establishment with the splendid name of Catlips Farm, Chorley Wood. Their oldest son (William) Guy Cadman attended the Merchant Taylor's School which, although it had been going for 400 years by then, had only recently moved to a new site in Hertfordshire. In 1939, William Henry was then a Senior Technical Officer and Research Petrochemist and had already tied up with the Special Brigade of the R.E – or was this referring to his work in WW1?

*Catlips Farm
Chorleywood*

Merchant Taylor's Herts.

At some point shortly after the end of WW2, the remnants of the Cadman family moved to Redenhall.

Guy's younger brother had also joined the RAF and fought in the war, returning to education a few years after the war had finished, also achieving a degree from Cambridge University and promptly marrying. The family remained in Redenhall until at least the mid 1950's, youngest daughter Jane marrying from the house in 1954.



The family seem have lived quietly, but pulled their weight in the local community; Mrs Cadman was one of the judges of the children's Fancy Dress Parade at the Gissing Church Fete in 1951.

One wonders why Cadman did not appear on the Harleston War Memorial. Cadman's parent's move to the region may not have been immediately after the conclusion of the war and Harleston had the additional plaque for the fallen of WW2 in place by November 1946 at the latest; even if the Cadman's were in town by then perhaps, they felt they were too recent arrivals to feature their son on the local memorial. Guy's college has in place a memorial for the fallen of WW1, not WW2, he is memorialised on a board in the Merchant Taylor's School in Hertfordshire, but I have not been able to find him on any civic memorial. This is in rather a sharp contrast to his Uncle Charles with at least 7 memorials in addition to his CWGC marker.

Ironically, in light of the kerfuffle that followed the post WW2 decision to build a sports pavilion in honour of the fallen, it was decided by the Merchant Taylors to build a War Memorial Sports Ground Clubhouse in their extensive grounds and it is there that Guy's name has been painted in gold amongst another 140 of his peers. Guy never lived in Redenhall or Harleston, indeed may have never set foot in the place but it is right we acknowledge the sacrifice he made for his country.

Unusually we know far more of his Uncle, Charles, who died in WW1, and are lucky enough to have extracts of his journal that he sent home in the opening months of the war.

September 26th.
 There are twelve motor-cycle despatch riders attached to each division and army corps, and each of us goes out with despatches in turn. Sometimes, of course, we may have to wait; at other times, they are waiting for us. Our



SECOND-LIEUT. CHARLES J. CADMAN.

direction is varied. Sometimes we ride back to Headquarters or to ammunition and supply columns; at other times we proceed to brigades in the firing line. In this way we get varying amounts of excitement, stragglers and cavalry patrols of the enemy being a trouble to us, for we occasionally meet them on the roads at night time.

An instance of a wonderful bit of shooting of the average German infantryman occurred to one despatch rider the other day—not me, worse luck, although I have had a few bits of fun. It was at night. He got off his bike and climbed up a sign-post to ascertain the way. While up the post, a German straggler came out of a wood and fired at him from a distance of 20 yards, and hopelessly missed him. Our man slipped down the post, whipped out his revolver and bowled the German over as he was doing a "bunk" back into the wood. From the trenches the German infantry are not much good, but their artillery cause a lot of trouble, being jolly good at shooting; besides, there are such a lot of them.

October 12th, 9 p.m.

I am off duty to-night. I am lying on the ground under a big tree in a park, close to a huge log fire. To-day has been our first day's scrapping for about a week, and the big guns only ceased fire about an hour ago. For the last week we have been tracking across country for a number of miles. We are awfully "bucked" at smelling powder again. The Germans wiped out another fine old church here this afternoon, about 100 yards from one of our Divisional Headquarters; they are blackguards. But if the move we have just made comes off, it ought to see the last of them in France, although things may hang on in Germany for some time.

October 13th, 10 a.m.

I had hardly finished your letter last night and cuddled down under my rug, when I was "turfed" out as a bit of a linguist to track about fifty miles to one of the French armies, and as I didn't get back until daylight, I am going to try and get a bit of sleep now, although I expect we shall all be on the move again before long. Before doing so, I will finish up this letter and post it.

Our men did some great work last night, and we hope to be pursuing a beaten army before many hours have elapsed. Riding through the French lines at night is awfully exciting, as French pickets and sentries have a beastly habit of shoving their bayonet up against your shoulder before they shout at you to hold us. Our men are much more considerate, for they always shout when you are about fifty yards away, which gives you more chance.

October 17th.

Under this date, Mr. Cadman describes some of his earlier experiences.

On Sunday, August 23rd, we got to Mons, and here the fun started at daybreak. This was the first day any of us got under shell fire, and I can tell you most of us were in a bit of a funk to start with, although it soon wore off. Nowadays, one finds shell fire quite interesting, but rifle bullets zipping about take a bit more getting used to, as you can't see them. You just hear a kind of shrill buzz, and then you know that one has passed pretty close to you, and you thank God it wasn't any closer. I shall never forget the first one that passed close to me—as a matter of fact, there were several—but I didn't know what it was until one of our captains told me it wouldn't be a bad idea to get behind a tree close to us, as there were a few bullets "flipping about"—to use his expression. So I did, pretty quick, and wasn't sorry when he had finished writing out an answer for me to take back to headquarters.

After describing the great retreat and the return to the Aisne, Mr. Cadman adds:

On —, I was told off to accompany a staff officer—an awfully decent fellow—on a special mission, which ultimately brought us to Calais, from where I saw the lights of dear old England. I think it was on the strength of this particular mission that I got my commission.

We have been gradually pushing them back, and have once more got into uncivilised country—all ransacked by the wretched Germans, and cut up with their shell fire.

The following article, featuring the same photograph that was printed above, deals with his death in early 1917.

Staffordshire Sentinel
 2 Feb 1917

LIEUT. CHARLES J. CADMAN, M.C.

KILLED IN ACTION.

We regret to record the death in action of Lieut. Charles J. Cadman, M.C., Royal Engineers, son of the late Mr. J. C. Cadman, the well-known North Staffordshire mining engineer.

On the outbreak of war he was studying at the Birmingham University, where his brother, Dr. John Cadman, is Professor of Mining. We believe it was on the very day that war was



LIEUT. CHARLES J. CADMAN.

declared that he joined up as a motor despatch rider in the Royal Engineers. He has had a brilliant military career, having been three times mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross, the latter being for special gallantry in the second battle of Ypres. He received this award about the same time that his brother, Lieut. James Cadman, R.N.V.R., was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery in the direction of operations with armoured motor-cars.

Lieut. Charles Cadman went to the front with the original Expeditionary force, and quickly distinguished himself. Having successfully performed a special mission, he was mentioned in despatches and granted a commission, and since then the honours already mentioned have been awarded him.

He was of an exceedingly bright and cheerful disposition, and he made very light both of the hardships of war and of the gallant acts which brought him the honours bestowed. He was very popular, and his death will be mourned by a wide circle of his personal friends, as well as friends of the family.