

A Haunted Existence

In the early 1950s, 17 year old Geoffrey Patrick Williamson was on the Exeter to Bristol train when he got into a conversation with another man, also travelling in his train compartment, who accused Geoffrey of making 'improper approaches'. The other man was a Railway Officer in plain clothes. Geoffrey was arrested at the next stop, Taunton. When questioned, Geoffrey revealed the names of men he had had sex with, so beginning a domino effect of arrests, prison sentences, aversion therapy and suicide.

A Haunted Existence is a performance by Tom Marshman that tells the story of a young man arrested on the train in 1954 and the chain of tragic events that followed. This resource pack is a basis for discussion of how archive material can be 'performed' to explore the stories of people marginalised by history because of their sexuality.

This resource pack is designed particularly to be used with students of history, drama, art and english, but is suitable for use with any group of learners interested in working with archives and seeking to gain a better understanding of 20th century LGBTQ+ history.

Performing the Archive

In the archive, flesh is given to be that which slips away. According to archive logic, flesh can house no memory of bone. In the archive, only bone speaks memory of flesh. Flesh is blind spot. Dissimulating and disappearing.

Rebecca Schneider, *Performance Remains*, 2011

How can the archive be performed? Thinking about performing the archive in the widest possible sense, this resource pack explores ways in which students can draw on their individual knowledge and experience to work collaboratively using archive material to create narratives, to reveal hidden histories.

In doing so, students will explore theoretical and practical approaches to using archives, that are both rigorous and creative. Participants will gain an understanding of the invisible power structures that are inherent in archives, and a sense of absence in the archive, or the 'archival silence'. Practical approaches will include examining archive material using a rigorous methodology to create a framework of documentary evidence, that participants will then work with creatively to produce a narrative that explores the possibilities beyond the material itself.

Negotiating archival silences and absences in documentary traces, by revealing these hidden histories, we also reveal the stories that lie outside of the narrative. By telling the stories of the men marginalised by the law, whose histories remain beyond the margins, what are the implications for addressing the power structures of archives in the present?

By the end of the session, students will have a better understanding of archives, and ways in which archive material can be used creatively. They will also have an understanding of the political and theoretical aspects of archives, and how archival absences can be used as a powerful tool for creating narratives. Drawing on Rebecca Schneider's work, *Performance Remains* (2011), participants will explore the notion of the 'absence of flesh' and 'ghosting of bones' as both a theoretical and practical approach to working with archives, working with the idea of the archive as a body/body of material/body of power, archive ghosts, and hauntology.

How to Use this Pack

The material in this pack is split into sections, designed to create a narrative that is gradually revealed through exploring the archive material in each section. Designed to be used in a workshop format, students should work together in small groups, presenting their ideas to the whole group at each stage.

The method used to explore this material is based on the idea that 'absent flesh does ghost bones'. Based on a quote from Rebecca Schneider's *Performance Remains*, which looks at the idea of how history and memory are performed, this methodology gives students a framework for rigorous examination of archive material that reveals both what the archive can tell us in terms of facts, and also what is absent from the archive.

After reading and discussing the contextual material on 1950s Britain that sets the scene, students can be introduced to working with archive material using the bones/ghost/flesh methodology. This approach is a simple way of examining documents, and has the potential to be used with any archive material.

The archive material is designed to be used in sections, using the method outlined below. Each section will allow students to build a narrative at each stage. In addition, there is further contextual material from the show to give students both further context to the stories, and allow for further creative exploration. Further research may be required to give an understanding of the archival material, and it is intended, just as with archival research, that the documents will require a certain amount of 'detective work' to understand the stories that they create.

N.B. It should be noted that there are references to aversion therapy and suicide in the material, which may be upsetting.

Part One - Bones

If we consider that the archive contains only the 'bare bones' of memory, what do we understand from these documents? Students should be given some time to study the archive material. Then, they should be asked to give the 'bones' of the story or stories, using only the material that they have been given. Only the 'facts' that can be read from the material should be given at this stage. What do you know for sure from this material? Through the rigorous analysis of their documents, they should be asked to give an account of the historical narrative that is present using only the material they have available, and present this to the rest of the group.

Part Two - Ghosts

Archives reflect the power structures and ideologies that create them, and therefore tend to ignore or silence minority voices. There is still a great deal of work to be done on the way that archives work, through re-cataloguing material to reflect diverse identities, and collecting material that better reflects diverse community voices. These 'archival silences' include the voices of women, children and young people, people of colour, poor and less well-educated people, as well as LGBTQ+ people. When history is made from archives, it can create narratives that leave out valuable and important stories.

Students should be asked to discuss the absences that their material presents, and in doing so, the power structures that the archive represents. Who or what haunts this material through their/its absence? What is left out? Whose voices are missing from the story? Who controls the narrative? Each group should briefly present their ideas to the group, and this can be used as a way of exploring the power structures that exist in the way that history is made.

Part three - Flesh

Students should be asked to find ways of creatively exploring these absences, drawing on their own areas of knowledge and expertise, drawing on the contextual material. In the widest possible sense, how can they suggest ways of 'performing the archive' where 'flesh does ghost bones'. How can the narrative be 'fleshed out'? How can the absences in the archive be explored creatively to fill in the gaps left in the story? Performing the archive could mean any kind of creative response, from creative writing and historical fiction, to poetry or performance, sound, painting or drawing.

Britain in the 1950s

In the early 1950s, Britain was in the midst of reconstruction following the devastation of the Second World War, both materially and socially. Post-war austerity meant that rationing was still in place until 1954, and conscription remained for young men until National Service ended in 1960.

The War had led to a relaxing of attitudes to class, gender, race and sexuality; gay men, women and people of colour from the Commonwealth who had served Britain were reluctant to give up the freedoms that conflict brought. As Quentin Crisp wrote in his 1968 autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, 'the horrors of peace were many'.

Austerity Britain emphasised the importance of family and domesticity, in an attempt to restore peacetime order to war-ravaged Britain through conservative moral values. Sexual corruption was linked to the corruption of society, and the government were keen to regulate the morality of postwar Britons.

The homosexual man was associated with ideas of decadence and depravity which stood in direct opposition to the aims of reconstruction, austerity, and order of the early postwar years. Homosexual behaviour was seen as unpatriotic. A fall in the UK birthrate was anxiously connected to a rise in homosexuality, and led to comparisons to France, with British commentators linking the low birth rate to the fact that consensual sex between men had not been a crime since the French Revolution.

Gay men were considered to be a risk to national security, with high profile cases like that of Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean, high-ranking civil servants who defected to the Soviet Union after it became clear that they were spies. Homosexuality was considered to be a risk, as gay men were thought to be more loyal to each other than to their country.

Homosexuality as a Crime

The crime of buggery was no longer punishable by death after 1861, carrying instead a maximum sentence of ten years in prison. The Labouchere amendment, introduced in 1885, created the crime of gross indecency, which was often described as 'the blackmailer's charter'. As a crime, gross indecency was far easier to prove, and carried a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

In the early 1950s, Conservative Home Secretary David Maxwell Fyfe commissioned the Wolfenden report, with the intention that the findings of the committee should match his determination to change the laws on prostitution, while keeping homosexuality illegal. Maxwell Fyfe was furious that the findings of the committee that he had appointed eventually led to the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality with the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

Prosecutions for homosexual crimes increased in the 1950s, from 1276 in 1939 to 5443 in 1952. This spike in prosecutions created a narrative that British morality was in decline, and belied the underhand tactics of newly formed vice squads. The police used covert surveillance, acted as agents provocateurs, and forged documents, knowing that magistrates would take their word over those arrested.

Medical Treatment and Aversion Therapy

After the Second World War, there was a growing theory in psychiatry that homosexuality was a disease that could be treated, and cured. Influenced by the increasing popularity of Freudian psychology, it was believed that a traumatic event in childhood could prevent a person from developing to sexual maturity, and through effective treatment, homosexuality could be cured.

Psychiatric treatment as a potential therapy for homosexuality was viewed as generally positive, although medical opinion was divided on its effectiveness. The use of aversion therapy to treat homosexuality was, even in the 1950s, not seen as likely to provide the desired cure, and there was little to no scientific evidence to back up its use. The treatments were cruel and inhumane, with men given drugs to make them vomit, as they told the psychiatrist about their most recent homosexual experience or fantasy. The psychiatrist would then repeat this back to the patient, which was recorded, and then played repeatedly while the patient continued to be sick. Alternatively, images were shown to the patient, and electric shocks administered if the patient showed arousal at the 'wrong' images.

Ironically, the medical view of homosexuality - that it was an illness and the afflicted person was to be pitied, and treated, rather than sent to prison - was used by campaigners to gain sympathy for decriminalisation.

References:

- Hornsey, Richard. *The Spiv and the Architect : Unruly Life in Postwar London*, University of Minnesota Press, 2010
- Bourne, Stephen. *Fighting Proud: The Untold Story of the Gay Men Who Served in Two World Wars*, I.B.Tauris, 2017
- Weston, J. *Prison will not cure a sexual perversion: Sexology, forensic psychiatry, and their patients in twentieth-century Britain*. In: *Crimes of Passion: Representationen der Sexualpathologie im frühen 20. Jahrhundert*. De Gruyter, 2015
- Gleeson, Kate. *Discipline, Punishment And The Homosexual In Law*, *Liverpool Law Review* 28(3):327-347 · November 2007

“We are thinking of the men who live a Haunted Existence, we are asking through this bill only for the right to live in the privacy of their own houses as they wish to live. We hadn’t as a society faced up to it, we were in denial to be blunt about it. And this meant that any discussion, particularly any legislation of it was hugely complicated because there were many different factions the had to be squared. The first thing about that legislation, that was in, you know, in the making as we had that debate was that we felt, and that was certainly Abases (look up) position to be condoning homosexuality, that doesn’t mean that you are critical of it but you can’t go out openly espousing it.

Oh yes, this was not easy they are asking of this house only that they will be allowed to, not just effect the moral of society, not to live fragrantly or openly but to live in their private life as their sexual drive dictates them to do. Those of us who have seen these people know how torched they are, they come from all walks of life.

My direct experience was I was two years a registrar neurologist and psychiatrist, I was mainly a neurologist and I was asked to see anyone who had committed suicide and come into casualty and been revived and was waking up from an overdose and they wanted a professional opinion. And it was a very difficult awakening because they were waking up not only because their suicide had failed but also to face their fears and haunted life that they were living as closet homosexuals. And I wanted people to understand the real horror of life under the laws that we had in the land. We were treating people who were gay in an outrageous way and we had to change the law at any price and even if we couldn’t get exactly what we wanted we had to move the law along. I keep using the word haunted but it was a haunted life and it did lead to people doing, you know to themselves you know the worst thing possible to take your life, you are so depressed maybe but haunted, was not just about depression, it wasn’t that they were having a psychiatric illness they were living in fear because our law would be able to punish them and humiliate them and the law gave people the opportunity to denigrate and to denigrate them in public places.

We are not talking of the stage picture of the queer the Nancy boy, often these people go through with those closest them not having the slightest knowledge that they live this tortured existence.”

Lord Owen

Parliamentary Debates (Commons), 19 December 1966, c. 1111

“We judges have to look first and foremost to the welfare of the community the sanction behind all laws is in the fear- fear of the consequences of transgression. The vast majority of people keep the law because they know it is right that is why many keep it, because of the consequences of breaking it.

The defendants had broken not only the law of this country but of common decency and you have no alternative but to inflict punishment on those of them.

The fact there is an unusual concentration of cases in one small town can be explained by the fact that once a vice got established in a place it will spread like a pestilence unless held in check...

For the younger ones I do not propose to send you to prison mainly because you are quite young. I'm going to give you a chance. You have all got a man's job to do in the world- turn your back on this matter.

How to stop it, for the corrupt youth there was always hope, for the corrupt man the matter is different. Psychiatry or drugs might render these men harmless but such treatment demanded upon the willingness of men themselves.”

Mr Justice Oliver

Transcript, Wells Assize Courts, 1954

Other Resources

A is for Archive and the ones who are not recorded there.

is for Aversion therapy, that attempted to suppress gay men's urges.

is for Assize, and the 100,000 men who were convicted there under anti-gay laws.

B is for Blackmail, 96 percent of all blackmail involved the blackmailing of gay men.

C is for the Coercive behaviour; the police would use to gain a confession.

is for Clause 28, the government ban on promoting homosexuality.

is Cross-dressing, which is often assumed is directly correlated with behaviours of transgender identity but the term itself does not imply any motives to one's gender identity.

D is for DNA, D is for Decriminalisation, D is for Discreet and D is for Desire.

E is for Entrapment, the action of tricking someone into committing a crime to secure their prosecution.

F is for Family secrets, F is for is for Freedom, that gay people enjoy in this country, a long way off 72 other countries.

G is for Gross Indecency, G is for Ghosts.

H is for Homosexual H is for Hormonal treatment, which Alan Turing received rendering him impotent.

I is for Inversion, homosexuality believed to be an inborn reversal of gender.

J is for Justice, the philosophical theory of fairness.

K is for Keepsake, K is for Kin.

L is for Lesbians, women have not had the same independence to pursue

relationships as gay men, neither have they met the same harsh punishment.

M is for Marriage.

N is for Nuclear Families.

O is for Other.

P is for Persecution P is for Polari (the gay slang), P is for Prisoner.

Q is for Queer. Q is for Quentin Crisp, the English writer, raconteur and actor.

R is Raids, the raids on gay bars which served to inspire the modern LGBTQ+ rights.

S is for Shadow, of living under one. S is for Séance the attempt to communicate with spirits. S is for Suicide.

T is for Trauma, and T is for torture and T is Thousand, the number of men in prison for homosexuality in the 1950s.

U is for Uprising, U is for Underground

V is for Victim, first English language film to use the term homosexual.

W is for Wolfenden, the report of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences, W is for War.

X is for Xenophobia, the fear of the stranger the other, X is for the mark given by the illiterate.

Y is for You listening to this alphabet, and all the LGBTQ+ people yet to be born.

Z is for Zidovudine an antiretroviral medication used to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS.

POLARI

Now, **nelly yarda** - (listen)

Me, the **Mary-Anne**, (gay man) around here, bit of a nelly I suppose (effeminate) but I am **Dorcus** (one who cares), shall I dish the dirt ?(talk over).

Well I met that **Chicken**,(young man) a while back when I was out on a **troll**, (walk) and I thought to myself check out the **bona vardering** (good looking) one over there, I **minnie** (walked) over to where she was. We caught each others **ogle** (eye) and I just knew she's **mauve** (appeared homosexual). She said her name was Geoffrey.

But I knew he wasn't going to be my **husband** (sexual partner) someone like that would just view me as a **heart face** (old, unattractive), that's okay, I understand.

Then this other one turns up, right **manly alic** (masculine gay) she was, I was excited to see how this **blag** (sexual pick up) was going to play out, so they talked but only for only a minute, then popped into the higher cemetery **cottage**,(public toilet) where all the **barkies** (gay men) frequent, it's always a **bona** (good) place.

I watch them go into a **brandy latch** (cubicle) then I go into the next one, there is a **glory hole** (hole between 2 stalls) so I peer through but keep my **ogle** (eye) out for **Hilda Handcuffs** (police), at the same time.

They know I am watching but they don't care and they get straight into the, removing all their **clobber** (clothes). One takes out his **chaud** (penis), **kaffies** (trousers) around our ankles now, lovely **colour of his eyes**, (penis size) no **flies** (lies), no **not nada** (not well endowed), quite the opposite, and that **chicken's box** (posterior) was pretty fine too, let me tell you.....

Fabulosa!

Then they move onto the **full harva** (full intercourse) but just before they finish they move a bit and block my view through the **glory hole**, (hole between two stalls of a toilet) all I can see is the back of the **chicken's** (young man) head. Such selfish pretty faces, then they **dash** (leave quickly) I stay to finish myself off come out of the **cottage** (toilet), and it's total **munge** (darkness), have three **drags and a spit**, (cigarette) always keeping my eyes out.

Section One

NEWS OF THE WORLD, May 30, 1954

Sentenced Ex-Officer Dies In Cell

WITHIN minutes of being sentenced to a year's gaol, a 37-year-old former Territorial lieutenant-colonel, holder of the Military Cross, collapsed and died in a cell below the Somerset Assize court at Wells.

The man was

Gilbert Andrew Nixon, married with one child, of Burlingham-avenue, West Kirby, Cheshire, vice-chairman of a firm of manufacturing chemists at Liverpool.

He appeared on a serious charge and with bowed head he heard Mr. Justice Oliver say: "It is terrible to see a man like you, with a gallant military record, in the dock."

Det. Sgt. A. Humphreys told the court that last year Nixon retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel from the command of the 1st Bn. the Liverpool Scottish Regt., Territorial Army. He had been associated with the regiment for 18 years.

He served throughout the last war, reaching the rank of major.

He had a previous conviction for improper conduct.

After sentence Nixon was

"That to me is dangerous ground," the judge went on. "What judges have to consider, first and foremost, is the welfare of the community. The sanction behind all law is in the end fear of the consequences of transgression. The vast majority of people keep the law because they know it to be right but many keep it because they are afraid of the consequence of breaking it."

Saying that the men in the case had broken the laws of the country and the laws of common decency, the judge added that the redeeming feature was that there had been no corruption of young children.

Mr. Kenneth Bain, prosecuting, said the offences came to light when the youngest of those in the dock, Geoffrey Patrick Williamson, 18-year-old public schoolboy, made approaches to a fellow passenger in the train from Exeter to Taunton. The passenger was a railway policeman.

Williamson named men with

whom he said he had committed offences. These men were questioned by the police and in turn they named others until finally 17 men were implicated.

OTHER SENTENCES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1954

Man dead in cell left £14,686

A company director who took his life in a police cell left £14,686. Gilbert Andrew Nixon, aged 37, vice-chairman of a Liverpool firm of manufacturing chemists, took sodium cyanide a few minutes after being sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for gross indecency.

men were implicated.

OTHER SENTENCES

In addition to Nixon, the men and their sentences were:—

Alfred Anthony Evans, aged 26, factory hand, of Chamberlin-avenue, Bridgwater, four years' imprisonment; **Raymond Lloyd Davies**, aged 32, ward orderly, of Addison-grove, Taunton, three years; **Geoffrey Escott Hilborne**, aged 31, clerk, of Trull, near Taunton, three years; **Walter Harold Wood**, aged 29, male nurse, of Milton-road, Taunton, 30 months; **John Lucas Dommett**, aged 23, assistant cook, of Mountway-road, Taunton, two years; **Vere Caspar**, aged 37, farmer, of Bickenhall, near Taunton, two years.

Donald Harris, aged 30, unemployed, of Duckworth-road, Exeter, and **Walter Sexton**, aged 45, civil servant, of Tettenhall-road, Wolverhampton, 12 months each:

Geoffrey Patrick Williamson, of Glade-road, Marlow, Bucks, was bound over for two years on condition that he was treated in hospital for a year.

John Nixon, aged 18, soldier, of Nunsfield Camp, Taunton, and **Ian McLean**, aged 18, apprentice draughtsman, of Chaddon-road, Taunton, were put on probation for two years. **Roland Livsey**, 19, soldier, of Sherford Camp, Taunton, **Peter Geoffrey Strick**, aged 20, aircraftman, of R.A.F. Station, Merryfield, Ilton, and **Charles Edward Schofield**, 20, aircraftman, of Cross-street, Rhuddland, Rhyl, were bound over for two years.

Michael Bawler, aged 22, labourer, of Coleridge-crescent, and **Robert Charles Corrick**, aged 22, labourer, of Inner Circle, Taunton, were put on probation for three years.

Gilbert Nixon and John Nixon were not related.

Section Two

	2	Halliday	Glady's	F	19 th May	01	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.								
214	1	Konitwari	Florence	F	11 th Jan	04	M	Winder (Textile Trade)
This record is officially closed.								
	3	Konitwari	John	M	27 th Feb	04	M	Wool Textile Dyers Work. Productive
215	1	Sutcliffe	Fred	M	5 th Jan	95	M	Iron Moulder Heavy Work
	2	Sutcliffe	Mary	F	2 nd Feb	86	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
216	1	Phillips	Tom	M	10 th Feb	90	M	Power Loom Overlooker
	2	Phillips	Mary B.	F	31 st Jan	89	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
217	1	Middlebrook	John W.	M	21 st Oct	76	M	Lin Box Maker. Retired
	2	Knight	Margaret	F	1 st Aug	92	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
218	1	Bentley	Welfrid	M	9 th June	87	M	Brusher
	2	Bentley	Betty	F	30 th Dec	90	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
	3	Bentley	Margaret A.	F	20 th July	20	M	At School.
219	1	Fieldhouse	Harrison	M	9 th Apr.	89	M	Journeyman Joiner
	2	Fieldhouse	Rhoda	F	22 nd Feb	91	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
	3	Fieldhouse	Garnett	M	11 th Jan	60	M	Price Taker in Worsted Mill Retired
220	1	Barnett	Blara B.	F	20 th July	75	S	Asst. Teacher (School) Infant Dept (Retired)
221	1	Fawcett	William	M	21 st May	86	M	Joiner & Undertaker
	2	Fawcett	Alice	F	6 th Jan	84	M	Shop Asst. Baker & Confectionery
222	1	Redfern	Ernest N.	M	15 th July	00	M	Blank Finisher
	2	Redfern	Annie	F	27 th Jan	01	M	Burles & Mender
223	1	Redfern	George	M	10 th Aug	69	M	Jobbing Gardener
	2	Redfern	Hellie	F	17 th April	72	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
224	1	Ogden	William	M	14 th July	06	M	Roller Gowner (Textile) Asst. Manager Director
	2	Ogden	Lucy H.	F	2 nd Nov	09	M	Teacher of Music & Unpaid Home Duties
	3	Whitely	Evelyn	F	21 st Aug	04	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.								
This record is officially closed.								
225	1	Crabtree	John	M	29 th June	98	M	Shedding Dyers Operator (Heavy Worker)
	2	Crabtree	Annie	F	22 nd Aug	99	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.								
This record is officially closed.								
226	1	Remberton	Stella	F	28 th Feb	74	M	Jobbing Joiner
	2	Remberton	Sarah Maria	F	26 th Nov	99	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
	3	Bishop	Joe	M	1 st Sept	15	S	Gas & Electric Welder
227	1	Crabtree	Francis	F	6 th April	74	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
228	1	White	Sydney	M	22 nd May	85	M	Blank Manufacturers Clerk
	2	White	Kate E.	F	24 th Jan	74	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties

16th May 1944.

1622068 James Arnold FLETCHER (179581).

1324206 Cyril Arthur WHITE (179590).

1455945 Ronald MANN (179587). 22nd May 1944.

1390454 John Dennis HIBBS (179886). 24th May 1944.

1387129 Alan Toulson GARDNER (179601). 3rd June 1944.

6th June 1944.

1437387 Leslie Thomas BROADBENT (179605).

860441 Reginald Patrick HIRST (179678).

1108371 Terence CONNER (179535). 13th June 1944.

1586569 David George COOPER (179982). 15th June 1944.

1527060 Jack MILLS (179642). 17th June 1944.

1685515 Stanley JONES (179610). 18th June 1944.

1608272 Maurice William STONEMAN (179624). 21st June 1944.

1464982 Leslie George Le MAY (179405). 27th June 1944.

1212123 Terence Dudley HOOPER (182014). 30th June 1944.

9100535 Albert John BENNETT (181344). 1st July 1944.

1562814 David Duncan Skene FERGUSON

Cpls.

16th June 1944.

1109453 Peter Hubert Ash SMITH (165506).

947785 Caleb William SLATER (165501).

957192 Francis William JEFFERSON (165572).

948932 Albert LEVICK (165590).

847805 Hugh O'Niell McCoy (165659). 30th June 1944.

Ldg. Acm.

11th July 1944.

1804259 Roger Eric WILTSHIRE (180172).

1587994 Claude Selwyn WHITNEY (180171).

1607467 John Ronald SHARP (180170).

1606054 Laurence O'Beirne David FEATHERSTONE (180169).

19th May 1944.

1591927 Vere CASPAR (165251).

1567158 Robert COCHRANE (165249).

1523557 John Bernard COCKILL (165278).

16th June 1944.

1579933 William Thomas EVANS (165531).

1654086 John Kenneth KENNEDY (165508).

1583099 Christian Leslie WILKINS (165507).

2220943 Frank SMITH (165573).

1697000 Ronald Ernest SMITH (165574).

605672 James Henry Birchenough DODD (165585).

1802072 Alfred WOOLLEY (165582).



cms

cms

FIGHTER CONTROL BRANCH.*Appointment to commission.*

As Flying Officer (five years and five years on the reserve):—

George HOLWELL (154273). 22nd May 1954 (seniority 30th Mar. 1954).

As Pilot Officer (five years and five years on the reserve):—

Robert John HALLAM (2690588). 8th Aug. 1954.

As Flying Officer (until 4th Mar. 1957):—

Thomas David ANGIER (3133937). 2nd Sept. 1954.

As Pilot Officer (until 3rd Dec. 1957):—

Michael Edward HALL (2561438). 26th Aug. 1954.

Transfer to reserve.

Flying Officer W. G. MASON (2691520). 11th July 1954.

Commission relinquished.

Pilot Officer J. C. FAREHAM (2536751) (on appointment to the R.A.F.V.R.). 6th Aug. 1954.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

(Emergency commission section.)

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.*Removal.*

Flight Lieutenant C. PARKER (177092) 18th Jan. 1954.

EMERGENCY LIST.**GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.***Removal.*

Flight Lieutenant V. CASPAR (165251). 24th May 1954.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

(Reconstituted section.)

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.*Appointment to commission.*

As Flying Officer (three years):—

Veeranarayan Swamiracharya DWARPALAK (205725). 7th Mar. 1951 (substituted for notification of 9th Oct. 1951 (p. 5233, col. 1)).

As Pilot Officer (until 3rd Dec. 1957):—

Norman Alderson HARTLEY (2561542). 28th June 1954.

As Pilot Officer (until 11th Feb. 1958):—

Alan John TAPLIN (2568535). 5th Sept. 1954.

Extension of service.

The period of service of the undermentioned is extended by five years with effect from the dates stated:—

Flight Lieutenants:—

J. H. E. MOORE (186919). 8th Dec. 1953.

J. H. ORMESHER, D.F.M. (186917). 15th Dec. 1953.

N. SHOTT, D.F.C. (128601). 3rd Jan. 1954.

R. ALLEN (195087). 17th Jan. 1954.

V. F. J. TORRISI, D.F.C. (125166). 25th Jan. 1954.

V. H. CUTTS (175928). 22nd Feb. 1954.

R. WATSON (129130). 1st Mar. 1954.

Flying Officers:—

R. H. BRIGHT (168277). 15th Jan. 1954.

V. B. M. MCLEONARD (197471). 14th Apr. 1954.

J. OSWALD (2601752). 27th June 1954.

J. H. DONAGHUE, D.F.C. (172060). 18th Aug. 1954.

Notification amended.

20th Apr. 1954 (p. 2369, col. 2) concerning T. V. HEYES, D.F.C. (172597) for Flying Officer read Flight Lieutenant.

Transfer between branches.

The undermentioned to the Secretarial Branch:—

Flight Lieutenant J. E. BURTON, D.F.M. (161798), retaining his rank. 26th July 1954 (seniority 26th Jan. 1952).

Pilot Officer A. SPANSWICK (2607459), retaining his existing rank and seniority. 19th June 1954.

The undermentioned Flying Officers to the Aircraft Control Branch, retaining their rank:—

J. OSWALD (2601752). 26th July 1954 (seniority 27th June 1952).

V. B. M. MCLEONARD (197471). 26th Aug. 1954 (seniority 30th Dec. 1949).

Flight Lieutenant P. E. WILLSON, D.F.C. (136176) to the Marine Branch, retaining his rank. 7th June 1954 (seniority 6th Dec. 1951).

Flight Lieutenant R. WATSON (129130) to the Airfield Construction Branch, retaining his rank. 11th Aug. 1954 (seniority 13th Sept. 1950).

Flying Officer R. A. G. SIBLEY (166311) to the Meteorological Branch, retaining his existing rank and seniority. 30th June 1954.

Transfer between branches and reversion to lower rank.

Flight Lieutenant J. H. E. MOORE (186919) to the Aircraft Control Branch, reverting to the rank of Flying Officer. 26th Aug. 1954 (seniority 8th Dec. 1948).

*Commission relinquished.**Flight Lieutenants:—*

J. W. MORRISON (202976). 19th Nov. 1953.

A. C. SMITH (166634). 3rd Jan. 1954.

A. H. M. STEWART (155241). 21st Jan. 1954.

R. B. BLYTH (153906). 17th Feb. 1954.

W. S. MOONEY (123962). 22nd Feb. 1954.

A. R. SCOTT (205134). 1st Apr. 1954.

G. HOLWELL (154273) (on appointment to the R.Aux.A.F.). 22nd May 1954.

Flying Officers:—

M. C. BUTLER (180118). 1st Dec. 1953.

R. W. USHER (130300). 15th Dec. 1953.

A. R. THOM (198313). 6th Jan. 1954.

A. G. WINCHESTER (123310). 13th Jan. 1954.

A. E. LEA (101551). 17th Jan. 1954.

P. D. WHITE (86403). 28th Jan. 1954.

R. MURPHY (205644) (on appointment to the Royal Army Education Corps). 4th Aug. 1954.

Pilot Officers:—

P. WALTON (2519144) (on appointment to the Royal Canadian Air Force, Auxiliary). 6th May 1954.

J. T. MILES (2530480) (on appointment to a direct commission in the R.A.F.). 9th Aug. 1954.

SECRETARIAL BRANCH.*Appointment to commission.*

As Pilot Officer (until 2nd Dec. 1957):—

John Brian SHEPHERD (2547813). 19th July 1954.

As Pilot Officer (until 3rd Dec. 1957):—

Keith Geoffrey BEECHEY (2561490). 19th July 1954.

As Pilot Officers (until 16th Dec. 1957):—
19th July 1954.

John Eagle HIGGINBOTHAM (2562968).

Bernard Spraggon JOHNSON (2547870).

As Pilot Officer (until 24th Dec. 1957):—

Denis PARRY (2564008). 19th July 1954.

As Pilot Officers (until 5th Feb. 1958):—
30th Aug. 1954.

Ronald Boris NEWTON (2567648).

Eric George PETERS (2567786).

As Pilot Officer (until 6th Feb. 1958):—

John William BACON (2568245). 31st Aug. 1954.

As Pilot Officer (until 11th Feb. 1958):—

Kenneth Ralph UNDERHILL (2568729). 5th Sept. 1954.

As Pilot Officer (until 19th Feb. 1958):—

Gerald Frank CORFIELD (2569548). 13th Sept. 1954.

Extension of service.

The period of service of Flight Lieutenant W. H. F. FOGG (139152) is extended until 25th July 1954.

Commission relinquished.

The undermentioned on account of medical unfitness for air force service:—

Flight Lieutenant W. H. F. FOGG (139152). 26th July 1954.

Flying Officer R. F. ALLMAN (197415). 25th Aug. 1954.

AIRCRAFT CONTROL BRANCH.*Extension of service.*

The period of service of Flight Lieutenant W. J. BLOMFIELD (115667) is extended by five years with effect from 29th Jan. 1954.

FIGHTER CONTROL BRANCH.*Appointment to commission.*

As Pilot Officer (until 28th Apr. 1957):—

Jeffrey Charles FAREHAM (2536751). 6th Aug. 1954.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY

DEATH		Entry No.
Registration district	TORBAY	Administrative area
Sub-district	TORQUAY	County Borough of Torbay
1. Date and place of death <i>Twelfth March 1972</i> <i>Dead on arrival at Torbay Hospital Torquay</i>		
2. Name and surname <i>Ware CASPAR</i>		3. Sex <i>Male</i>
5. Date and place of birth <i>1st September 1915</i> <i>London</i>		4. Maiden surname of woman who has married —
6. Occupation and usual address <i>Discotheque Club Manager.</i> <i>St Leonard, Cliff Park Road, Three Beaches</i> <i>Paignton</i>		
7 (a) Name and surname of informant <i>Evelyn Delicia COMBE</i>		(b) Qualification <i>Caring the body to be cremated</i>
(c) Usual address <i>St Leonard, Cliff Park Road, Three Beaches Paignton</i>		
8. Cause of death <i>Coronary Thrombosis</i> <i>Atheroma</i> <i>Certified by: H. Sykes Balls, Coroner for</i> <i>Torbay after post mortem without inquest</i>		
9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.		Signature of Informant <i>E. Delicia Combe</i>
10. Date of registration <i>Twelfth March 1972</i>	11. Signature of registrar <i>Gris B. Cause Registrar</i>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of* a register of Births, Still-births or Deaths in the District above mentioned. Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office on 24th July 2018

*If the Certificate is given from the original Register, the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

7453009 822056 04/18 APS/AISP



HJM

[Handwritten signature]

1452	WALTERS	Mr. W.J.	E201	*	100 Herbert St., Rockdale, Sydney.
1453	"	Mrs. I.V.	"	*	"
1454	WARD	Mrs. V.E.	E257	*	37 Boundary St., Charters Towers, Qld.
1455	WATSON	Mrs. G.M.	A19	*	57 Mitchell St., St. Leonards, North Shore, Sydney.
1456	WEDD	Mr. J.C.	A68	*	Scenic Heights, Taupo, N.Z.
1457	WHITE	Mr. W.	C55	*	Manhattan Hotel, Kings Cross, Sydney.
1458	"	Mrs. E.	"	*	"
1459	WHITE	Mr. O.J.	C254	*	56 Norman St., Deakin, A.C.T.
1460	"	Mrs. A.G.	"	*	"
1461	WHITEFORD	Miss A.	B120	*	c/o American Hotel, Kings Cross, Sydney.
1462	WHITWORTH	Mr. F.W.	A47	*	13 Lae St., Mt. Itza, Queensland.
1463	"	Mrs. D.L.	"	*	"
1464	"	Miss D.F.	A49	*	"
1465	WHITWORTH	Mr. L.C.	C222	*	106 Karne St., Sydney, N.S.W.
1466	"	Mrs. A.A.	"	*	"
1467	WHITWORTH	Mstr. K.R.	"	*	"
1468	WHYTE	Mrs. M.L.	E308	*	9 Elva Ave., Killara, Sydney.
1469	WILLIAMS	Miss G.F.	F240	*	14 Essex St., Virginia, Brisbane.
1470	WILLCOX	Mr. C.E.	B84	*	2 Russell St., Eastwood, N.S.W.
1471	"	Mrs. B.L.	"	*	"
1472	WILLIAMSON	Mr. G.P.	E279	*	5 Alice St., Parramatta, N.S.W.
1473	WILSON	Mr. W.	F247	*	Kepnock Rd., Bundabong, Queensland.
1474	WILSON	Mrs. M.I.	B17	*	Highland Rd., Auckland, S.W.2.
1475	WILSON	Mrs. H.R.	C127	*	24 Volcanic St., Mt. Eden, N.Z.
1476	WILSON	Mrs. J.	C232	*	17/63, Meeks St., Kingsford, Sydney.
1477	WINTERBURN	Mr. A.	D34	*	6 Hilton Rd., Mt. Isa, Queensland.
1478	"	Mrs. D.M.	"	*	"
1479	WOOD	Mr. W.	B99	*	11 Armstrong St., Ashfield, Sydney.

SYDNEY contd.

Date: 11.11.65.

Sheet No. 26

<u>Ser.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Cabin</u>	<u>Brit.</u>	<u>Non-Brit.</u>	<u>Address</u>
1315	ROYSTON	Mrs. S.P.	A15	*		Tambar, Springs, N.S.W.
1316	RULE	Mr. R.C.	B58	*		26 Marion St., Booval, Queensland.
1317	"	Mrs. E.R.	"	*		"
1318	RUSSELL	Miss L.H.	F266	*		3 Queen St., Branxton, N.S.W.
1319	RYAN	Miss E.M.	C127	*		Manhattan Hotel, Potts Point, Sydney.
1320	SADLER	Mr. J.	E262	*		28 Gwendale Cresc., Eastwood, N.S.W.
1321	"	Mrs. V.E.	"	*		"
1322	SAMUELS	Mr. J.	E279	*		5 Alice St., Parramatta, N.S.W.
1323	SANDS	Mr. J.	F251	*		c/o People's Palace, Sydney.
1324	SANGSTER	Mrs. L.J.	C214	*		Manhattan Hotel, Potts Point, Sydney.
1325	SANSOM	Mrs. A.E.	E257	*		Grose Vale Rd., Kurrajong, N.S.W.
1326	"	Miss P.A.	E257	*		"
1327	SCHEIGIS	Mr. J.A.	E310	*		Manhattan Hotel, Sydney.
1328	SCHONAWSKI	Mr. F.	E310	*		18 Atkins Ave., Mission Bay, Auckland, N.Z.
1329	SCHUBERT	Mr. W.F.	F242	*		13 Ferguson Ave., Punchbowl, Sydney.
1330	SCOTT	Mrs. T.	F261	*		3 Wickham St., Ayr, Queensland.
1331	SHACKLADY	Mrs. M.E.	E212	*		43 Palamar Pde., Harboard, N.S.W.
1332	SHALOM	Mr. E.S.	F243	*		23 Gilgandra Rd., North Bondi, Sydney.
1333	"	Mrs. S.	"	*		"
1334	"	Mr. S.E.	"	*		"

E. 279
COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

**INCOMING
PASSENGER CARD**

Serial
Number

1472

To be completed in the English Language

1. Name **WILLIAMSON** **GEOFFREY
PATRICK**

Surname in Block Letters

Given Names

2. Nationality (if British specify country of citizenship) **UK / BRITISH** 3. Passport or other Travel Document No. **362713**

4. Country of Birth **ENGLAND** 5. Date of Birth **17 / 3 / 36**
day month year

Please MARK APPROPRIATE BOX THUS

6. Sex: Male Female 7. Conjugal Condition: Never Married Now Married Widowed Divorced

8. Usual Occupation **CLERICAL**

9. Country in which I last stayed for 12 months or more **ENGLAND**

10. Country in which I next intend to stay for 12 months or more **AUSTRALIA. N.S.W.**
(If Australia, specify State or Territory.)

11. Purpose of Journey to Australia:

- (i) Returning to live in Australia
or (ii) In Transit
or (iii) Visiting; mainly for:
Business Education
Holiday Other Purposes
or (iv) Settling in Australia

12. Intended Length of Stay in Australia:

..... Years Months or Days (Give figures
or write "Permanent", "Indefinite", &c. **INDEFINITE**.)

13. Last Permanent Residence: Australia
Overseas (incl. Papua, N. Guinea)

If "Australia", how long since you were last in Australia?

..... Years Months or Days

WILLIAMSON. — The Members and Directors of Clovelly Bowling and Recreation Club are invited to attend the funeral of their late late esteemed member, **GEOFFREY PATRICK WILLIAMSON**, to be held at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, at 3 p.m., today (February 15, 1995).

J. SAMUELS, Pres.

N. HOFFMAN, Hon. Sec.

19950215_FuneralNotice_GPW_Small.jpeg

Estate to **CONNERY & PARTNERS**, Solicitors, 68/23 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Tel. 233 2933. Ref: LSE:43675.

AFTER 14 days from publication of this notice an application for probate of the Will dated 23 October 1994 of **GEOFFREY PATRICK WILLIAMSON** late of Waverley in the State of New South Wales, Domestic Cleaner, deceased will be made by John Samuels. Creditors are required to send particulars of their claims upon his Estate to Messrs **BENNETT, STEWART & SHIRVINGTON**, Solicitors, 39 York Street, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000, DX 457 Sydney, Tel. 299 1268, Fax 290 2628.

NOTICE of Intended Application for Administration. — After 14 days from publication of this

19950318_SMH_Obit_GPW_Small.jpeg

Geoffrey Patrick Williamson



Inbox x



 **John Duffy** <jrduffy47@gmail.com>

to me

04:55 (7 hours ago)



Hi Jeannie.

John Duffy is my name, and I am the Honorary Secretary of Clovelly Bowling & Recreation Club - it's a lawn bowling club.

John Samuels was a much loved and popular Club Identity. In his time with the Club, he was President, Vice President, Director, Member.

So, the Club has lots of memories about John.

Unfortunately, his partner Geoff was not well known. Geoff died many years before John, and I only met him once (we were both patients in a local hospital). But John always spoke lovingly of him. I don't think the game of lawn bowls had the attraction to Geoff as it did to John - he was never observed playing bowls but would join John at the Club following bowls for a drink or two or three or four or many more. They both didn't mind a drink!

From what I recall, Geoff was more interested in theatre and the arts in general.

The pair of them had a big golden labrador which they would walk together on the oval adjacent to the Club - they both doted on the dog.

Both men had a similar physique - large, overweight, loud.

Please make contact again - there is another Club Member, Trevor Maroske, who knew John well, and may also have known Geoff. I'm going to tell Trevor about your email.

Regards,

John Duffy

TIMELINE

YEAR	LGBTQ+ EVENT	CULTURAL EVENT	POLITICAL EVENT
1954	<p>15 September - the Wolfenden Committee meets for the first time</p> <p>7 June - Codebreaking computer scientist Alan Turing dies from cyanide poisoning</p> <p>5 August - The musical Salad Days opens, becoming the longest-running musical in UK theatre history until 1960.</p>	<p>2 November - Radio comedy Hancock's Half Hour is first aired</p> <p>19 October Britain agrees to end its military occupation of the Suez Canal</p>	<p>30 November - Winston Churchill becomes the first British Prime Minister to reach his 80th birthday while still in office.</p>
1955	<p>18 September - Guy Burgess, who defected to the USSR 1951, is revealed to be a spy</p>	<p>Derrick Sherwin Bailey's book 'Homosexuality and the Western Christian Tradition' is published, paving the way for the Wolfenden Report.</p>	<p>27 May - Anthony Eden wins the general election for the Conservative Party</p> <p>13 July - Ruth Ellis becomes the last woman to be hanged in the UK</p>
1956	<p>The Sexual Offences Act recognises the crime of sexual assault between women</p>	<p>25 December - PG Tips launches its long-running ITV advertising campaign using a chimpanzee's tea party (voiced by Peter Sellers)</p>	<p>5 July - Parliament passes the Clean Air Act in response to the Great Smog of 1952</p> <p>21 December - The British Government interns hundreds of republican suspects without trial</p>
1957	<p>1957 - The Wolfenden report is published. It advises the British Government that homosexuality should not be illegal.</p>	<p>25 December - the Royal Christmas Message is broadcast on television with the Queen on camera for the first time</p>	<p>20 July Prime Minister Harold Macmillan makes speech to Conservative Party members, telling them that "most of our people have never had it so good".</p> <p>6 March - Ghana becomes first British colony in Africa to become independent</p>
1958	<p>1958 - The Homosexual Law Reform Society is founded to campaign to make homosexuality legal in the UK</p>	<p>14 January - TWW, the ITV franchise for South Wales and the West Of England goes on the air</p>	<p>30 August Notting Hill uprising in London.</p> <p>25 February - Bertrand Russell launches the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.</p>
1959	<p>1959 - Labour councillor Alan Horsfall and activist Antony Grey form the North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee.</p>	<p>26 August - BMC launches the Mini, designed by Alec Issigonis.</p>	<p>30 March - 20,000 demonstrators attend a CND rally in Trafalgar Square.</p>

1960	Homosexuality is decriminalised in Austria. 17 April - American rock and roll singer Eddie Cochran, 21, is killed in a car crash in Wiltshire	2 November - Penguin Books is found not guilty of obscenity in the Lady Chatterley's Lover case, and sells 200,000 copies in one day following its publication	31 December - The last man is called up for National Service, as Conscriptation ends. 1 October - Nigeria gains independence from the United Kingdom
1961	Dirk Bogarde stars in 'Victim', a film with themes of homosexuality and blackmail.	14 September - Film A Taste of Honey, with themes of interracial relationships, unmarried pregnancy and homosexuality, is released	10 August - Britain applies for membership in the EEC. 4 December - birth control pills become available on the National Health Service, backed by Health Minister Enoch Powell
1962	British civil servant John Vassall arrested for spying for the Soviet Union, after being caught in a KGB honeytrap in 1952 2 January - BBC television broadcasts the first episode of Z-Cars, noted as a realistic portrayal of the police	12 July - the Rolling Stones make their debut at London's Marquee Club	18 April - Commonwealth Immigrants Act in the United Kingdom removes free immigration from citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations. 6 August - Jamaica becomes independent
1963	The Minorities Research Group (MRG) becomes the UK's first lesbian social and political organisation. September - The Sindy fashion doll is first marketed	The launch of the Astro or lava lamp by the founder of Mathmos, Edward Craven-Walker.	5 June - Profumo affair: John Profumo, Secretary of State for War, resigns over his affair with Christine Keeler 30 April - Bristol Bus Boycott begins, lasting for four months. Bristol Omnibus Company employ their first non-white conductor on 17 September 1963 29 January - Charles de Gaulle, President of France, vetoes the UK's entry into the European Economic Community.
1964	The North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee is founded, abandoning the medical model of homosexuality as a sickness and calling for its decriminalisation.	1 January - Top of the Pops first airs on BBC TV. July - Helen Brook sets up the first Brook Advisory Centre offering teenage contraception and sexual health advice	15 October - The Labour Party defeats the Conservatives in the general election. Harold Wilson becomes prime minister

<p>1965</p>	<p>Lord Arran proposes the decriminalisation of male homosexual acts (lesbian acts had never been illegal). A UK opinion poll finds that 93% of respondents see homosexuality as a form of illness requiring medical treatment</p> <p>7 January - identical twin brothers Ronnie and Reggie Kray, 31, are arrested on suspicion of running a protection racket in London.</p> <p>1 August - Cigarette advertising is banned from British television</p>	<p>29 November - Mary Whitehouse founds the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association</p> <p>Mary Quant introduces the miniskirt from her shop Bazaar on the Kings Road in Chelsea, London</p> <p>13 November - the word "fuck" is spoken for the first time on British television by the theatre critic Kenneth Tynan.</p>	<p>8 December - The Race Relations Act 1965 introduced in the United Kingdom</p> <p>8 July - Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs escapes from Wandsworth Prison.</p> <p>18 June - the government announces plans for the introduction of a blood alcohol limit for drivers in its clampdown on drink driving.</p>
<p>1966</p>	<p>The Beaumont Society, a London-based social/support group for people who cross-dress, are transvestite or who are transsexual, is founded</p> <p>30 January - Action Man toy action figure launched in the UK</p>	<p>15 April - Time magazine uses the phrase 'Swinging London'</p>	<p>1 October - Aberfan disaster in South Wales, 144 (including 116 children) killed by collapsing coal spoil tip.</p> <p>3 July - 31 arrests made after a protest against the Vietnam War outside the US embassy turns violent.</p>
<p>1967</p>	<p>Ten years after the Wolfenden Report, the Sexual Offences Bill 1967 decriminalises homosexual acts between men over 21 in private in England and Wales</p>	<p>1 June - The Beatles released Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</p> <p>18 January - Jeremy Thorpe becomes Leader of the Liberal Party</p>	<p>18 March - Torrey Canyon oil spill: The supertanker SS Torrey Canyon runs aground between Land's End and the Scilly Isles</p> <p>11 May - The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland officially apply for European Economic Community membership</p>

