

Aircraft Crashes on Cairnsmore

Near the summit of Cairnsmore of Fleet is a memorial stone to those who lost their lives as a result of aircraft crashing into the hill. 7 of the 8 crashes took place during wartime. The stone was lifted into place by a helicopter on 8th August 1980, the 40th anniversary of the first crash.



<p>First Crash: 8th August 1940 Heinkel III H4 Leutnant A Zeiss Age 25 Unteroffizier G T Von Turckheim Age 31 Unteroffizier W Hajesch Age 21 Unteroffizier W Mechsner Age 23 from NG 1 Staffel of Kampfgeschwader 4 Soesterburg Air Base Holland</p>	<p>Second Crash: 2nd March 1942 Blackburn Botha L6539 Aircraftsman D J Thom Age 20 from No 10 Air Observer School RAF Dumfries</p>
<p>Third Crash: 17th April 1942 Avro Anson W2640 Sergeant A C H Allen Age 21 Mister W Paterson Age 31 from No 1 Observer Advanced Flying Unit of RAF Wigtown. As stated below, Wireless Operator Ted Hirst survived this crash</p>	<p>Fourth Crash: 22nd September 1942 Avro Anson DJ126 Flight Sergeant B H Vye RCAF Age 21 Sergeant A W Hawkes Age 29 Leading Aircraftsman R D Hume Age 22 Leading Aircraftsman G A Horne Age 20 Aircraftsman G O M Rawson Age 20 from No 9 Air Gunners School RAF Llanowrog</p>
<p>Fifth Crash: 22nd February 1944 Avro Anson EG485 Pilot Officer J M Cooley RCAF Age 30 Warrant Officer J J M Ward Age 23 Flight Sergeant M C Simpson RCAF Age 19 from No 10 Observer Advanced Flying Unit RAF Dumfries</p>	<p>Sixth Crash: 12th June 1944 Avro Anson N9589 Sergeant W A Edwards Age 23 Sergeant H W G Rennison Age 31 Sergeant R O Beggs RNZAF Age 29 Flight Sergeant B B Haytom Age 21 Flight Sergeant A W Wauchope RAAF Age 27 from No 4 Observer Advanced Flying Unit RAF West Freugh</p>
<p>Seventh Crash: 9th July 1944 Avro Anson W5140 Flight Sergeant R S T Hide Age 22 Pilot Officer A A Goodill RCAF Age 26 Sergeant T J Malone Age 24 from No 1 Observer Advanced Flying Unit RAF Wigtown</p>	<p>Eighth Crash: 28th March 1979 McDonnell Douglas Phantom RFF4C 68 0566 Captain T J Seagren USAF Age 26 Captain R V Spalding USAF Age 31 from 1st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RAF Alconbury</p>

The **third crash** in the above table happened near the Fleet Viaduct and is noteworthy as there was a survivor. 11-year-old twins **Robin and Billy Johnstone** from Cullendoch Farm raised the alarm. By the time local doctor **Alexander Craig** arrived from his house at Roseville in Ann Street, he was very doubtful that Wireless Operator **Ted Hurst** would survive his injuries, but he did, and he later returned to Gatehouse to thank both the doctor and the Johnstone family for their help.



Ted Hirst



Dr. Alexander Craig



Twins Billy and Robin Johnstone

There was also a crash near Loch Skerrow in 1944 and one or two in the Fleet estuary.
