JACK WALLER

Jack Waller was not a 'civilian'. He was a Sgt WOp (AI Operator) aboard a Havoc night-fighter from 85 Sqn RAF based at Hunsdon, Hertfordshire. On the night of 2-3 June 1942, the Havoc he was flying in was attacked by another aircraft from the same unit (their assailant was thought to have been their Flight CO)and shot down in flames by mistake on the Dengie Flats, off Foulness.

His body was found at the mouth of the River Crouch later that same day. He is buried in Lowestoft Cemetery. In Jan 2014 there was a piece in the local press about a visit to the grave by a lady named Paula Masters. Her father was Flt Sgt Tom Gibbs, the pilot of the Havoc. As her father was injured baling out of the burning aircraft, he was hospitalised and unable to attend the funeral. Her father died in 2011 so she came to pay her respects on his behalf.The crew were good pals on and off the station and we have a couple of pictures of them. Jack's parents lived at Oulton Hall.

Now here's the update. Paula Masters and Peter Waller, a cousin of Jack are coming to our AFD exhibition on 27 June 2015. They have never met. What neither of them know is that we have had a special CGI picture of the Havoc done and a framed print of it will be presented to each of them on the day.

In addition, she placed a printed card with the details and the two pictures on it on the grave during her 2014 visit. Unfortunately the card was only protected by a plastic envelope and within six months it had faded, fallen apart and been blown some distance across the cemetery. We have had a laminated card with the same details on it done and intend to place it on the grave the same day - if we have time!