

“Spitfire Fighter Aircraft incident early 1940’s over Southfleet.

I first heard of this incident from Ian Washer in 2015 when researching the history of Southfleet’s War memorial for the memorial plaques.

He told me that 2 spitfires had collided somewhere near the railway line. He was uncertain as to whether it was in the Battle of Britain, or later. He knew that the pilot of the crashed plane was killed and had been told the pilot was from the Royal South African Airforce. He did not know which airfield or where the pilot was buried.

In recent weeks a Mrs Richard Miles from East Sussex a writer and research with connections with the Kent Air Force Museum at Hawking contacted Mr Wilf and Frank Harris and myself for information. I spoke to Ken Washer (aged 83) who told me that as a child of 6 or 7 he had seen the crash. Ken reported the weather at the time was dull and low cloud, hence the collision. I put Richard in touch with Ken, and it turned out they knew each other from the “Old Southfleet Men’s Club” I suggested to Richard that he contacts the Commonwealth Graves Commission who may have a record.

The Harris’s know of the incident but not the details, Mr Meakin has heard of the incident from his grandfather, except he thought the plane had come down south of the railway line. Ken is certain it was north and west of DR133. Richard Miles will keep us informed of his findings.

It is something to be added an added item in the Parish Councils Book of Remembrance.

Noreen Salway, Chairman of the Parish Council