# Sutton Veny<br/>Roll of Honour



# **World War II**



1600290 LANCE BOMBARDIER

I. W. MITCHELL

**ROYAL ARTILLERY** 

22ND OCTOBER, 1942 AGE 26

In Memory

Of My Dearly Loved Husband

"God Giveth

And God Taketh Away"

## **Ivan William MITCHELL**

A birth for Ivan W. Mitchell was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. His mother's surname was listed as Mitchell.

Ivan William Mitchell married Dorothy Maud Davis at St. Aldhelm Church at Bishopstrow. Their marriage was registered in the September quarter, 1937 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Ivan William Mitchell enlisted with the Royal Artillery. He was given the service number of 1600290. His place of birth was listed as Dorset & his place of residence was listed as Wiltshire.

Lance Bombardier Ivan William Mitchell died on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1942, aged 26 years.

Lance Bombardier Ivan William Mitchell is buried in Madras (St. Mary's) Cemetery, Chennai, India – Plot No. 19 Grave 77. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Bombardier Ivan William Mitchell, 1600290 as being the husband of Dorothy Maud Mitchell, of Warminster, Wiltshire. He was aged 26 years & served with the 165 Bty., 56 H.A.A. Regt.

Ivan W. Mitchell is remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial, located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny.



**Sutton Veny War Memorial** (Photos by Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



# Madras (St. Mary's) Cemetery, Chennai, India

Madras (St Mary's) Cemetery, Chennai, is 13 kilometres from Madras War Cemetery and contains 123 identified Casualties from both Wars.

The 23 First World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery. The 100 burials from the Second World War form a small service plot.



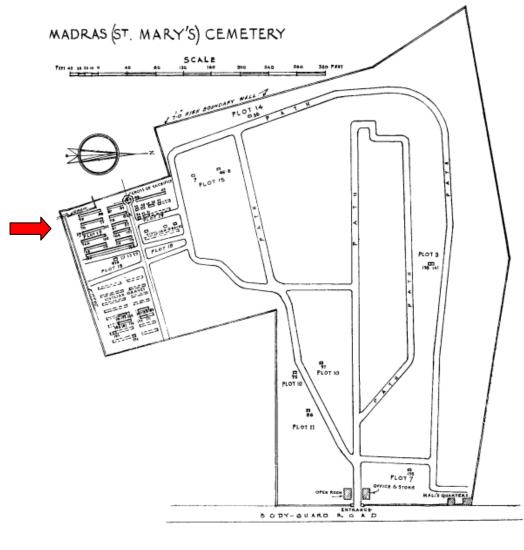
(Photos from CWGC)

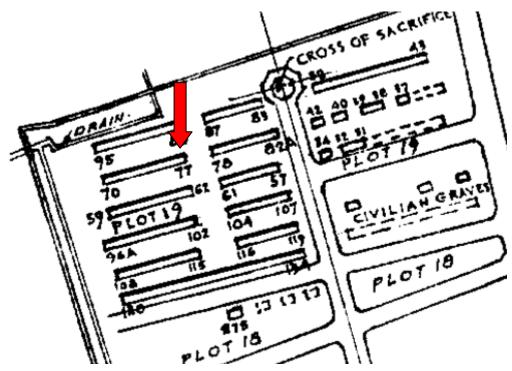


Photo of Lance Bombardier I. W. Mitchell's Headstone at Madras (St. Mary's) Cemetery, Chennai, India



(Photo courtesy of Grave Findings)





### 56th (Cornwall) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery - 56 H.A.A. Regt.

56th (Cornwall) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery was a volunteer air defence regiment of Britain's Territorial Army (TA). Originally raised in 1920 as a medium artillery regiment, it was converted to the anti-aircraft role in 1932. During World War II it was employed in Home Defence and then in India, where it was temporarily converted back to medium artillery. Postwar, it reverted to air defence until disbandment in 1955.

In 1932, as part of the increase in air defence for the United Kingdom, 51st Medium Brigade was converted into 56th (Cornwall) Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The HQ was at Falmouth and the three Cornish batteries (201, 202 and 203) were converted to the new role. In place of the Birmingham battery, the unit received 165th Battery at Redruth, which had formerly been part of the Cornwall Coast Brigade (*see above*). The regiment formed part of the Plymouth and Falmouth Defences of Southern Command.

In 1938 the RA replaced its traditional unit designation 'Brigade' by the modern 'Regiment'. Anti-Aircraft Command was formed in April 1939 to command all TA air defences.

### India

In December 1941 the regiment sailed (with 165, 201 and 202 Batteries) to India, arriving at Madras in March 1942, 202 Bty moving on to Calcutta shortly afterwards.

In 1942 56 HAA was under command of 13 AA Bde; a year later it was part of 3rd Indian AA Bde and it also had 154 (London) Battery from 52 (London) HAA Regiment under command. At the end of March 1944 the regiment arrived in Galunche, where it came under the AA Brigade of XXXIII Indian Corps. (Wikipedia)