

## **May Grainger**

**May Grainger was born in 1929, and was fourteen years old when a Liberator bomber became disabled while flying home, and crashed on the electric laundry in Chichester (near to the amphitheatre). May, on her way home from school to Bramber Road, was killed instantly. She is buried in Portfield cemetery, and several people have asked that the City Council consider putting a memorial on her grave, it being eighty years ago on 11<sup>th</sup> May when the tragedy happened.**

**On speaking to the cemetery department, I have discovered that the grave was purchased (for £2.50) by her mother, Alberta Josephine Grainger, and May was buried there on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1944. Although the purchase was for a triple grave, only May is interred in it. We do not know what became of Alberta, as she is not there, and this may require some further research. As the purchase was for 99 years, technically the grave belongs to the family – if there is any family. Therefore, if the City Council is minded to learn more, or to suggest putting a fitting memorial, some further research is required.**

**The cemetery department at CDC has a note that there is already a ‘white marble cross’ on it. However, having visited the site, there is indeed a cross on the grave, but this is a fairly rotten white painted wooden cross, with ‘In Memory Of E.M. (Maisie) Grainger 8.10.29 To 11.5.44’ printed on it. According to CDC records, the girl’s name is noted as ‘Grainger Ellen May’ Photographs are attached.**

**I have followed up some thoughts given to me by Ken Green, who wrote the book ‘The Day the Liberator Crashed on Chichester’ and have found that Chichester High School commemorates May on Remembrance Day, so I will try to follow that up, in case they know of relatives (who would have inherited the plot).**

**Obviously we won’t have further answers by 11<sup>th</sup> May, nor would we now have time to get a memorial stone erected. However, maybe a few councillors and others might attend a short wreath laying on that afternoon? I’m sure a wreath could be afforded by the City Council in memory of a little girl who gave her life during the war.**

**Council’s further thoughts and instructions are requested.#**

**Anne Scicluna**

