Remembering Tom Hughes - Remembrance Sunday 2021

1941, flying instructor at Shawbury in Shropshire, flying Airspeed Oxford

Posted to Gibraltar in 1943, flying Spitfires built in England and shipped out. Then to North Africa. On 2 March 1943 engine failed behind enemy lines - he had a 20 mile walk to get home.

15 August 1943, took over Comiso airfield in Sicily. The Germans had left one Messerschmidt which was flyable - until it caught fire. Tom had to parachute - the only member of the RAF to get his silkworm badge jumping out of a Messerschmidt!

Battle of Monte Cassino - a four month battle in which 250,000 died. Tom was shot down in flames on 17 December 1943. Transferred to Winenden Hospital as a PoW. After a year he was taken to Switzerland - 3000 Germans swapped for 1000 British. Back to Cambridge after the War, met Joan, a PE teacher - "I can only love you if you love flying". She did! May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

IN FOND MEMORY OF
A MUCH LOVED UNCLE AND AUNT
DEVOTED TO EACH OTHER FOR
MORE THAN 60 YEARS
THOMAS B. HUGHES
72 SQN ROYAL AIR FORCE (Flt Lt 1943)
DIED 31st DECEMBER 2010 AGED 89

D. JOAN HUGHES MBE
DIED 7TH APRIL 2012 AGED 90

GREATLY MISSED BY THEIR MANY FRIENDS

http://www.aircrewremembered.com/hughes-tom.html