

WILLIAM ARTHUR NICHOLLS MA (17-27)

Date of Birth	27 May 1908
School Information	Pembroke Scholar. Prefect. Sub-editor of "The Framlinghamian." Packard Prize for Science junior, Goldsmith Prize and Silver Medal for Maths. Goldsmith Scholarship 1922. Goldsmith Prize and Gold Medal for Modern Languages 1923. The President's Prize, Mawby Memorial Prize, Cyril Davis and Kitchener Scholarships 1927. Cricket XI 1927. Athletics Colours 1926, captain 1927. C.S.M., O.T.C.; cert. A.
Career Information	Emmanuel College Cambridge BA 1931; MA 1936. Schoolmaster; assistant Modern Languages master at Hymers College, Hull.
Date Of Death	14th March 1943
Cause of Death	He was the Admin Officer to 1 MORU (Mobile Operations Room Unit) and served at RAF West Malling. He died at the end of exercise Spartan from suicide.
Location	West Malling
Cemetery	Harwell Cemetery, Harwell, Vale of White Horse District, Oxfordshire – grave 549
Rank	Flight Lieutenant
Branch of Service	Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve

Diss Express 26th March 1943: "FRAMLINGHAM SQUADRON LEADER'S SUICIDE"

A verdict that Flight-Lieutenant William Arthur Nicholls (34), formerly schoolmaster, of "The Freehold," Framlingham, took his life while the balance of his mind was disturbed, was returned at an inquest in the Home Counties.

A Squadron-Leader said that Nicholls was keen and enthusiastic and on his recommendation had been promoted. Nicholls recently had said he was worried about his work as an adjutant and witness had sent him for three days' leave. When returned he was quite heedful but three days before his death was again depressed about his work. When asked whether he would like to go on leave again or wait, he asked to go later, and it was agreed that on his return they would talk the matter over, with the idea of getting him to a more suitable unit. At 11.45 p.m., March 13th, he went to the tent he shared with Nicholls, who was apparently fast asleep. The next morning, he could not wake Nicholls, and on pulling back the blanket found he had shot himself with revolver. L.-A.-C. Workman, a batman, gave evidence that Nicholls went to bed late in the morning of March 12th. Witness thought he was suffering from his usual stomach trouble. During the afternoon he heard a shot, but thought someone was shooting rabbits. Other officers said that they had visited Nicholls* tent, and concluded he was sleeping. Police-Sergeant Perkins said Nicholls left no note relevant to the inquiry."



