

Wirral Borough Council

Nomination Form for the Freedom of the Borough

I Councillor Chris Blakeley would like to nominate posthumously the following person to be considered for the conferment of the Freedom of the Borough of Wirral.

Nominee USAAF Second Lieutenant Jay Frederick Simpson

I am aware that the following criteria must be applied to the achievements of the nominee.

They have:

- demonstrated exceptional achievement or service to the community which is outstanding in its field;
- made a real difference in their field of work or their community;
- brought distinction to the Borough or enhanced its reputation;
- demonstrated innovation, entrepreneurship or exceptional business acumen which has delivered benefits to the Borough;
- evidenced exceptional charitable service to the Borough, though either a national or locally based charity;
- evidenced exceptional voluntary service to the Borough or any part of it or community within it;
- carried the respect of and inspired his/her peers;
- significantly improved the lot of those less able to help themselves or suffering disadvantage;
- promoted community cohesion;
- displayed moral courage and vision in making and delivering tough choices;
- contributed to the Borough beyond the call of duty in a way that stands out above others.

I believe that they have met one or more of the above criteria in the way detailed on the reverse of this form:

Reasons for the Nomination

APPENDIX 3

Second Lieutenant Simpson born 26th August 1916 in Gillett, Oconto County, Wisconsin USA, died 09 January, 1944 (aged 27) in Saughall Massie, Wirral.

Lt. Simpson enlisted as an air cadet on June 1, 1942 and was first stationed at Santa Ana, Calif., and then at Oxnard, Calif., where he received his primary flight training. He then went to Gardner Field Calif., and later to Yuma, Ariz., where he graduated and was commissioned as a pilot on May 20, 1943.

After graduation he spent a short furlough here and at Oconto. He was sent to Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio, where he was a test pilot until he left for overseas on Nov. 1, 1943 and was stationed in England.

Lt. Simpson was born in Gillett, Aug. 26, 1916. He attended the Gillett schools and lived there most of his life until the time of his induction into the Army. His desire always was to learn to fly, his hobby was making small planes, and his father still has many little toy planes his son made during his childhood days.

Second Lieutenant Simpson was based at USAAF base Burtonwood during the latter part of World War 2.

It is reported that he was test flying a Republic Thunderbolt P-47 which had taken off from Burtonwood and flew out to sea and on his return over Hoylake he reported that the plane was on fire. I understand it circled over the RAF camp at West Kirby (Greasby) when it was seen to lose height and flip over before crashing. Eyewitnesses at the time said that they believed the pilot steered away from residential areas before his plane crashed in a field close to the Arrowbrook thereby ensuring lives were saved. This clearly was an heroic act. Pieces of the wreckage were dug up in 1974 and were on show at the War Plane Wreck Investigation Group at Fort Perch Rock. His Gold Class Signet Ring was found in the wreckage and was presented to his cousin, Rose Neil Godfrey, who in turn gave it to Lieutenant Simpsons local Legion post, Krause-Simpson Post No 300 in Gillett, Wisconsin, USA

On 21st March 2005 I was privileged to attend and speak at a commemoration event for Second Lieutenant Simpson, held on the bridge of the new Saughall Massie Bypass, close to the crash site which was also attended by clergy, many local people as well as a Military Attaché from the US Embassy in London, Lt Col Ben Coffey.

While Second Lieutenant Jay Frederick Simpson has been remembered locally and in his home town of Gillett Wisconsin, and is remembered on Armistice Day every year, given his reported heroic action in flying his stricken plane away from densely populated areas and therefore helping save human life I believe he would be a worthy recipient, albeit posthumously of the Freedom of the Borough of Wirral.

APPENDIX 3

Please attach any supporting evidence.

***Support of the Leader of the nominating Member's Political Group**

I, Councillor....., Leader of the.....Group am fully in support of this nomination.

Signed.....

*An Elected Member who is not a member of a Political Group must have the support of at least one of the Political Group Leaders.