

WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

Son travels from Australia with news 'missing' war hero dad is alive and well

THE SON of a man wrongly believed to have been killed in the Second World War has flown 10,000 miles to tell Tamesiders he is alive and well.

Glider pilot George Hadfield was shot down by a mortar bomb during the battle of Arnhem in Holland in 1944.

Everyone back home thought he was dead and his name is even believed to have been placed on a memorial to those who lost their lives in the war.

But although he was down, he wasn't out!

George - who went to Ashton Grammar School - was injured in the crash but was captured alive and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Bavaria in Germany.

He spent the rest of the war in captivity and was reunited with his wife Helen after Americans liberated the prison camp.

Helen was waiting for him in London, making numerous visits to the missing persons bureau at St James Palace, and the pair never returned to their roots before emigrating to Australia in 1959.

Now Tony Burton, from Woodley, is preparing to meet George's son David after they struck up a friendship on the Internet.

And the pair are hoping to find old friend's and relatives of George to tell them the good news that he is alive and well.

Exclusive by SARAH EDGE

Tony said: "Yes, he's very much still with us.

"He lives on the Sunshine Coast near Brisbane and he and his wife Helen celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary last March.

"They have two children, David and Susan, and two grandchildren, Catherine and Robert."

David is expected in Tameside on Friday in a hunt for his dad's roots.

It is believed pals from Ashton Grammar School and Ashton Cricket and Tennis Clubs know nothing of what happened to their friend.

He has few leads though he may be taking a trip to the Cotton Tree Pub in Droylsden which was run by George's dad, Samuel, at one point.

Old school friends Ted Harris or Tosh Morgan have also been mentioned as people David would like to speak to.

And part of his mission is to trace the whereabouts of a war memorial, rumoured to have been placed in Ashton Grammar School with his father's name on it.

Tony, who has helped David trace his roots since meeting him in an Internet chat room three years ago, said: "We are looking for any person who might be old enough to have known George.

"David would be very keen to meet with



BEARER OF GOOD NEWS:
David Hadfield who is visiting
Tameside to research his dad's
family roots.

anyone who knew his father and he would also like to find out more about the missing memorial.

"He is interested in finding out more after his father told him about the old days in Tameside. When you get into finding out about family history as a hobby it just snowballs."

George, now aged 86 and Helen, 82, made the papers in Oz when they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year with a letter from the Queen.

If you can help Tony and David with their search call the newsdesk on (0161) 303 1910.