

Dear Dr Holliday

LEONARD REVILLIOD

Thank you for your letter of 13 October.

I do not have a family connection to the Masaryks but my husband was Czech, born in 1923. He was in England at school when war broke out and was with the RAF from 1942 - 45. When he retired he spent a considerable amount of time researching Czechs who had been in the RAF during the war. Revilliod's father was not Czech and therefore nor was Revilliod and he did not fly with the Czechs; however he is of course of considerable interest to them.

President Tomas Masaryk married an American, Charlotte. She was a committed Unitarian and brought up her daughter Olga as a Unitarian. Olga was Revilliod's mother and there is a very strong probability that she would have brought up her son also as a Unitarian, although I have not been able to find confirmation of this. This would explain why there was no Cross or Star of David on his grave stone.

From the Web I found the symbol at the top of this letter. It is suggested for use by Unitarians by the Department of Veterans USA. I wonder if this is on Revilliod's grave, although its absence would not prove that he was not Unitarian.

I expect you are aware that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has set designs for the tombstones of different nationalities in their cemeteries. I have many pictures of the Czech ones but a copy would probably not be useful for you because, as outlined above, he did not fly as a Czech citizen.

Well I have answered fairly definitively your question about Revilliod's religion. I am afraid I have found little else that you did not already know but will get in touch again if I find interesting new information about him.

Yours