

Sergeant Bernard Edward Brown 1281447 RAFVR

Bernard Brown was a pilot serving with No. 455 (Australian) Squadron based at RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire. The squadron had the distinction of being "the first Australian squadron to bomb Germany".

Bernard's Handley Page Hampden I AE308 UB-L took off from RAF Swinderby airfield at 1205 hours on 6 February 1942, on a mine-laying operation off the Frisian Islands. It was one of 33 Hampdens and 13 Manchesters. Four of the eight Swinderby aircraft turned back due to insufficient cloud cover, the remainder pressed on and completed the operation. AE308 was shot down at 1510 hours, 70 miles west of Terschelling, by Luftwaffe night fighter ace Hauptmann Helmut Lent flying a Bf110 - his 30th victory.



Bernard's body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey (Panel 79).

His name is also included on the Buckden War Memorial, Huntingdonshire.

The crewmates killed with Bernard were:

Sgt. Robert Anthony Billington RAFVR

Sgt. Eric Bland RAFVR

Sgt. David Michael Pickersgill RAFVR

Bernard is commemorated on IBCC Panel 13.

Photo courtesy of www.wikipedia.org