

Sergeant James Brown 970119 RAFVR

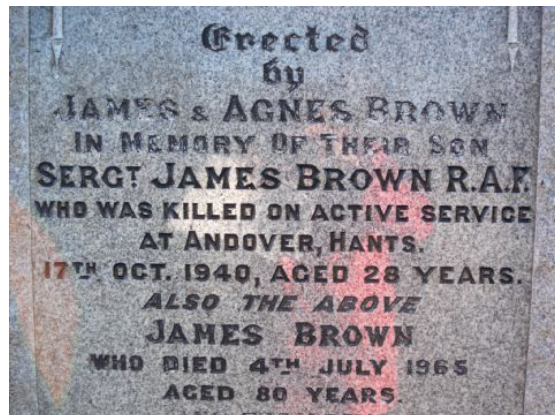
James Brown was a Scottish wireless operator who died along with his crew when their aircraft ran out of fuel and crashed in Hampshire while returning from a mining operation.



His was one of four No. 49 Squadron Hampdens which failed to make it back to their RAF Scampton home base. The raid was in the early hours of 17 October 1940, aimed at hampering U-boat operations which had begun from the port of Bordeaux.

The squadron had sent 12 aircraft out at intervals from 1900 hours on 16 October, in worsening weather conditions. One was shot down near Bordeaux, another crash-landed near Ashford with one crew member being killed and a third crash-landed near RAF Abingdon. The fourth aircraft, James' Hampden P2143 ran out of fuel and crashed near Andover. There were no survivors from P2143's four-man crew.

James came from Larkhall in South Lanarkshire and was the 28-year-old son of James and Agnes Brown. He is buried in Larkhall Cemetery (Div. 3. Sec. G. Grave 176). *Lower picture shows a detail of James' grave inscription.*



The others who died were pilot F/O Charles Pitman, second pilot F/O Richard Parker and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Peter Flanagan.

James' name can be found on IBCC panel 014

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command Losses 1939-40 by Bill Chorley.