

Sergeant Robert William Burdon Brown 1006781 RAFVR

Robert Brown was an observer who was killed when his Hampden bomber was shot down en-route to a raid on Cologne.

His aircraft, AT 156 EA-C of No. 49 Squadron, had left RAF Scampton shortly after midnight on 6 April 1942.



It was shot down at 14,500 feet over Belgium less than two hours later. The aircraft crashed at Roly, near Namur, with the pilot P/O David King DFM and air gunner Sgt. Stan Ainger parachuting to safety. The operation itself was Bomber Command's biggest 'single-target' raid thus far, involving 263 bombers, five of which were lost.

Robert was the 22-year-old son of Gerald and Marguerite Brown from the village of West Moors between Bournemouth and Poole. The other casualty was the wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. James Waddell; both are buried in Charleroi Cemetery (Row T. Grave 17).

Robert's name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/Bomber Command Losses 1942 by Bill Chorley/49 Squadron Association

