

## **Sgt John Royal Branton 564122 RAF**

John was born in 1913 in South Bank, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, the son of William Branton and Lydia Isabella Branton nee Royal.

John joined the RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice in 1930, and in December 1938 he commenced Observer training at No 1 Air Observer School, RAF North Coates. Following graduation in April 1939, he was posted onto 226 Sqn as an Air Observer and Fitter.

In September 1939, 226 Sqn was deployed to France as part of the Advanced Air Striking Force and was based in Reims.

On 7 April 1940, operational flying was cancelled and the squadron completed night flying bearing and cross country training. At 22:00, the pilot lost control of Battle I P2265 (MQ-B) and abandoned the aircraft near La Preve. The pilot successfully baled out and survived with minor injuries; however, John and the WOp/AG were killed.

Also killed : LAC Percy Kenyon Davies (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Eperney French National Cemetery, Chalons-sur-Marne, in 1964 John's remains were transferred to Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France.

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 135

Photo Source: <https://travellinginacampervan.wordpress.com>

