

Flt Sgt Thomas Clifford Davies DFM 580453 RAF

Thomas was born in 1919 in Pembrey, Camarthenshire, the son of Thomas John Davies and Mabel Clifford Davies nee Farr.

Educated at Llanelli Grammar School, Thomas was a veteran with 226 Sqn having served in France during the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940 before the Squadron was evacuated from Brest. The Squadron converted to Blenheims on their return, arriving at RAF Wattisham in May 1941.

Whilst serving in France, Thomas was awarded the DFM in a joint citation with his crew. The award was Gazetted in June 1940. The citation reads:

" Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. PO David Alexander Cummings CROOKS (40678). Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. 580453 Sgt Thomas Clifford DAVIES. 547790 LAC William Reginald John GREEN. During a day in May, 1940, PO Crooks carried out an extensive reconnaissance of the Amiens-Albert road with great determination and gallantry. At a low altitude, and under heavy fire from the ground, he bombed a large convoy of enemy armoured vehicles, obtaining direct hits with his bombs. Although his aircraft was hit by heavy pom-pom fire he succeeded in reaching his base. Sgt Davies, an air observer, has been a member of PO Crooks's crew on all missions, and has used his gun most effectively during low flying bombing attacks on convoys. He has also shown exceptional navigational ability under difficult conditions by day and night. As wireless operator, air gunner in PO Crooks's aircraft, LAC Green has displayed considerable gallantry in attacking ground targets from a low altitude with his rear gun. PO Crooks and his crew have shown initiative and exceptional devotion to duty in many missions undertaken by night and under adverse weather conditions. They have pressed home their attacks, invariably from low altitudes, in spite of enemy opposition from the ground and from the air".

On 4 July 1941, four squadron aircraft were tasked with an attack on Nordenay, Frisian Islands, Germany. Thomas, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham at 05:30 in Blenheim IV Z7291 (MQ). The attack was carried out as detailed, but the aircraft was hit by flak and the tail was shot away. The aircraft was seen to crash into the sea off Norderney.

Also killed : Wg Cdr Ralph George Hurst (Pilot); Flt Sgt Reginald William John Green DFM (WOp/AG)

Thomas is buried in the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany, his remains having been transferred from the Nordenay Cemetery, Frisian Islands in April 1947.

Thomas is commemorated on Wall Panel 153