

Flt Lt Alan Arthur Dilnot 37525 RAF

Alan was born in 1914 in Fulham, London, the only son of George Dilnot and Ethel Mary Dilnot nee Moore.

Alan joined the RAF as a direct entrant and was commissioned on a Short Service Commission in January 1936. Following pilot training at 8 FTS at RAF Montrose, Angus, Scotland, he was awarded his wings and was posted to 18 Sqn at RAF Birch Newton, Norfolk in August 1936.

At the outbreak of war, Alan was deployed with 18 Sqn from RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, to Beauvraines, France as part of the Air Component of the BEF.

At the beginning of October 1939, 18 Sqn were tasked with completing reconnaissance flights in three areas, extending as far North as Bremen. To be nearer to Germany, the squadron began sending crews on 48 hour tours of operational duties to the base at Metz, NE France. On 16 October, the squadron was moved to Méharicourt, Picardie, France.

At 13:15 on 30 October 1939, Alan and his crew departed Metz in Blenheim I L6694 (WV) tasked with a reconnaissance flight over the Siegfried Line. The Blenheim was shot down by Hptm Werner Mölders in a Bf.109 of 1./JG53, crashing near Malborn, 14 Miles NE of Trier, killing all on board.

Also Killed : Sgt Ewart Harrison Crellin (Observer); AC1 John Stanley Burrows (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Malborn Cemetery, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, in June 1948 Alan and his crew were transferred to the Cologne Southern Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Alan is commemorated on Wall Panel 155