## Sgt Ernest Marrows 522870 RAF



Ernest was born in 1917 in York, Yorkshire, the eldest son of Albert Ernest Marrows and Annis Marrows nee Linford.

Ernest joined the RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice in 1935, and by 1937 he was operating as an Air Bomber/Air Gunner with 102 Sqn. In December 1938 he commenced Observer training at No 1 Air Observer School, RAF North Coates, Lincolnshire.

Following graduation in April 1939, he was posted onto 98 Sqn, followed by a transfer to 226 Sqn when the squadron deployed to Reims, France as part of the Advanced Air Striking Force.

Following a period where very little action occurred, it was not until the 10 May 1940 when the German Panzer divisions burst through Luxembourg that the real war started.

By 10 June 1940 the situation had deteriorated with the AASF Squadrons in retreat, but they fought on to bomb columns of troops and bridges at Vernon and Rouen on the River Seine to try and stop the advance into Western France.

Ernest, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed Faux-Villecerf, Aube on Battle I P6598 (MQ) to attack the bridges at Vernon. Whilst in the target area, the Battle was shot down by Me109s from 4./JG3, crashing at St-Pierre-d'Autiles, 3km NW of Vernon killing all on board.

Also killed : FS Jack Alfred Russell (WOp/AG); Sgt Gerald Patrick McLoughlin (Pilot)

Ernest is buried in a collective grave with his crew in St Pierre-D'Autilis Communal Cemetery, Eure, France.

Ernest is commemorated on Wall Panel 204

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