

Sgt Frank Miller DFM 364705 RAF

Frank was born on 1 December 1908 in Morecambe, Lancashire, the son of Christopher Henry and Florence Miller (née Nelson).

Educated in Morecambe and Rochester, Kent, Frank joined the RAF in January 1924 as an Aircraft Apprentice on the 9th Entry, No. 2 School of Technical Training at RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire.

Frank graduated as a Fitter/Armourer in February 1925 and saw service in Karachi, India, with No. 5 Squadron on Army Air Co-operation duties on the North West Frontier. For his service in India he was awarded the IGSM.

By the outbreak of war, Frank had re-mustered and qualified as an observer with 18 Squadron. In September 1939 the squadron was mobilised as part of the Air Component of the BEF and arrived in Beauvraignes, France for operations. The squadron operated in France until they were withdrawn in May 1940 and relocated to RAF Watton, Norfolk.

Whilst operating with 18 Squadron in France, in March 1940 Frank was awarded the DFM "for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of Air Operations".

On 25 May 1940 Frank, operating as the observer, and the crew departed RAF Watton in Blenheim IV R3598 (WV-M) on a reconnaissance mission to Northern France, in the area of the Channel Ports. The aircraft was engaged by a Me109 flown by Fw. Erich Rudorffer of 2./JG2 and at 2035 hours the Blenheim crash landed at St Quentin-en-Tourmont, Somme, 35km WNW of Abbeville, killing Frank and the wireless operator/air gunner. The pilot, P/O Douglas Stewart Dickins, survived the crash and was taken as a POW.

Also killed was the wireless operator/air gunner Cpl. Benjamin Morgan Harding.

Frank is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, Plot 6. Row J. Joint grave 5.

Frank is commemorated on IBCC wall panel 212.