

Sgt Arthur Prince DFM 1166132 RAFVR

Arthur was born on 3 September 1920 in South Wingfield, Derbyshire, the youngest son of Joseph Rodgers Prince and Caroline Prince nee Bramley.

Educated locally, Arthur was employed as a clerk in a Birmingham paint works before joining the RAF in 1940 and training as a WOp/AG.

In May 1942, Arthur was awarded the DFM, his citation reading:

"As an air gunner, this airman has taken part in several sorties and has proved himself to be a zealous and most determined member of an aircraft crew. One day in March, 1942, he shot down 1 of 6 Focke Wolfe 190s which engaged a formation of our bombers detailed to attack Mazingarbe. On another occasion, in April, 1942, he took part in a bombing operation during which the formation was attacked by superior numbers of enemy fighters. Sergeant Prince used his guns effectively in repelling the attackers which were finally driven off. This airman has displayed a fine fighting spirit and set a splendid example in the face of enemy fire".

On 9 June 1942, 107 Sqn deployed 12 aircraft from RAF Great Massingham, Norfolk to RAF Exeter, Devon to participate in the Circus 9 raid on Lannion Airfield, Brittany with fighter escort provided by Spitfires from the Exeter (Czech) Wing.

In the early morning of the 10 June 1942, the 12 aircraft departed but were recalled at 09:07 due to poor weather. A second attempt was to be made when the weather improved. At 12:50 Arthur, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew took off from RAF Exeter in Boston III Z2283 (OM) together with 10 other Bostons. At 13:49, bombs were dropped on the airfield from 12,300 feet and photographs showed a successful strike across two dispersal areas containing many aircraft. On the return journey, when just 25 miles from the English coast, the aircraft were attacked by Me109s from 8/JG-2. Arthur's aircraft was hit and seen to crash in to the sea in flames, killing all on board.

Also killed : PO Thurstan Barns Skinner (Pilot); PO Lloyd Douglas Bowman RCAF (Observer); FS Alan Arthur Margrett RCAF (AG)

Arthur has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 228