PO Robert Arthur McLester Watson RAF

Robert, known as Bob, was born in 1914 in Northcote, Victoria, Australia, the son of Andrew Robert Watson and Alice Marie Watson nee Gunter.

Robert had served 18 months as a Pilot in the RAAF when, in July 1936, he departed Australia to enlist in the RAF.

On 21 August 1936 Robert enlisted in the RAF on a 5-year Short Service Commission and in September he was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire.

At 14:00 on 11 January 1937, Robert and his Air Gunner were the passengers flown from RAF Bicester to RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk in Boulton Paul Overstrand K4564 by another squadron pilot. The pilot was slated to remain at RAF Mildenhall and Robert, and his Air Gunner were to return to base in the aircraft.

At 15:35 Robert and his Air Gunner departed RAF Mildenhall on the return to RAF Bicester.

At 16:15 Robert flew into the ground in fog at Abovemede Farm, Swanbourne near Winslow, Buckinghamshire, killing both on board. The landowner reported that the fog developed quickly and thickly just after 16:00 and Robert probably descended to ascertain his position. Although a wireless was fitted in the aircraft, no communication was made before the crash.

Also killed: AC1 Lawrence Rice (AG)

Robert was cremated and his ashes were scattered over the crash site.

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected