# Clarence Fred Brown



Photo courtesy of Bill Berry



**Rank: -** Aircraftman 1st Class

**Number: -** 1018447

**Regiment: -** Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

**Died: -** 16 February 1943 Aged 30

**Cemetery: -** Bone War Cemetery, Algeria Plot 5, Row A, Grave 17

Clarence Fred was born on 27 Dec 1910, in Dewsbury, the son of Fred Vessey Brown and Louisa Edna Brown (nee Sadgroves who had married on 24 Feb 1908 at Holbeck, St Matthew and New Wortley, St John the Baptist. The couple had lost a son, Dyson 1909-1910. Bessie was born in 1921.

The family lived at 32, Low Lane, Birstall and Fred was a master butcher and Clarence followed his father's trade. On 21 May 1935 at Scholes Church, he married Jane (Jenny) Hodgson. The couple had two sons.

Clarence enlisted in 1939 and at the time of his death was serving as a butcher-cook with 81 Squadron, having landed in Algiers in Operation Torch on 12 November 1942. He was taken ill with a brain haemorrhage and died in hospital.

No.81, a fighter squadron, served in north Russia for few weeks in September-October 1941 before handing its Hurricanes to the Russian Navy and returning to the UK in November. Receiving Spitfires at Turnhouse, it became operational again on 1 February 1942. At the end of October 1942, the squadron left for Gibraltar to take part in the invasion of North Africa (Operation Torch) and on 8th November nineteen of its Spitfires moved into the newly captured airport at Algiers/Maison Blanche. Fighter cover for the 1st Army was provided throughout the campaign in Tunisia.

Clarence was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley, Batley War Memorial (Addenda) and Birstall War Memorial (Addenda).




Thanks to Bill Berry