William Haywood





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 630520

Regiment: - Royal Air Force, 22 Squadron

Died: - 11 February 1941

Cemetery: - Runnymede Memorial, Panel 44.

Batley News, 22 Feb 1941 (photo); 20 Dec 1941 (photo)

William (Bill) was born on 2 January 1915 the son of Charley and Ada Haywood nee Horton who had married on 21 September 1907. Mary Ellen was born in April 1909 and in 1915 the family lived at Queen Street, Gomersal and his Charley gave his occupation as an insurance agent. The family later moved to live at Cobbler Hill, Birstall.

William joined the R.A.F. in 1939 and had flown over every country occupied by Nazi Germany and bombed Berlin several times. He was promoted to Sergeant

in August 1940. A telegram reached his parents which stating:- " *Regret to inform you, your son 630520 Sergeant Haywood, reported missing 11 February. Letter follows."*

The letter arrived two days later and stated that Sergeant Haywood had flown over enemy territory. The aircraft had carried out its scheduled duties and the Sergeant had radioed that it was on its way back to England. The machine did not return, and it was not known whether it crashed as a result of damage or it was forced down by weather conditions. Sergeant Haywood's superiors expressed their sympathy with his parents. The popular young man was to have been married in March 1941 to a Leeds lady.

His cousin, Able- Seaman Joseph Haywood was reported missing on 11 December 1940 and another cousin Sergeant L. Eyre was an air gunner. At the time of his death No.22 Squadron were flying Beauforts from North Coates, Lincolnshire. (Thanks to Bill Berry)

William was awarded Air Crew Europe Star; 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley, Batley and Birstall War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group