

Presented to the *550 Squadron and North Killingholme Association* in recognition of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the RAF 550 Squadron and in memory of one of its Canadian Lancaster pilots

**RCAF F/L ARTHUR WILLIAM BROWNE, DFC**

Presented by his son, **Richard (Rick) Browne**  
at the **Annual 550 Squadron Reunion**  
July 6, 2013

**Flight Lieutenant Arthur William Browne, DFC**

- born November 18, 1921
- home - Hamilton, Ontario
- enlisted in RCAF in Hamilton, July 11, 1941, serial number J26970
- graduated from No. 5 Initial Training School (ITS), Belleville, Ontario November 7, 1941
- graduated from No. 9 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS), St. Catharines, Ontario January 2, 1942
- graduated from No. 6 Service Flying Training School (SFTS), Dunnville, Ontario April 24, 1942
- posted to No. 8 Bombing and Gunnery School (B&GS), Lethbridge, Alberta August 5, 1942
- at Lethbridge he may have flown Fairey Battles and Lysanders used as target drone tugs for gunnery practice
- commissioned Pilot Officer October 21, 1942
- assigned to No. 1 "Y" Depot at Halifax, Nova Scotia, to wait for passage overseas, November 12, 1943
- taken on strength of No. 3 Personnel Reception Centre (PRC), Bournemouth, England November 13, 1943
- the exact date of Art's arrival at Bournemouth is unknown - probably sometime in early 1944
- posted to No. 3 Advanced Flying Unit (AFU), South Cerney near Cirencester, Gloucestershire May /June 1944
- here he learned to pilot twin-engined aircraft training on Oxfords and Ansons
- sometime between January and August 1944 Art was promoted to the rank, Flying Officer
- posted to RAF No. 85 Operational Training Unit (OTU), Husband's Bosworth, Leicestershire September to November 29, 1944
- here his crew, minus the Flight Engineer, was formed and they learned to fly operationally on 2-engine Wellington bombers
- sometime between the end of November 1944 and February 1945 Art was promoted to the rank, Flight Lieutenant
- posted to RAF No. 1662 Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU), Blyton, Lincolnshire February 4 to March 2, 1945
- here he acquired a Flight Engineer, to form a crew of seven, and operational training on Lancasters was completed
- posted to an operational squadron, RAF 550, at North Killingholme, Lincolnshire March 4, 1945
- piloted his first operational mission (Op) to Hamburg, Germany March 31, 1945
- flew a total of seven Ops to various targets March 31 to April 18, 1945
- awarded an Immediate Distinguished Flying Cross for April 10/11 mission to Plauen, Germany
- flying Lancaster BQ-J, he lost one engine flying to the target, completed his bombing run over the target, with flak damage, and lost a second engine flying home and landed safely in England on two engines
- dropped food on the Netherlands as part of RAF **Operation Manna** April 29 to May 5, 1945
- flew two flights to Brussels, Belgium to pick up British ex-POW's May 10 and 11, 1945 (**Operation Exodus**)
- Art flew a total of fourteen missions (7 Ops, 5 Operation Manna, and 2 Operation Exodus)
- repatriated to Canada August 5, 1945
- released from service September 14, 1945
- re-joined the RCAF at No. 424 "City of Hamilton" Auxiliary Squadron, Mount Hope, Ontario November 1, 1950
- his rank was Flight Lieutenant and serial number J85187
- he was a flying instructor on DeHavilland Chipmunk aircraft
- the main operational plane at Mount Hope was the North American P-51D Mustang fighter
- he left the RCAF for good June 1, 1957
- Arthur William Browne died October 30, 1995