

RAF.42719 : Pilot Officer John Charles MALLON.

Parents : Mr & Mrs. A. MALLON of NEW PLYMOUTH.

John Mallon was born at Inglewood on the 14th September, 1916 and received his secondary education at New Plymouth Boy's High School attaining matriculation standard. The games he played were cricket, tennis and football. His civilian occupation was that of a motor engineer in the employ of Messrs. A. D. McNeil & Co., New Plymouth. In February 1938 he applied for enrolment in the Civil Reserve of Pilots and on being accepted was assigned to the Western Federated Flying Club, New Plymouth, for training. During the course of this training he was successful in gaining his "A" Flying License. He ~~was~~ ^{THEN} applied for a Short Service Commission in the Royal Air Force and on being provisionally selected, embarked on the "Rotorua" at Auckland on the 15th June 1939 to proceed to the United Kingdom.

On arriving in England he reported to Air Ministry where he was confirmed in his appointment to a Short Service Commission as a pilot officer, ~~for four years from the 24th July 1939 and was instructed~~ ~~to proceed~~ ^{HE} ~~on that day~~ to No. 8 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School, Reading, Berkshire, ^{for his} ~~This~~ preliminary flying training, completed, ~~he~~ was posted on the 18th September, 1939 to No. 3 Initial Training Wing, Hastings, for a short course in service procedure. Then on the 8th October his flying training was continued by his being posted to No. 10 Flying Training School, Tern Hill, Shropshire. Here, on the 1st December 1939 he was awarded his flying Badge. At the conclusion of his course he was posted on the 7th April, 1940 to No. 2 School of Army Co-operation, Old Sarum, Wiltshire. Early in May 1940, however, he proceeded to France on posting to No. 53 Squadron, part of the Advanced Air ~~Striking~~ ^{STRIKING} Force attached to the British Expeditionary Force. With this squadron from bases in France and from Lympne, Kent where the squadron moved on the 19th May he took part in forty-three operational flights comprising an attack on an enemy airfield in France, nine armed reconnaissance flights, twelve North Sea patrols, two shipping strikes, attacks on Le Havre, Dreux, Boulogne(3), Calais and Cherbourg in France, Bruges, Ostend (2), and Zeebrugge in Belgium; Ghent (2), Flushing (2) Vlaardingen, Rotterdam and Helder in Holland and Emden(2), in Germany.

From the second of the shipping strikes undertaken on the 8th October, 1940 against shipping at Gravelines, France, his aircraft failed to return to its base and all its crew was classified as missing. Later, information was received through the International Red Cross that Pilot Officer Mallon was a prisoner of war and wounded, but later still the International Red Cross reported that he had died of wounds and had been buried in Guines Cemetery ten miles south of Glais, France. No further news was received and after due time had elapsed his death was officially presumed to have occurred on the 11th October, 1940 as the result of air operations.

18/1/992 A.S.2.

382 hours as pilot.

Mrs.D.C.MALLON (M),

Bell Block,

NEW PLYMOUTH.