Eddie Hester BROWN (1922-1942)





R83258 Sergeant
E.H.BROWN

Air Gunner
Royal Canadian Air Force
214 Squadron, RAF

25th June 1942 Age 20

MY DARLING IS GONE
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN





Sgt. Eddie H. Brown,
Big Spring, Texas, U.S.A.

Eddie Hester Brown was an American citizen who was born at Loraine, Texas on 2 April 1922. He was educated at the high school and the Tyler Commercial College, Big Spring, Texas, USA where he resided before joining the Royal Canadian Air Force.

After training for a year in Canada he came to England late in 1941 and joined a fighter command as a pilot before transferring to a bomber from 214 (R.A.F.) Squadron which was based at RAF Stradishall.

With the stage set for a night bomber offensive with all its unknowns, RAF Stradishall truly entered the war when No.214 Squadron, a Wellington unit, arrived from Methwold in February 1940.

214 Squadron converted to the mighty Stirling at Stradishall in April/May 1942, and after only a few operations, flew on the first 1,000-bomber raid on Cologne on 30/31 May. Three Group Stirlings flew ahead of the main force successfully illuminating the target with incendiaries for the following bombers. Further operations were to all the main targets plus mine-laying sorties off the enemy coast.

On 25 June 1942 a small raid on St Nazaire was carried out by just 21 aircraft. Eddie Hester Brown's Mark I Stirling aircraft DJ973 BU-A took off from RAF Stradishall but turned back before reaching the target with engine problems and crashed at 03:49 while approaching base, coming down at Bears Farm, Hundon, 5 miles NW of Haverhill, Suffolk and less than 3 miles from their airfield.

Eddie Hester Brown died, aged 20 years, from injuries sustained in the crash. All the members of the crew were killed with the exception of Eddie. It is believed he died shortly afterwards.

He was buried in Haverhill cemetery, Suffolk, England, grave 194, section U.

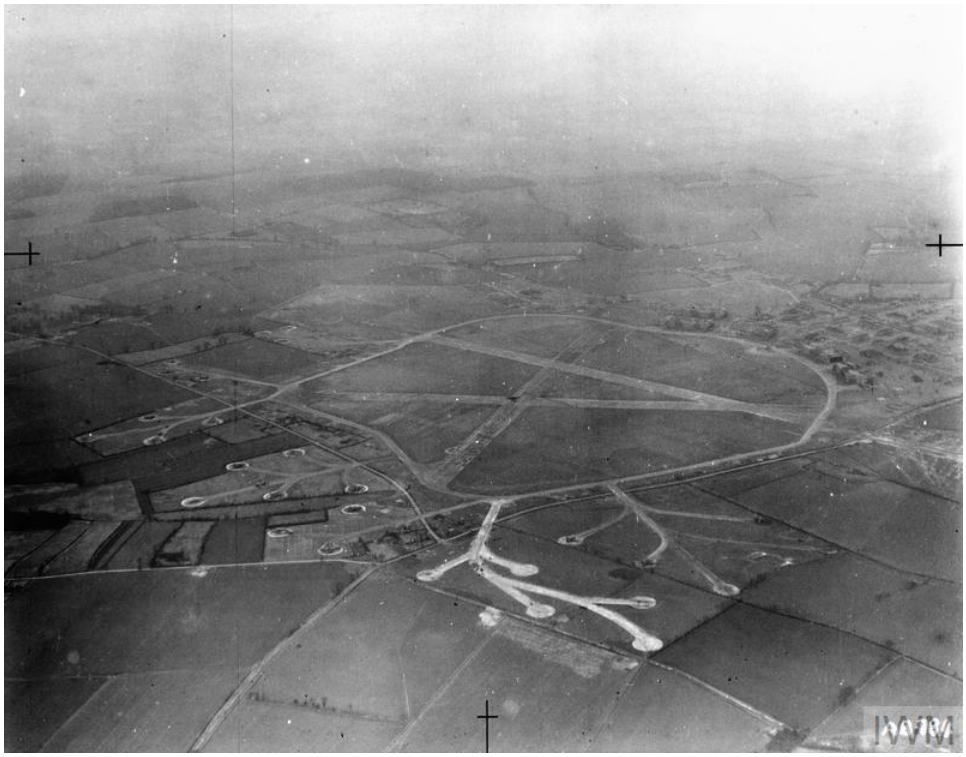
Sgt Brown was engaged to an English girl at the time of his death. He was survived by his parents in Big Spring, Texas, five brothers, Albert Brown of near Buenos Aires, Argentina; T J Brown serving with the marines at San Diego; Donald Brown, Sam Brown and Lloyd Brown of Big Spring and two sisters, Mrs R C DeChiccis, Midland, Texas and Ruby Brown from Fort Worth.

The other Crew members on board Stirling Mark I DJ973 BU-A were:
Sgt R B Appleby, Sgt Horace Sydney 'Chic' Barker, 646994, Flight Engineer, RAF, Sgt Peter Grenville Brothers, 1250057, Wireless Operator / Air Gunner, RAFVR, FS William Neilson Craig, 996848, Pilot, RAFVR, Sgt Gilbert James Mugford, 1265929, Observer, RAFVR, Sgt Douglas Edward Shrimpton, 1183690, Wireless Operator / Air Gunner, RAFVR.



214 Squadron Bomber under repair by Ground-Crew at RAF Stradishall c.1941/2

RAF Stradishall from the East South East.



Bears Farm, Valley Wash consisted of 150 acres, and was farmed by the Jolly family. It was sold in the early 50's to the Mizon Family. 20 Acres were sold to Mrs Richards and remaining land was farmed by the Mizon family. The house and 20 acres were sold to Major General Gregson. This is home to The Old Suffolk Stud where Derby winner 'Sir Percy' was born.

