

## Victor Donald MacMILLAN

**Born:** 1915

**Parents:** Son of Mr & Mrs J. MacMillan of Southdown Road, Bogor Regis

**School Years:** 1929-36

House – St Wilfred's

Oxford School Certificate 1932 – Passed with credit

Exempt from University of London Matriculation

Speech Day Prize – Spring 1933

School IX - Cricket

Sports Day – Senior Long Jump - Record

Association Football

Athletics - County Inter-Schools contest 1932

**Civilian Recreation:** Keen sportsman, he played cricket for Bognor Regis C.C. and football for the Town Club and Bognor Wednesday F.C.

Joined the Royal Air Force in 1936 and had a promising career.

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### Armed Forces Record

**Service Rank:** Sergeant Pilot

**Service Number:** 182213

**Service Record:** 206 Squadron

**Service Base:** Bircham Newton, Norfolk

**Date of Death:** 6 December 1939



*Avro Anson*

Sergeant VD MacMillan was the co-pilot/navigator to Pilot Officer JH Grimes (Captain, Pilot) on the fatal day on 6 December 1939, along with two rear crew – Air Gunners/Wireless Operators – Cpl H.J. Cockayne and LAC J.S. Bagley. Victor was the oldest at 24; the remaining crew were 20-21. Years. A very young team, but typical of that time. They were flying in an Avro Anson Mk1 side # K6189, Squadron letter VX-R, based at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk.

Both Ref 1 & 2 describes the loss as “Missing from the North Sea Patrol”. No particular cause is stated. However, Ref 3 is more precise, stating that the crew took off from Bircham at 0925 tasked

on a Reconnaissance operation to the Mass & Haaks Light-Vessels. At some point, during combat 70 miles north of Texel, they collided with an ME110 of II/ZG26 (Luftwaffe fighter Sqn.) which also crashed with the loss of its crew. [The Light Vessels off the Dutch Coast were believed to be rendezvous points for German U-boats.]

Although the Anson was not a fighter aircraft it was equipped with a rear gun turret and some had forward firing guns; in those early days of the war the crews had many tangles with German reconnaissance aircraft, usually floatplanes and seaplanes, so getting involved with a high-performance enemy like the ME110 was a rare and courageous feat

Typical tasks of the Bircham Newton-based Squadron were: air cover for the coastal convoys between Flamborough Head and Orfordness, anti-submarine sweeps to the enemy coastline. 'Kipper' Patrols protecting our fishing fleets, and all the while, every sortie, maintaining constant vigilance for the Royal Navy against any German Battle Fleet units.

*Derek Straw – 206 Squadron Association*

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Bognor Regis War Memorial

Runnymede