

Roger Edmund Lewis BOWERMAN RAFVR

Born: 7th December 1918 at Henfield Sussex
Parents: Son of Edmund and Ethel M. Bowerman of Bognor Regis
School Years: 1930 – 1936 Chichester High School for Boys
Oxford School Certificate 1934
Civilian Occupation: Sainsbury's in London 1937

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Sergeant (W.Op/Air Gnr)
Service Number: 909881
Service Record: Joined RAF 1940. Initial Training at Uxbridge/Wilmslow then round the Cape to Suez and onto North Africa to join 24 Squadron SAAF (South African Air Force)
Service Base: Desert 'Landing Ground' No. 130 (one of the 251)
Date of Death: 10 December 1941

'Boston' Mk. III Code Z2170 aircraft took off at 10.25 hours on 10th December 1941 from Landing Ground 130 (in the Libyan desert) with five others to attack German positions. It was shot down east of Bir-Hakeim in Libya on-route to its target by BF 109 (Fw Franz Elles of 2/JD27) and exploded on hitting the ground. Two of its crew were buried at Kingsbridge War Cemetery with one missing and one injured.

Provided by Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Recovery Group

2/JD27 – German fighter wing providing air cover for its Afrikakorps Army

BF 109 – Messerschmitt: Fw 'Feldwebel' (NCO)

Squadron No.24 South African Air Force assigned six 'Bostons' for the raid; five were lost but there were some survivors from all the aircraft. Sadly Roger Bowerman did not survive.

Old Boy Roger Edmund Lewis BOWERMAN was buried at Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Al Butnan, Libya – Plot 8.G.16

Commemorated Chichester High School for Boys – Chichester War Memorial

The Douglas 'Boston' entered service in North Africa 14th November 1941. At first, it was used on unescorted reconnaissance missions in small groups but suffered heavy losses inflicted by JD27 German Fighter Wing. It was withdrawn but later flew with fighter protection.



'Boston' IIIs patrolling over Tunisia North Africa 1943

Boston Mark III Code Z2170

Lost 10th December 1941

Pilot Lt G Genis SAAF – Killed

Nav. Lt D McPherson SAAF – Injured

Sgt. R.E.L. Bowerman RAF – Killed

Sgt. D.C.M. Ross RAF – Killed



A 'Boston' III crew leaving their aircraft on a 'landing ground' somewhere in the Libyan Desert

No 24 Squad Squadron (SAAF) was formed in March 1941 and equipped with twenty-four DB-7 'Boston'/P70 aircraft designed for light bombing/reconnaissance roles. Another version the A20 'Havoc' was produced principally for a night role. A total of 7,473 were manufactured. In North Africa, they were assigned to operate mostly from desert 'landing grounds.'