



Flt Sgt Arnold George Smith D.F.M

R.A.F Service : 1939 – 1942

49 Squadron

106 Squadron

Failed to return 31 July 1942

Bombing raid over Dusseldorf

Lancaster R5604

No known grave remembered at the Runnymede Memorial

Flt Sgt Arnold George Smith D.F.M

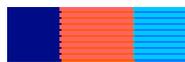


Flt Sgt Arnold George Smith

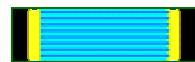
Medals Awarded



Distinguished
Flying
Medal



1939 – 1945
Star



Air Crew
Europe Star



1939 - 1945
War Medal

The Distinguished Flying Medal Register : Second World War

SMITH, Arnold George. 651289 Sergeant, No.49 Sqn.

L.G. 21/11/1941. Sorties 31, Flying hours 202. W.Op/Air Gnr. Air2/9334.

Sergeant Smith has completed 202 hours operational flying, involving 31 flights over enemy or enemy occupied territory. During these flights, a variety of targets was attacked including Berlin, Bremen, Mannheim etc. Sergeant Smith has flown with a number of Captains and it is significant that his work in the air has been frequently mentioned in the Captains' personal experience reports. The following are instances:-

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28/3/41. | Düsseldorf | "Wireless excellent throughout the whole trip. Loop bearings and homing beacons were found particularly useful". |
| 30/3/41. | Mining | "Wireless excellent." |
| 13/5/41. | Mannheim | "Wireless aids used to rectify error in navigation due to wind". |
| 26/5/41 | Brest
Mining | "Wireless Operator deserves all praise for a magnificent piece of work. We obtained bearings, fixes and many Q.D.M.'s without which the trip would probably have ended in disaster". |
| 11/6/41 | Brest | "The 21 loop bearings obtained were extremely useful". |

On the night of 23rd June, 1941, when on a sortie against Bremen, the aircraft in which Sergeant Smith was flying was caught in searchlights over the Frisian Islands. Sergeant Smith observed an enemy fighter closing in to attack. Having held his fire until it was well within range, he fired 200 rounds into the enemy aircraft which was observed by all members of the crew to break up and fall in flames. Throughout his tour of duty with the squadron, Sergeant Smith has shown exceptional keenness for operational flying and great skill and determination in the execution of his duties. His excellent example has had a most beneficial effect on the other N.C.O.s in the squadron.

651289 Sergeant Arnold George Smith, No.49 Squadron, Royal Air Force

LG 21.11.41

Sorties 31

Flying Hours 202

Wireless Op/Air Gunner

Air2/9334

Sergeant Smith has completed 202 hours operational flying, involving 31 flights over enemy or enemy occupied territory. During these flights, a variety of targets were attacked including Berlin, Bremen, Mannheim etc. Sergeant Smith has flown with a number of captains and it is significant that his work in the air has been frequently mentioned in the captains personal experience reports. The following are instances:

28.3.41 Dusseldorf 'Wireless excellent throughout the whole trip. Loop bearings and homing beacons were found particularly useful'

30.3.41 Mining 'Wireless excellent'

13.5.41 Mannheim 'Wireless aids used to rectify error in navigation due to wind'

26.5.41 Brest/Mining 'Wireless Operator deserves all praise for a magnificent piece of work. We obtained bearings, fixes and many Q.D.M.'s without which the trip would probably have ended in disaster'

11.6.41 Brest 'The 21 loop bearings obtained were extremely useful'

On the night of 23rd June, 1941, when on a sortie against Bremen, the aircraft in which Sergeant Smith was flying was caught in searchlights over the Frisian Islands. Sergeant Smith observed an enemy fighter closing in to attack. Having held his fire until it was well within range, he fired 200 rounds into the aircraft which was observed by all members of the crew to break up and fall in flames. Throughout his tour of duty with the Squadron, Sergeant Smith has shown exceptional keenness for operational flying and great skill and determination in the execution of his duties. His excellent example has had a most beneficial effect on the other NCO's in the Squadron.

30th September 1941.

The London Gazette:

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 21 NOVEMBER, 1941 6705

Air Ministry,
21st November, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

Distinguished Flying Medal.

651289 Sergeant Arnold George SMITH, No. 49 Squadron

F/sgt. A.G.SMITH DFM W/OP – AIR GUNNER

49 SQUADRON 1940/41

OPERATIONS.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hampden Aircraft</u>	<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Duty</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Flying Times</u>
28/12/40	X3060	F/O Fisher	A/G	Operations (Returned)	0020
01/01/41	P4304	F/O Fisher	2 nd W/OP	Bombing Bremen	0700
12/01/41	AD 719	F/O Fisher	2 nd W/OP	Bombing Wilhelmshaven	0550
07/02/41	P1176	P/O Bowden	W/OP	Bombing Channel Ports	0400
25/02/41	AD 792	P/O Bowden	W/OP	Bombing Dusseldorf	0555
12/03/41	AD 792	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Hamburg	0715
17/03/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Bremen	0620
21/03/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Lorient	0650
23/03/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Kiel	0710
27/03/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bobing Dusseldorf	0545
30/03/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Gardening Brest	0650
09/04/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Blitz on Berlin	0905
12/04/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Gardening Brest	0540
14/04/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Brest	0630
17/04/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Berlin	0920
12/05/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Mannerheim	0820
16/05/41	?	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Bombing Cologne	0800
25/05/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Gardening Brest **	0800
** returning from raid had to divert to Boscombe Down – landed at Upper Heyford					
26/05/41	AD 805	SGT. Merralls	W/OP	Returned to base from Upper Heyford	0030
27/05/41	AD 792	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Gardening Brest (returned engine trouble)	
10/06/41	AD 805	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Bombing Brest	0540
12/06/41	AD 856	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Bombing Hamm	0555
13/06/41	AD 805	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Bombing Brest	0610
16/06/41	AD 805	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Operations (Returned)	0400
18/06/41	AD 805	P/O Cooke	W/OP	Bombed Cuxhaven	0645
22/06/41	X 3060	F/O Hirons	W/OP	Fresian Islands (1ME 109)	0430
03/07/41	AD 744	P/O Kerridge	W/OP	Bombing Bremen	0700
05/07/41	AE 203	P/O Kerridge	W/OP	Bombing Osnabruk	0620
06/07/41	AD 980	P/O Kerridge	W/OP	Bombing Brest	0715
08/07/41	AD 909	P/O Kerridge	W/OP	Bombing Hamm	0650
14/07/41	AD 980	P/O Harvey	W/OP	Gardenng (Heligoland)	0620
16/07/41	AD 744	P/O Harvey	W/OP	Bombing Hamburg	0730

6/08/41 – 09/01/42 Training Wing W/OP at RAF Cottesmore.

10/01/42 – 28/01/42 Training C/Landings (Manchester Aircraft) at RAF Bircotes.

106 SQUADRON RAF CONIGSBY 20/02/42.

<u>Manchester Aircraft</u>					
28/03/42	7394	W/O Merralls	1 st W/T	Blitz on Lubeck	7hrs
01/04/42	7498	W/O Merralls	1 st W/Tel	R.Gironde – Mining	9hrs 15 mins
06/04/42	7418	W/O Merralls	1 st W/Tel	Cologne – landed Dettling	5hrs 40 mins
12/04/42	7418	W/O Merralls	1 st W/Tel	Operations Essen	7hrs 20mins
15/04/42	7418	W/O Merralls	1 st W/Tel	Operations Dortmund	6hrs 10mins
28/04/42	7434	W/O Merralls	1 st W/Tel	Ops off Feamarn – Mining	7hrs 45mins
08/05/42	7376	W/O Merralls	1 st W/T	Operations Warnemunde	8hrs 05mins
<u>Lancaster Aircraft</u>					
31/05/42	R5845	W/O Merralls	1 st W/T	Operations Cologne (1000)	5hrs 40mins
02/06/42	R5845	W/O Merralls	1 st W/T	Operations Essen (1000)	3hrs
31/07/42	R5604	W/O Merralls	W/T Op	Bombing Desseldorf (Failed to return)	

DEATH PRESUMED

1 / 8 / 42

NO KNOWN GRAVE.

Flt Sgt Arnold George Smith DFM

Posted in: November 1940
Rank: Flt Sgt
Trade: W/Op, AG,
Promoted: To F/S between 4-8th April 1942
Award: DFM Gazetted
Posted Out: To 14 O.T.U.

Operational Debriefs:

28-12-40 Lorient
Hampden P4403 Fisher. Hirons. Smith Palmer. Did not take off.

01-01-41 Bremen
1645. 10 detailed for oil refinery on N.W.Outskirts of Bremen
P 4304 Fisher. Hirons. Smith. Palmer. 1650-2350. Landed at Alconbury.

11/12-01-41 Wilhelmshaven
AD 719 Fisher. Hirons. Smith Graham. 0130-0740. 10/10ths all the way to the target.
Fired at by enemy a/c 30 miles from English coast. Bombed flak concentration.

07-02-41 Channel Ports
1500. 12 stand by to attack shipping & barges.
Photographic reconnaissance to be carried out. 12 took off 2045-2130. 8 bombed target area. successfully. 1 did not see results & 3 successfully bombed alternative targets. Vis: was good - conditions favourable.
P 1176 Bowden. Davies. Bourne. Smith. 2120-0130. Last resort target Ostend attacked. Photographs taken on bombing run and in a run from the opposite direction.

25-02-41 Dusseldorf
11 detailed for a German town - primary D69 - no alternative.
11 airborne. None succeeded in locating target due to cloud.
2 returned to base - 1 with oil pressure high & 1 with W/T failure. 1 landed at Wyton with W/T failure. 8 bombed. flak & searchlight concentrations.
AD 792 Bowden. Flint. Mossop. Sgt Smith. 1835-0025.

12-03-41 Hamburg
1500. 12 for objectives in Berlin & Hamburg. In the latter the primary target is shipyards - alternative point B as briefed.
AD 792. Merralls. Smith. Hutt. Atkinson- 1915-0225. Shallow dive made from 10,000ft to 6,500ft & bombed.

17-03-41 Bremen
1600 12 for shipbuilding yards - primary target G R 3586 alternative Bremen

21/22-03-41 Submarine pens at Lorient
AD 805 Merralls. Scorer. Smith. Allen. 1823-0027. Submarines located by pin point - shallow dive to 4000 ft bombed with stick of 8 on docks & wharf buildings.
Landed at Bassingbourne.

23/24-03-41 Kiel
1600. 6 for causing maximum damage at Kiel. Primary area B. No alternative. Usual reconnaissance to be carried out by photography. 6 took off between 1909-1915 returning 0135-0255. Four were successful.
AD 805 Merralls. Scorer. Smith. Allen. 1915-0250 O.K.

27/28-03-41 Dusseldorf
AD 805 Merralls. Scorer. Smith. Allen. 1935-0100. Bombed Dusseldorf

30/31-03-41 Gardening – Brest
AD 805 Merralls. Allison. Smith. Newall. 1905-0150. Veg: planted and bombs released on Lauvex-Pourbrie drome at 3000 ft.

09/10-04-41 Berlin
All 12 a/c airborne between 2025 & 2050. 11 were successful in attacking the target. The unsuccessful one bombed & hit marshalling yards at Schonburg.
AD 805 Merralls. Scorer. Smith. Allen. 2047-0550. Glide from 14000 ft to 11000 ft spoilt by intense flak & s/lights but rly station & yards bombed at Schonburg.

12/13-04-41 Gardening – Brest
AD 805 Merralls. Scorer. Smith. Allen. 0045-0620. Planted in jellyfish

14/15-04-41 Brest
AD 805 Merralls. Allison. Smith. Allen. 1940-0140. Bombed flak believed to be coming from the cruisers.*
* *Scharnhorst & Gneisenau*

17/18-04-41 Berlin
AD 805 Merralls. McMahon. Smith. Allen. 2034-0545. Bombed centre of city. Searchlight belt intense from Ruhr to Bremen.

12/13-05-41 Mannheim
1100 15 to destroy chemical factory at Mannheim
AD 805 Merralls, Benningfield. Smith. Allen. Bombed after 1/2 hour

16/17-05-41 Cologne
AD 805 Merralls. McCallum Smith. Allen. Via Aldeburg to Koln. Got pin points on Rhine from flares of other a/c. Bombed on glide from 6000 ft.

25/26-05-41 Gardening – Brest
AD 805 Merralls. McCallum. Smith. Allen. Poor trip navigationally - bad weather necessitating frequent wireless assistance. Searched for 2 hours - unable to fix. Load returned & landed Upper Heyford

27/28-05-41 Gardening - Brest
AD 729 Cooke. McCallum. Smith. Allen. After leaving England boost gauge flickered from -1/2 to -2 1/2 engine cut twice in five minutes. Abnormal showers of sparks came from top of cowl & exhaust. Returned.

10/1-06-41 Brest
1050. 14 detailed for Scharnhorst & Gneisenau at Brest & 3 to lay mines in area Gorse. Photographic reconnaissance. 13 bombing a/c took off & 3 gardeners between 2240 & 2310. All were successful in bombing the estimated target but in many cases the results could not be observed owing to ground haze or smoke screens. Photographs successful. Flak appeared to come from the cruisers was of a light nature.
AD 744 Cooke. Smith. McCallum. Thomson. 30 mins in area - unable to identify ships Bombed as estimated.

12/13-06-41 Hamm
AD 856 Cooke. Stuart. Smith. Thomson. On reaching Hamm saw ME I09 coming in from stbd. Bombed. Hamm as another 109 was seen some distance away.

13/14-06-41 Brest
1000. 14 for Scharnhorst & Gneisenau at Brest. All airborne 2230 - 2313 - 10/10ths cloud over England, thinner over target area. All crews located the target & bombed either the ships or the dock area. Results were obscure owing to haze & necessary evasive action due to intense flak. Photo flashes successful
AD 805 Cooke. Stuart. Smith. Thomson.

16/17-06-41 Cologne

1000. 14 for bombing Cologne

AD 805 Cooke. Benningfield. Smith Thomson. Difficulty with oil temperature so bombed Ostend & had hang up of 5001b bomb which failed to jettison.

18/19-06-41 Bremen

1030. 13 for bombing on Bremen - no alternative.

14 only took off at intervals commencing 2230. 12 claimed successes.

Of the other two, one bombed flak in the area & the other returned with bombs after losing time trying to locate the area.. Ground haze made the locating of the target difficult in many cases. Several were only able to estimate the target but bursts were seen by all of these.

AD 805 Cooke. Benningfield. Smith. Thomson. – bombed Cuxhaven (Smith log).

22/23-06-41 Bremen

1000. 14 for. Bremen - 2 to carry camera. Alternative 'C' as briefed. Last resort. Semo/Mopa. 13 Only airborne - 2230-2300 & in view of ground haze all had difficulty in locating the primary target. 10 crews therefore estimated the concentration of flak & bombed that. 5 saw bursts consequent upon bombing but results were generally obscured. 1 crew bombed a flare path & another encountered an enemy plane - released it's bombs on the Friesian islands & shot down the enemy.

X 3060 Hiron. King. Smith. Evans. Picked up by s/lights over the Friesians & a/c seen below. Decided to drop bomb on the island then fired 200 rounds at the a/c which broke up & fell in flames.

03/04-07-41 Bremen

AD 744 Kerridge. Sanderson. Smith. Hodgkinson. 2240-0530. Searched Bremen. Bremerhaven & Wilhelmshaven but was unable to locate owing to cloud so brought bombs back.

05/06-07-41 Osnabruck

AE 203 Kerridge. Saunderson. Smith. Hodgkinson. 2325-0535. Huge fire seen a short distance to the south just before ETA. Thought to be Osnabrook but later thought to be a dummy. Bombs aimed at light flak further east & 2 bursts seen. Subsequent navigation seemed to prove that Osnabrook was attacked.

06/07-07-41 Brest

AD 980 EA-V Kerridge. Sanderson. Smith.Hodgkinson. 2325-0535. Glide attack having pin pointed the river. Saw the dock which was bombed from 7500 ft. Huge burst seen. Held in s/light cone on return journey & subjected to heavy gun fire.

08/09-07-41 Hamm

AD 909 Kerridge. Sanderson. Smith. Hodgkinson. 2310-0555. Reached Hamm by flak concentration & investigated this for some time. Recognising the river Lippe & canal, bombed from 11000 ft t saw bursts in centre of yard. Fire broke out.

14/15-07-41 Gardening – Heligoland

AD 980 Harvey. Bow. Smith. Mossop.J. Vegetable planted in DR position

16/17-07-41 Hamburg

1005 12 for Hamburg (factories x warehouses) alternatively, the town of Wilhelmshaven as specified. Cameras to maximum capacity.

2250 11 a/c airborne at intervals. 4 successful in bombing the main target & 5 the alternative targets. Of the two unsuccessful a/c, one jettisoned its' load owing to drop in oil pressure. The other returned the bombs as cloud obscured the targets.

2 were attacked by enemy fighters and after evasive action, avoided these in cloud. Several crews saw bursts in the area.

AD 744 Harvey. Stead. Smith. A. Tansley. Bombed. Hamburg.

Differences:

1. 28-12-40 Different a/c
2. 17-03-41 I don't have this crew on record for this op.
3. 18-06-41 Target Bremen not found – bombed Cuxhaven

Flt Sgt Arnold George Smith DFM

