

David Henry Davis enlisted in the RAF as a Halton Apprentice of the 17th Entry in January 1928 with the service number 562061 and the rank of A.A (Aircraft Apprentice). He trained as an air gunner.

He was posted to 60 Squadron in Kohat, serving four years with the unit and was awarded a Mention in Despatches for services in air operations in Waziristan, January 17 to September 15, 1937. The award was given 18 February 1938.

In January 1939 David was awarded an AFM. The recommendation read as follows:

*'This Corporal Air Gunner has been largely responsible for the high efficiency maintained by his Flight. He is an exceptionally good Bomb-Aimer and has proved himself to be a very good Navigator. He has twice been employed as an Air Gunner on Singapore Reinforcement Flights. He has completed 1,255 hours of excellent and most conscientious flying as an Air Gunner. In addition, this Airman took a prominent part in blockage operations and spent long hours of work in the air over inhospitable country where a forced landing would have had disastrous results, and under hostile rifle fire. As Leading Air Gunner in his Flight, he has also been largely responsible for the accuracy of attacks during punitive bombing.'*

The AFM was followed by a second Mention in Despatches: *'DAVIS, David Henry, Corporal, AFM (562061) - Mention in Despatches - awarded as per London Gazette dated 17 October 1939. Reported in Flight, 16 November 1939. "For valuable services rendered in connection with the operations in Waziristan during the period 16th December 1937 to 31st December 1938.'*

On return to England he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in May 1940 with the service number 44271 and was posted to 59 Squadron flying in Blenheim aircraft. The squadron transferred to Coastal Command in July 1940, operating against enemy ports. He participated in many photographic and sorties prior to fall of France and was recommended for a decoration which did not go through.

His Jewish chaplaincy card states: *'He attended many functions for Jewish personnel between 1928 and 1939 both at home and abroad'*.

Remarks by Group Commander: *'His work in peace and semi war time operations on the Frontier has been of a very high order. His cheerfulness and hard work under the most trying conditions has been a prominent factor in the efficiency of his flight'*.

On 1 August 1940, Blenheim MK4, L8792 took off from RAF Thorney Island, Sussex at 15.00. After reports of enemy aircraft over the Channel at Cherbourg, 59 squadron were ordered to bomb the Luftwaffe airfield at Querqueville with 236 Squadron acting as escorts.

L8792 was shot down killing all three crew:

Pilot, Wing Commander Reginald Gilbert Squarey Morgan-Weld-Smith, 05224, age 29, buried St. Pierre-en-Port Communal Cemetery.

W/Op/Air Gunner, Sgt Peter Pryde, 551852, age 19, buried Veules-les-Roses Communal Cemetery.

David is buried at St. Valery-en-Caux Franco British Cemetery

In 2000, David's medals were offered for sale by Spink auctions and included the AFM, India General Service Medal 1908-1935 with Clasp Northwest Frontier 1935, India General Service Medal 1936-1939 with Clasp Northwest Frontier 1936-37, Oakleaf for Mention in Despatches, 1939-1945 Star, Atlantic Star, War Medal 1939-1945.