

RAAF FATALITIES IN SECOND WORLD WAR AMONG
RAAF PERSONNEL SERVING ON ATTACHMENT
IN ROYAL AIR FORCE SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT UNITS

414734 Flying Officerf SMITH, Milton Frederick DFC

Source:

AWM 237 (65) NAA : A705, 166/38/574 Commonwealth War Graves records
W R Chorley : RAF Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War, 1939-1947,
Page 118, Volume 8.

Aircraft Type:	Stirling
Serial number:	EP 209
Radio call sign:	TV – H
Unit:	1660 Conversion RAF

Summary:

On the 17th June 1944, Stirling EP209 took off from RAF Swinderby on a non-operational flight to practice circuits & landings and three engine flying. The aircraft crashed at 0345 hours near Stapleford, 10 miles south west from Lincoln, after taking violent evasive action to avoid a mid-air collision.

The aircraft had completed two circuits and landings and took off for the third time. The Captain decided to demonstrate 3 engine flying, as detailed, and as a consequence the starboard outer was feathered. At this stage some member of the crew called out a warning of an aircraft nearby. FO Smith (Instructor) took control and made a steep turn to the right with an engine on the starboard side out of action, which resulted in temporary loss of control with the aircraft probably diving, and as a result it hit some trees and crashed.

A Court of inquiry into the accident concluded : “That it was safe to assume that the aircraft did a steep turn in order to avoid a collision.”

Crew:

RAAF	414734 FO Smith, M F DFC (Instructor Pilot)	Killed
RAF	Flt Sgt F A Martin, (Pupil Pilot)	Killed
RAF	Sgt J Stabler, (1 st Flight Engineer)	Killed
RAF	Sgt J Totten, (2 nd Flight Engineer)	Injured*
RAF	Flt Sgt R H Turrell, DFM (Staff Engineer)	Killed
RAF	Flt Sgt R L Wade, (Navigator)	Injured*
RCAF	Flt Sgt H W R Tufts, (Air Bomber)	Killed
RAF	Sgt E E Allen, (Wireless Operator Air)	Injured
RAF	Sgt D F Cook, (Mid Upper Gunner)	Injured
RAF	Sgt D G Smith, (Rear Gunner)	Injured

* Died of their injuries

FO Smith is buried in the Cambridge City cemetery, Cambridgeshire, UK.

Flt Sgt Tufts is buried in the Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery, Yorkshire, UK.

Flt Sgt Martin is buried in the Lanreath (St Marnarch) Churchyard, UK.

Sgt Stabler is buried in the Shildon Cemetery, UK.

Sgt Totten is buried in the Lisburn Cemetery, UK.

Flt Sgt Turrell is buried in the Paignton Cemetery, UK.

Flt Sgt Wade is buried in the Warley Congregational Cemetery, UK.

Citation :

The Citation for the DFC awarded to the then PO Smith of 97 Sqn RAF is that of a General Citation promulgated in the London Gazette of 30/6/1944, Page 3090