



## **Alfred Astle, DFC Pilot Officer 177562, Royal Air Force**



Alfred Astle was born in Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire on the 24th December 1914. He was the son of Arthur and Clara Kate Astle.

The 1939 Register Records his mother as a widow living at 5 Salmonsbury Cottages, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

Alfred joined the Wiltshire Police Force and is recorded in the 1939 Register as living at the Police Station, Eastcott Road, Swindon. He is serving as a Police Constable and is unmarried.

Alfred joined the Royal Air Force in May 1941 and served as Pilot Officer 177562 with 156 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In the September Quarter of 1941 Alfred married Dulcie Seager. The marriage was registered in the Swindon Registration District.

He was recorded as killed on operations on 24th September 1944 after having been posted as missing.

A news report was published with reference to Alfred being missing. It reads:

### **BOURTON AIRMAN MISSING**

News has been received by Mrs. C. Astle, of Salmondsbury Cottages, Bourton-on-the-Water, that her youngest son, Pilot Officer Alfred Astle, has been reported missing when taking part in operations.

Alfred, who is aged 29 years was educated at Westwood's Grammar School.

In 1941, he married Miss D. Seager, of Swindon, and before joining the R.A. F., in that year, he was a member of the Wiltshire Constabulary.

He was a keen sportsman and at the close of one sports season he was awarded the Chief Constable of Wiltshire's cup for winning the most athletic events.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2018/Teresa Lewis

**Gloucestershire Echo, 2 October 1944**

Alfred has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Coopers Hill, Englefield, Surrey - Grave/Memorial Reference - Pane 210.. He is also commemorated on the Wiltshire Constabulary War Memorial, Police Headquarters, London Road, Devizes and on the War Memorial, Main Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire



Runnymede Memorial



Bourton on the Water War Memorial & WWII Panel

In 1946 a further newspaper article was published. It reads:

**Posthumous Award**

The news has recently been received by Mrs. C. Astle of Salmondsbury Cottages, Bourton-on-the Water, that her youngest son, Pilot Officer Alfred Astle, of Bomber Command Pathfinders has been posthumously awarded the DFC.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2018/Teresa Lewis

The citation, announcing the award to date from September 23, 1944, states that Pilot Officer Astle, R.A.F.V.R., No. 156 Squadron, completed numerous operations against the enemy as navigator, in the course of which he displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty. He was reported missing in October, 1944

### **Fine Athlete**

Pilot Officer Astle who was educated at Westwood's Grammar School, Northleach, was before his enlistment in the R.A.F. in May 1941, a well known member of the Wiltshire Constabulary.

He was a fine athlete and won many prizes, cups and medals.

His widow, who resides in Swindon, has been asked to visit Buckingham Palace to receive the decoration at an Investiture.

**Gloucestershire Echo, 23 February 1946**