

## **AIR VICE-MARSHAL HARRY GEORGE SMART CBE OBE DFC AFC (1905-07)**

He was born on 28 June 1891.

During WW1 he served in the Honorary Artillery Company and then the Royal Flying Corps where I suspect he was awarded the Air Force Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was awarded the OBE in 1922.

Following the end of WW1 he remained in the RAF and by the start of WW2 had risen to the rank of Air Vice-Marshal. He was appointed Commander of British Forces in Iraq on 26 October 1939 and during his time in command fought to keep Iraq in Allied hands. For a detailed description of this conflict and his role in it, see the article [here](#)



Sadly Air Vice-Marshal Smart suffered a breakdown on 6 May 1941, at the end of this conflict. This was also partly brought on after his staff car was forced into a ditch following an Iraqi bombing attack on camp. It is interesting to note that his replacement as Commander in Iraq was another OF [\*\*Air Marshal Sir John Henry D'Albiac KBE CB DSO \(1908-10\)\*\*](#).

He was awarded the CBE in 1941 and ended WW2 as Air Officer Commanding a group in Coastal Command. He was also awarded the Grand Officer of Order of Phoenix of Greece.