

## **SQUADRON LEADER CHARLES DAVID RASH DFC AND BAR (1932-35)**

He was born on 5 December 1918.

On leaving the College, he went to the Midland Agricultural College at Sutton Bonnington. However, in 1938 sensing war was imminent he trained as a Pilot/Engineer at Sywell RAF training unit and joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve as a Pilot Officer. At the outbreak of WW2 he was called up to serve in Bomber Command (115 Squadron) at Marham flying Wellingtons from where he did a tour of duty and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on 7 March 1941 "For gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations."

He was then posted to the Middle East, Cairo and Greece from where he flew on a sortie to Iraq where Germans were gaining access to oil well. They were shot down in the desert, bashed on the head by Iraqis and taken prisoner for a month until released by Allied forces, flown to Cairo and returned to the UK by sea.

He had severe headaches and a depressed fracture of the skull and was grounded for a year when he served as Armament/Mess Officer at Hulavington FTS. He then returned to Bomber Command flying Lancasters on sorties deep into Europe attacking V1, V2 and blockbuster installations. Later during the Normandy invasion he engaged in low level flying over targets in France etc for which he received a Bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross on 13 October 1944 "In recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy" and the rank of Squadron Leader.

At the end of WW2 he returned to farming at Hall Farm, Felbrigg, where he raised a fine herd of Hereford and Red Poll cattle. At 70 he retired with his wife to Madeira where he spent 12 happy years restructuring 2 old neglected houses. He died in 2000.

For a period of time he lived in Felmingham Hall in North Walsham, Norfolk and there is a Charles Rash Close in the village – see mention at

<http://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/content/northnorfolknews/everything/northwalsham/NWdirectory.pdf>