

## War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

### World War II 1939-1945

#### Sergeant Derek Rudyard Davis (1919-1941) 944253 60<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Royal Air Force (Voluntary Reserve) RAFVR died aged 22



Derek was born on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1919 to parents Horace Brandon and Alice Gertrude Davis (née Endall) of Erdington, Birmingham.

By 1939 Derek was working as a bank clerk at the Birmingham Municipal Bank where his father was a branch manager, At that time he was registered as living with his parents and younger sister Maureen at 127 Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham.

Derek was attached to the 60<sup>th</sup> Squadron (SAAF) which operated in East Africa and the Mediterranean. The squadron was initially equipped with the Avro Anson aircraft, in July 1941 it moved to Heliopolis, North Eastern Cairo, Egypt, and converted to the Martin Maryland aircraft. The new aircraft were used on reconnaissance missions over hostile territory in North Africa and for photographic surveys of Allied areas.

A Maryland (AH365) allocated to 60<sup>th</sup> Squadron did not return from a photo reconnaissance sortie in Egypt. The crew, Major Samuel BF Scott SAAF, Air Corporal Horace NV Hawke SAAF, and William Virgo RAFVR and Derek were all missing presumed to have suffered fatal injuries on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1941. Derek and the crew are remembered at Alamein Memorial, El Alamein, Matruh, Egypt. Derek is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich. Probate dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 records Derek of 'The Wakes', Old Chester Road, Castle Bromwich died on war service.



*Martin Maryland*

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