

Flying Officer Harold Morrey Selwyn RAF
51 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Service Number 39575
Aged 22

Flying Officer Harold Morrey Selwyn RAF (39575) was a pilot with 78 Squadron in 1939 but the 51 Squadron records for this loss, listing him as being a second pilot/bomb aimer on his final flight.

Harold was an orphan from age 8 years, and attended Christ's Hospital School (1927-1936), Horsham, West Sussex, England, United Kingdom.

On the night of 2nd / 3rd July 1940 the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mark V (P4972) aircraft (twin engine night bomber) flew on an operation to Hamm (Northeast Germany) with a last resort target being Waalhaven aerodrome (Rotterdam).

During the course of the night the crew were flying over, what they believed, was a dummy airfield when the pilot had to take violent evasive action to avoid a collision with another aircraft, the Whitley went into a spin. The Captain believing that he had lost control ordered the crew to abandon the aircraft. F/Off H M Selwyn baled out but control was then regained and the order to bale out was cancelled. The remaining four crew flew the aircraft back to Dishforth and landed safely. F/Off Selwyn was recorded as missing believed prisoner of war.

Subsequent, extensive enquiries revealed no trace of his body. There is no known grave for F/Off Selwyn so is commemorated within Gods Acre Cemetery, Corfe Castle by his family.



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