



## Casualty of WWII

### Pilot Officer, Alfred Astle, DFC

| Surname                               | Given Names   | Rank                              | Number    | Regiment                          | Attachment       | Date of Death    |                      | Age at Death |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|
|                                       |               |                                   |           |                                   |                  | Year             | Date                 |              |       |
| Astle                                 | Alfred        | Pilot Officer                     | 177562    | Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve | 156 Squadron     | 1944             | 24th September       | 29           |       |
| Date of Birth                         |               |                                   |           |                                   |                  |                  |                      |              |       |
| Date of Birth                         |               | Place of Birth                    | Father    |                                   | Mother           |                  | Baptised             |              |       |
| Year                                  | Date          |                                   | Surname   | Given Names                       | Maiden Name      | Given Names      | Year                 | Date         | Place |
| 1914                                  | 24th December | Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire | Astle     | Arthur                            | Lane             | Clara Kate       |                      |              |       |
| Census Information                    |               |                                   |           |                                   |                  |                  |                      |              |       |
| Year                                  | Surname       | Given Names                       | Status    | Age                               | Occupation       | Place of Birth   | Relationship to Head |              |       |
| Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire |               |                                   |           |                                   |                  |                  |                      |              |       |
| 1921                                  | Astle         | Clara                             | Married   | 53                                | School Cleaner   | Marnhull, Dorset | Head                 |              |       |
|                                       | Astle         | Ruby                              | Unmarried | 21                                | General Domestic | Bourton-on-the-  | Daughter             |              |       |

|  |                |                |              |             |                         | Servant   | Water,<br>Gloucestershire                    |          |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|--|----------|
|  | Astle          | Phyllis        | Unmarried    |             | 16                      | Grocers Assistant at<br>Gilbert & Sons<br>Grocers     | Bourton-on-the-<br>Water,<br>Gloucestershire | Daughter |
|  | Astle          | Vincent        |              |             | 14                      | Errand Boy for<br>Sherbourne &<br>Tarbrother, Butcher | Bourton-on-the-<br>Water,<br>Gloucestershire | Son      |
|  | Astle          | Alfred         |              |             | 6                       |   | Bourton-on-the-<br>Water,<br>Gloucestershire | Son      |
| <b>Police Station, Eastcott Road, Swindon</b>  |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| <b>1939<br/>Register</b>   | Astle          | Alfred         | Unmarried    |             |                         | Police Constable,<br>Wiltshire<br>Constabulary        |  |          |
| <b>Military Service Record</b>   |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| <b>Enlistment Details</b>  |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| Year   | Date           | Place          | Age          |             |                         | Trade   | Religion                                     |          |
|  |                |                | Years        | Months      | Days                    |   |  |          |
| 1941   | May            |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| <b>Physical Description</b>  |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| Height   |                | Complexion     | Eye Colour   | Hair Colour | Distinguishing<br>Marks |   |  |          |
| Feet   | Inches         |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
|  |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| Attached to Bomber Command Pathfinders   |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| In 1946 it was announced that Alfred's widow had been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive her husband's posthumous DFC award. The award was dated to 23rd September 1941 |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| <b>Next of Kin</b>   |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| Surname  | Given<br>Names | Status         | Relationship | Abode       |                         |   |  |          |
| Astle  | Dulcie         | Widow          | Wife         | Swindon     |                         |   |  |          |
| <b>Details of Death</b>  |                |                |              |             |                         |   |  |          |
| Date of Death  | Cause of       | Theatre of War | Ships Name   |             | War Gratuity Paid       |   |  |          |

| Year   | Date | Death |  |  | Year | Date | £                   | s. | d. | Recipient |
|--|------|-------|--|--|------|------|---------------------|----|----|-----------|
| <b>Grave Location</b>  |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| <b>Cemetery</b>  |      |       |  |  |      |      | <b>Plot Number</b>  |    |    |           |
| No Known Grave   |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| <b>War Memorials and Commemorations</b>  |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| <b>Memorial Name and Location</b>  |      |       |  |  |      |      | <b>Panel Number</b> |    |    |           |
| Runnymede Memorial, Coopers Hill, Englefield, Surrey   |      |       |  |  |      |      | Panel 210           |    |    |           |
| Wiltshire Constabulary War Memorial, Police Headquarters, London Road, Devizes                                       |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| War Memorial, Main Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire   |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| <b>Other Significant Information</b>   |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| His mother was a widow by 1939 living at 5 Salmonsbury Cottages, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire               |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |
| Alfred married Dulcie Seager in the September Quarter of 1941 and is registered in the Swindon Registration District |      |       |  |  |      |      |                     |    |    |           |



Bourton on the Water War Memorial & WWII Panel



Runnymede Memorial

## Newspaper Reports

### 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.

**Gloucestershire Echo, 2 October 1944**

### 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.

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**