

= Ernest Melville Charles Guest =

Ernest Melville Charles Guest DFC (May 1920 ? 4 October 1943) was a Southern Rhodesian Royal Air Force pilot of the Second World War . He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1942 having flown more than 1 @, @ 000 operational hours . Posted to South Africa as a flight navigation instructor , he was unhappy and got himself transferred back to England on operational duties . He soon went missing in October 1943 after taking on six Ju 88s while on an anti @-@ submarine sortie .

= = Early life = =

Ernest ' Melville ' Guest was born in Salisbury , Southern Rhodesia , in May 1920 , one of the twin sons of Ernest Lucas Guest , a prominent Rhodesian politician . Before the outbreak of the Second World War , he was nominated by the Governor of Southern Rhodesia to be a Royal Air Force cadet at RAF College , Cranwell . He was granted a permanent commission as Pilot Officer in the General Duties Branch on 9 October 1939 .

= = Career = =

Shortly after he passed out of Cranwell , he returned home on leave to attend the wedding of his elder sister , Gwen , and a telegram addressed to him was included by mistake in the congratulatory telegrams read out at the reception . It read : " Return to England immediately and report to Air Ministry " . He was posted to No. 206 Squadron RAF and flew a number of sorties over enemy territory . When Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands , along with Crown Princess Juliana and other members of the Dutch Royal Family fled to England in May 1940 aboard the British destroyer HMS Hereward , Guest was in the air escort that accompanied her to safety .

He was promoted to Flying Officer on 9 October 1940 and then Flight Lieutenant on 9 October 1941 .

In the meantime , he was posted to the Gambia in June 1941 with No. 200 Squadron RAF , which was formed from a section of No. 206 Squadron . Later , he transferred to 61 Air School at George , Cape Province , South Africa , as a navigation instructor . He was unhappy at George and soon sought to return to operational duty .

Guest returned to England and joined No. 53 Squadron RAF in 1943 , flying B @-@ 24 Liberator bombers from RAF Thorney Island on anti @-@ submarine patrols over the Bay of Biscay . Soon after arriving in England , on 4 October 1943 , his and another aircraft were sent out on patrol . They were attacked by six Ju 88s . The other aircraft sought the protection of the clouds but Guest decided to fight it out . He did not return . He was pronounced missing in January 1944 .

= = Honours = =

As well as two Mentions in Despatches , he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1942 :
" This officer has now completed over 1 @, @ 000 hours operational flying . His qualities of endurance are phenomenal , his ability as a pilot is exceptional , and his devotion to duty is of the highest order . All his work has been done quietly and efficiently . He has set an excellent example to the younger pilots of the Squadron . "

= = Family = =

Guest married Katherine Mary Hustler of Pannal , Yorkshire in Knaresborough in 1941 . A few weeks after his death on 4 October 1943 , she gave birth to their son , Melville , on 18 November .