

Flight Lieutenant

From Anna Barnett



This is a photo of the great grandfather of Isabel Barnett (5W Belleville school), Flight Lieutenant Ronald West. He flew reconnaissance planes in the Second World War.

In this photo he is standing by a Mustang plane. The stripes on the aircraft are D Day invasion stripes, painted so Allies would recognise the aircraft as being on their side and so they would not get shot at.

Flt Lt West was in photo reconnaissance and his photos could be used to target attacks precisely. It could be extremely dangerous as he had to fly on a straight steady course for photographic purposes, but he was often attacked by flak. He was awarded the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) for bravery in action - awarded April 1945 just before the end of the war.