

Stanley P. Bengé

Stanley P. Bengé, officially reported missing, joined the R.A.F. in 1941, became sergeant-navigator and eventually pilot-officer, navigating first a Beaufighter and finally a Mosquito on night-fighting operations. His wife has received letters from the famous night-fighter pilot, the then Wing-Commander John Cunningham, in whose squadron he was serving.

He became a member of the B.A.A. in 1928, and was also a Fellow of the R.A.S. He was a man of wide accomplishments, a born conductor, conducting choirs for seven years, and an excellent modeller in clay. He worked for a time at the London University Observatory, and built his own observatory at home, where he was chiefly interested in astronomical photography.

His exceptional fitness of body and his knowledge of astronomy helped him to serve his country in the active rôle of navigator in a night fighter, and it was whilst serving in this capacity that he was brought down in combat over the sea on 1943 October 8, three weeks before his fortieth birthday.