

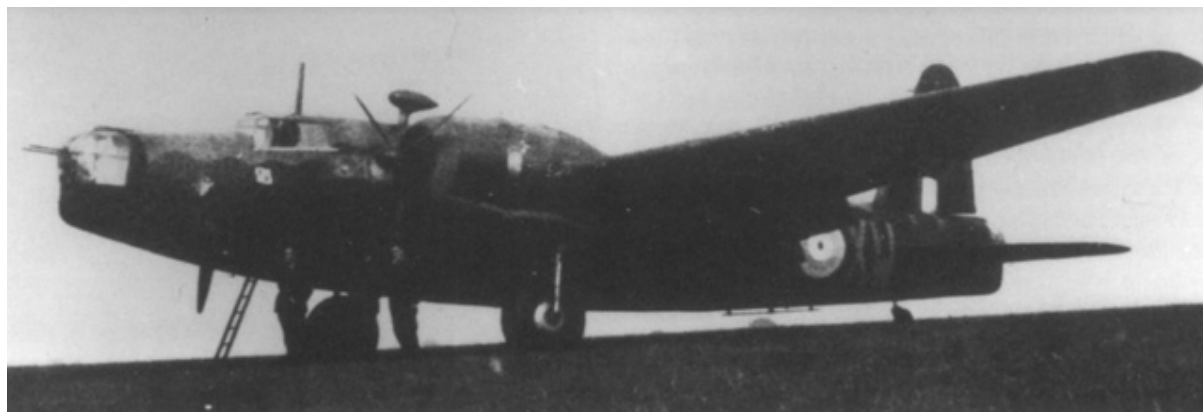
## **Sgt. Bernard Thomas Abbott 903090 RAFVR**

Bernard was the son of Thomas Frederick and Edith May Abbott of Barkham, Berkshire.

He was a Wireless Operator serving with 18 O.T.U. at RAF Bramcote, Warwickshire.

Wellington IC R1298 took off from Bramcote airfield on 4 February 1941 on a daytime training mission. It was during this navigation exercise that the crew strayed off track. At approx. 1250 hours the Wellington flew into a barrage balloon cable, which had been protecting the Rolls Royce aero engine factory; the aircraft had also been fired on by the Rolls Royce Home Guard anti-aircraft gunners. It crashed, and burned out, in the area of Church Minshull, 4 miles SW of Middlewich, Cheshire, killing the crew of 10. To date, this was the highest death toll in a single OTU accident; four instructors, plus the six Polish aircrew who were under training. Two local policemen were awarded the B.E.M. for their gallant conduct whilst attempting to rescue the crew members.

The crew's names were added to Bradfield Green War Memorial, in a ceremony in June 2016.



Bernard is buried, with his parents, at Sonning (St. Andrew) Churchyard, Berkshire. S.E. Corner. The epitaph reads "O true brave heart. God bless thee". He was 20 years old.

His name is included on the Arborfield Cross War Memorial, and also on the Scouts Roll of Honour.

Sgt. Bernard Thomas Abbott (killed)

Sgt. Victor Clarence Hill (killed)

Sgt. Henryk Rafal Kwiatowski PAF (killed)

Sgt. Jan Piotr Orynek PAF (killed)

F/O David Warburton (killed)

Sgt. Walter Lionel Gosden RNZAF (killed)

Sgt. Ludwik Jachna PAF (killed)

F/O Andrzej Minkiewicz PAF (killed)

WO Zbigniew Jan Perkowski PAF (killed)

Sgt. Stefan Joachim Wojciechowski PAF (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 1

Photo courtesy of [www.aircrewremembered.com](http://www.aircrewremembered.com)