

**Sgt. Reginald Stephen Anderson 1280773**  
**RAFVR**

Reg Anderson, who was reckoned to be one of the finest amateur footballers of his era, was killed in a 106 Squadron Hampden that was shot down during a mining operation in 1942.

He was an England Amateur international, scoring a hat-trick on his debut, and played for Dulwich Hamlet, one of the best amateur teams in the country. He also turned down the chance of a professional football career with Cardiff City to return to a job as a teacher in the Dulwich area of London where he was born and grew up.

He was born in Peckham, not far from the Dulwich ground, and attended Wilson's Grammar School, playing for the school team and later the Old Boys. He joined Dulwich Hamlet, made his first-team debut at the age of 18 and was part of the 1937 Dulwich team that won the FA Amateur Cup, beating Leyton 2-0 in front of 33,000 spectators at West Ham's Upton Park ground.

He made his England debut soon afterwards, scoring a hat-trick in his first match in an 8-2 drubbing of Wales. He was then offered the chance to play professionally with Cardiff but, after one match, decided he would rather play as an amateur and continue his job in London.

Reg, who was the son of William and Eileen Anderson, later joined the RAF and, after training as an observer, was posted to 106 Squadron at RAF Coningsby.

On the night of 24 February 1942 he was part of the crew of Hampden I P4323, which left Coningsby at 0200 hours, one of six from the squadron that joined a force of 23 minelaying Hampdens tasked with dropping their mines off Wilhelmshaven and Heligoland. His aircraft was reported to have been shot down off the island of Sylt. All four bodies were later recovered and are now buried in Kiel War Cemetery. Reg was 25 at the time of his death.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Stan Kent, who also came from Dulwich, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Albert Blake and air gunner Sgt. Stan McLeod.

His name appears on panel 002.

Photographic source: *Southwark News*.

