

Sgt. Charles Black
1125069 RAFVR

Former soldier Charles Black was a Wellington rear gunner who was killed along with his crew when their bomber crashed in Kattegat near Denmark and Sweden.



He was part of the crew of Wellington Z8538 PH-0 which was taking part in a raid on Flensburg on the night of 18/19 August 1942. It was an operation which marked the debut of Bomber Command's new Pathfinder Force.

Charles' Wellington had taken off from RAF Binbrook in Lincolnshire at 2035 hours, and was later believed to have come down in the sea. The bodies of two of his crewmates washed ashore in Sweden, while Charles' was later found on Lild Sands in Denmark. He is now buried in Frederikshavn Cemetery (Allied Plot grave 24).

Charles came from Liverpool and was the 29-year-old son of Patrick and Elizabeth Black. He had served in the Cheshire Regiment before switching to the RAFVR, training as an air gunner in Bomber Command.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Douglas Rowe, observer Flt. Sgt. Robert Ritchie and wireless operator/air gunners Sgt. Leslie Graves and Sgt. John Sharp.

Charles' name can be found on IBCC panel 009.

Sources: Aircraft over Denmark/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt.