

Sergeant Charles John Harvey Blunt 1167740 RAFVR

Charles Blunt was born on 9 December 1920, the elder son of Charles William Lockhart and Lilian Blunt, of Goudhurst, Kent, and brother of Robin.

He was a pilot serving with No. 455 (Australian) Squadron, based at RAF Swinderby, Lincolnshire. The Squadron had the distinction of being "the first Australian squadron to bomb Germany".

His Handley Page Hampden I AE430 UB-M took off from Swinderby airfield at 1652 hours on 30 November 1941, on a night mission to attack the Blohm & Voss shipbuilding yards at Hamburg. Five aircraft from the squadron took part in the raid, and two of these, including AE430, failed to return. The aircraft was coned by marine-flak searchlights, then hit by flak. It lost a large part of its right-hand wing and crashed into a meadow, in the vicinity of Tuttendorf, near Kiel. Sadly, all on board were killed.



Charles is buried at Kiel War Cemetery, Germany, coll. grave 2. A. 19-20. The epitaph reads "Requiescant in pace". He was just 20 years old.

He is also remembered on the Kilndown War Memorial, Kent.

Charles' crew were:

Sgt. Arthur Henry Gee RAFVR
Sgt. Leslie George Manning RAFVR
Sgt. Ernest Waller RAFVR

He is commemorated on IBCC Panel 10

Photo courtesy of www.wikipedia.org