

Flt. Lt. Peter Thorne Candler MiD 77270 RAFVR

Peter Candler, the son of Cecil George and Annie Eliza Candler (née Jones) was born on 6 December 1915. He was listed as missing in action on 30 May 1942, aged 26.

Before the start of WWII Peter was living in Barrow Hill Terrace, Ashford, Kent and worked as a Clerk for Kent County Council.

He joined the RAFVR in 1939 and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer 7 January 1940. On 7 March 1941 Peter was promoted to the war substantive rank of Flying Officer. On 7 January 1942 he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant, and mentioned in despatches on 11 June 1942.



on

Peter joined 22 OTU on 13 January 1942 as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner. Here he crewed up with P/O Melvin Johnson (Pilot), P/O Walter Gregory (Observer/Bomb Aimer), Sgt. Frederick Thornton (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) and Sgt. Kellar (Air Gunner). The crew was posted to 142 Squadron on 13 May 1942. However, they didn't fly an operational sortie together as a crew.

P/O Johnson and Sgt. Kellar were replaced by Sgt. Noel Lowden and Sgt. Lawrence Mallon respectively for their fateful mission to Cologne on 30 May 1942. They flew Wellington Z1208 QT-S that night on the first 1,000 bomber raid on Cologne, codenamed 'Operation Millenium'. Z1208 was one of two 142 squadron aircraft that did not return, although the exact fate of Z1208 is unclear. All 5 members of the crew are buried at Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany.

Peter had a street named in his honour - Peter Candler Way on the Little Burton Farm Estate, Kennington. He is also remembered on the Ashford, Kent Civic War Memorial.

Peter is commemorated on Panel 17.

Sources

www.kentfallen.com
www.ancestry.co.uk
www.thegazette.co.uk

Picture

Rogerjones256 – Ancestry.co.uk