

FS Maxwell Chambers Patterson 143824

Maxwell was born on 3 April 1915 in Hawick, Roxburghshire, the eldest son of James Chambers Patterson and Charlotte Brown Patterson nee Mann. In 1941 he married Betty Dudfield in Boston, Lincolnshire.

Educated at Hawick High School, Maxwell was employed with Paton and Baldwins Textile Merchants before he moved to Boston, Lincolnshire to join the Boston Police.

Whilst serving as a policeman, Maxwell volunteered for aircrew duties and was called up for pilot training in September 1941.

In January 1944 Maxwell was attached to 101 Sqn at RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire to complete his 2nd Dickie trips. This was his first op on the squadron.

On the night of the 14 January 1944, 498 aircraft, with twenty provided by 101 Sqn, were dispatched for the first major raid to Brunswick, Germany, of the war. Brunswick was a smaller than usual target for Bomber Command and the raid was not a success. The Luftwaffe tracked the force when it was still only 40 miles from the Lincolnshire coast and fell among the bomber stream with deadly effect downing 38 Lancasters, three of which were from 101 Sqn with the loss of 24 men.

Between 16:30 and 17:10 the 101 Sqn Lancasters departed RAF Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire en-route to Brunswick. Maxwell, operating as 2nd Pilot, and the crew were flying Lancaster III DV287 (SR-N).

At 18:30, whilst outbound, Maxwell's aircraft was intercepted at 19,500 ft by Oblt Martin Drewes of the 11./NJG 1 flying a Lichtenstein-equipped Bf 110 from Leeuwarden airfield. Using the deadly 20mm "Schrage Muzik" upward firing cannon to deadly effect, the Lancaster's port wing and fuselage was set alight. Maxwell's aircraft was seen to descend and explode just above the ground near the Dutch border village of Klazienaveen, killing 8 of the 9 man crew. The navigator managed to bale out and evade capture with the assistance of the Dutch resistance.

Also Killed: PO Joseph Walter Slater (Pilot); PO Stanley Ernest Watchorn (AB); FS John Francis Stafford (AG/SDO); Sgt Peter Mitchell (WOp/AG); Sgt George Thomas McLatchie (AG); Sgt Leonard Easdon (AG); Sgt Arthur William Louis Schneider (FE)

Maxwell is buried in Emmen (Nieuw Dordrecht) General Cemetery, Drenthe, Netherlands

Maxwell is commemorated on Wall Panel 83

Photo Source: Findagrave

