

Sgt. William Thomas Warren 1318039 RAFVR

William was born on 4 November 1923 in Maidenhead, Berkshire, the son of Winifred Ethel Warren. He was the stepson of Edward James Carpenter. William was employed as a fitter in the motor industry when he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAF.

Trained as an Air Gunner, in November 1942 William was posted to 101 Squadron at RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Yorkshire.

On the night of 6/7 December 1942 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on vital railway sidings near Mannheim, Germany. Of a combined force of 272 aircraft, 101 Squadron contributed five crews.

At 1739 hours on 6 December William, operating as one of the Air Gunners, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding-Moor in Lancaster I ED322 (SR-T).

Returning from the mission in the early hours of 7 December 1942, William's aircraft was 300 miles off course from base over the Pembrokeshire Coast, Wales. Whilst attempting to land at RAF Carew Cheriton, 5 miles NW of Tenby, Pembrokeshire, the aircraft crashed into the sea in Camarthen Bay, off Tenby, killing all on board.

The raid was a dismal failure with the loss of 15 aircraft. The target area was completely covered in cloud and only 500 incendiary bombs and some leaflets were dropped. The only damage to the city was the destruction by fire of an old wooden building, whilst a local farmer lost 25 sheep, 4 lambs, some turnips and a hay barn. There were no casualties in Mannheim or the railway sidings but a total of 55 aircrew were killed, 3 were taken POW, and a further 10 injured.

Also Killed: P/O Howard Earl Dabbs DFC RCAF (Pilot); F/Sgt. Leonard Roy Anderson RCAF (Nav); F/Sgt. Robert Gordon Smith RCAF (AB); F/Sgt. Stefan Franchuk RCAF (AG); F/Sgt. Robert John Middleton RCAF (WOp); Sgt. James Hughes (FE).

William has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey.

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 112.