

P/O Ralph Whitelock 121732 RAFVR

Ralph Whitelock was the navigator of a 103 Squadron Halifax shot down into the North Sea as it returned from a raid on Germany.

He was part of the crew of Halifax II W1189 PM-E that had left RAF Elsham Wolds at 1912 hours on the evening of 6 October 1942. They took part in what proved to be a successful and accurate raid on the town of Osnabruck.



On the return leg the Halifax had just crossed the Dutch coast off Ameland when it was attacked by a night fighter flown by Oblt. Herman Greiner, crashing into the North Sea at 2327 hours. Only two bodies were ever recovered and the rest of the crew, including Ralph, are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His service number suggests he joined the RAF at the same time as the bomb-aimer, P/O Arthur Richards, who came from Penarth in Glamorgan.

Killed with him were the pilot Sgt. Jim Porter, flight engineer Sgt. Philip Butcher, bomb-aimer P/O Arthur Richards, wireless operator F/O Brian King, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Richard Carson and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Benedict Hardesty RCAF, one of two Canadian brothers killed in 1942 whilst flying with 103 Squadron.

Ralph is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial and his name can be found on IBCC panel 115.

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association.