

Flt Sgt Wilfred Barham 755880 RAFVR

Wilfred was born on 2 April 1918 in Barnsley, West Yorkshire, son of George Barham and Gertrude Barham nee Gilleghan. He married Doris Green in his native Yorkshire in 1941. Before joining the RAF and training as a WOp/AirGunner, Wilfred was employed as a painter & decorator.

Wilfred had completed one tour on Wellingtons before joining this new Stirling crew as a Bomb Aimer. They were on their 2nd Operation together when they were killed.

Stirling Bomber N3761 BU-E, one of 8 aircraft from 214 Sqn, took off from RAF Stradishall, Suffolk as part of a mixed bomber force of 233 aircraft, the first large raid on Emden, Germany since November 1941. This was the only aircraft from the Sqn that failed to return.

Weather over the target was generally good with a slight haze, enabling the target to be identified by the docks and the Estuary. The Stirlings attacked Emden between 01:05 and 01:45 from between 13000 and 15000 feet, dropping bombs and incendiaries.

The Crews reported good bombing results at the de-briefings and this was confirmed later by photo reconnaissance. Confirmed reports from Emden stated that approx 300 houses were destroyed with 200 seriously damaged, and that 17 people were killed and 49 injured. Unspecified damage occurred in the docks area.

The aircraft was shot down by night fighter pilot Oberleutnant Egmont Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld of the 5./NJG 2 - (claim) over the North Sea West of Terschelling at 01:47. There were no survivors.

Also killed were :

Flt Lt Reginald William Arthur Turtle (Pilot), Sgt Allan Randall Scott (Flight Engineer), PO Leonard Treppass (Observer), Flt Lt Norman Harrison (Navigator) , PO John Barry Holdsworth (WOp/Air Gunner), PO Barrie Phillip Cardinal (Air Gunner), PO Edward Michael Marks RCAF (Air Gunner)

Wilfred is buried at the Terschelling (West Terschelling) General Cemetery, Friesland, Netherlands, his body having been washed up on the shore at Terschelling on 10 June 1942.

Wilfred is commemorated on Wall Panel 126