

FO Charlie Bellis 39847 RAF

Charlie was born on 5 August 1915 in Holt, Denbighshire, Wales, the eldest son of Charles Bellis and Elizabeth Ellen Bellis nee Grainger.

Joining the RAF in 1937, Charlie completed his pilot training on the 8th Regular Initial Training Course at RAF Sywell, Northamptonshire in June 1937 with the award of his wings, and was appointed to a Short Service Commission.

As part of the Air Component of the BEF and equipped with Blenheims, the start of the war saw 18 Sqn provide aerial reconnaissance over France. The squadron suffered heavy losses in their attempts to stem the German advance before being withdrawn to the UK in May 1940.

At 20:30 on 11 May 1940 Charlie and the crew departed Méharicourt, Picardie, France in Blenheim IV L8861 (WV) tasked with a low-level reconnaissance over the Albert Canal.

At 21:15, probably as a result of flak and/or ground fire, the aircraft crashed near Kanne, 14 km ENE of Tongeren Belgium, killing all on board.

Also Killed : Sgt Horace David Welch (Observer); LAC Kenneth Parry (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Kanne Churchyard, Belgium, in January 1967 Charlie and his crew were transferred to the Cement House Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Charlie is commemorated on Wall Panel 129

Photo Source: IBCC

