

PO Robert Francis Egerton Bennett 62299 RAFVR

Robert was born on 30 September 1920 in Esher, Surrey, the son of Major Robert Harley Egerton Bennett MC MiD and Dorothy Mary Bennett nee Lowe.

Educated at Malvern College, he was employed as a Chartered Accountant before he entered the RAF after the outbreak of war and trained as an Observer. He was commissioned from Sgt in February 1941.

On 6 September 1941, six Blenheims of 226 Sqn, together with six of 110 Sqn were tasked with an anti-shipping operation. At 11:30, Robert, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV Z7312 (MQ-N).

On Beat North, 110 Sqn saw no shipping and returned to base. Whilst on Beat South, 226 Sqn encountered a convoy about 4 miles West of The Hague consisting of a heavily laden merchant vessel escorted by three flak ships. One flak ship of 800 tons was seen to blow up, and the merchant vessel was enveloped in smoke.

During the operation Robert's aircraft, together with one other from the squadron, was seen to crash into the North Sea off Scheveningen, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland.

Also killed : Flt Lt Clarence Edward Charles Haggitt (Pilot); FO Charles Douglas Ramsay (WOp/AG)

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

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel 130