

PO William Smith Blackadder 134028 RAFVR

William was born in 1921 in Dennistoun, Glasgow, Scotland, the son of John and Maggie Liddel Blackadder. In May 1942 he married Rita Mary Cameron in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Educated at Whitehills School, Dennistoun, William joined the RAF and trained as a WOp/AG. In May 1942 he was posted to 18 Sqn at RAF Wattisham, Suffolk from 17 OTU and was granted a commission in July 1942.

On 23 July eight squadron crews were tasked with Night Intruder Operations against the airfields of Vechta, St Trond, Twente and Venlo.

At 22:45 William, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV Z7428 (WV), their target was Vechta.

At 01:46 William's aircraft was intercepted by Lt Hans-Joachim Witzleb of the I./NJG 3 flying a Bf110 from Vechta Airfield. The Blenheim crashed in the Dreiecks Moor swamps to the east of Vechta killing all on board.

Also killed : Flt Lt Fred Martyn Thorne (Pilot); PO Bryan Manssen Cook RNZAF (Observer)

Originally buried in the Russian POW Cemetery, Vechta, 50km SW of Bremen, in September 1947 William was re-interred in the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany

William is commemorated on Wall Panel 131