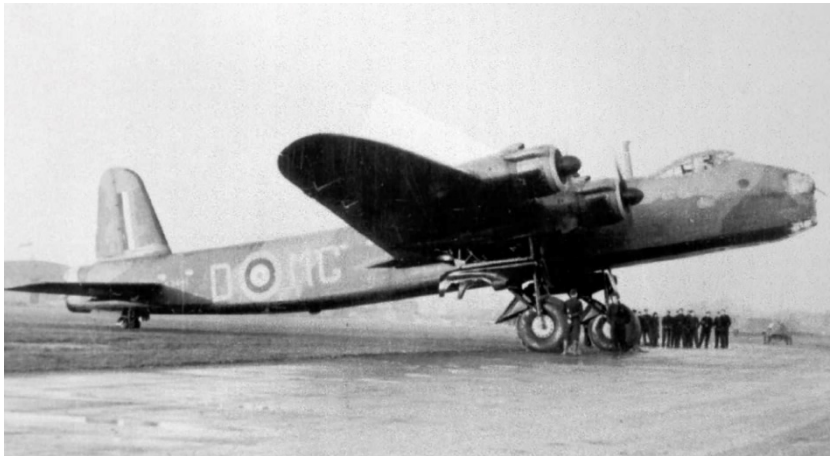


Sgt. John William Blakey 936547 RAFVR



7 Squadron Stirling at RAF Oakington

John was born on 14 January 1914, the son of William and Elizabeth Blakey, of Scarborough, Yorkshire. He had been a scholar of Wakefield Grammar School.

John was a pilot serving with No. 7 Squadron, based at RAF Oakington.

He and his crew took off from Oakington, in Short Stirling W7438 MG-A, at 0115 hours on 29 August 1941 on a night mission to attack Duisburg, Germany. Although they were last heard from at 0245 hours, the plane was reportedly coned by searchlights and hit by flak in the Ruhr area at around 0408 hours. It was witnessed burning in the air before exploding on impact as it crashed at Kaarst, WSW of Dusseldorf. All the crew were killed.

John is buried with the rest of the crew at Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Coll. Grave 6. C 1-7. His inscription reads "Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me". He was 27 years old.

The others who died with John were:

Pilot	P/O John Ernest Chilvers
Flight Engineer	Sgt. Frank Cecil Child
Observer	P/O Charles Francis Hart RCAF
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	Flt. Sgt. Alfred Penn
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	Sgt. Gordon Jeoffre Truscott
Air Gunner	Sgt. Norman Richard Cowin

John is commemorated on Panel 132.

Picture courtesy of worldwarphotos.info