

Sgt John William Bode 1185743 RAFVR

John was born on 16 May 1920 in Birmingham, Warwickshire, the son of Howard James Bode and Caroline Bode nee Jolley.

Educated at Kings Norton Boys School, Birmingham, John was employed as an oil and fuel analyst when he volunteered for aircrew duties with the RAF.

Trained as an Observer, in May 1942 John was posted to 75 (NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.

At 03:15 on 22 May 1942 John, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, in Wellington III Z1566 (AA) on a night cross country training flight.

Flying into unforecast bad weather, whilst descending through cloud to ascertain their position, the aircraft struck ground near Grindon in the Peak District, Staffordshire, killing 5 crew members. The Rear Gunner survived. John had completed one op.

Also killed: PO Andrew Donald Mackay RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt James Wilfred Beaven RNZAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Cyril Hayton (WOp/AG); Sgt Wilfred Hubert Smeaton RNZAF (Obs)

John is buried in Buxton Cemetery, Derbyshire

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 132

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com

