

Sgt Joseph Dennis Bramhall 747958 RAFVR

Joseph was born on 18 November 1916 in Warrington, Lancashire, the son of Joseph Bramhall and Thirza Margaret Bramhall nee Gandy.

Joseph joined the RAF before the outbreak of war and trained as a WOp/AG.

On the 6 May 1941, 18 Blenheims were tasked with Anti-shipping operations along the French and German Coast. Six Blenheims from 110 Sqn were tasked with attacking enemy shipping on Beat 7.

Joseph and the crew departed RAF Wattisham at 11:15 in Blenheim IV R3600 (VE) and sighted an enemy convoy consisting of 5 ships - 3 destroyers, one corvette and one a vessel suspected to be a large corvette. When the aircraft were 3 miles away, the ships opened up with heavy and light anti-aircraft fire. The aircraft approached to within 1/2 mile and the Air Gunners raked the decks with machine gun bullets. The aircraft turned away and sighted further vessels with ME110 escort but no further attack was made. Joseph and the crew failed to return but were believed to be returning to base when they were lost.

Also killed were : Flt Lt Edward Nation Steel (Pilot); FS Ronald Albert Freestone (Observer).

Initially, it was believed that Joseph's body was washed ashore, but in 1947 the International Red Cross discovered that Joseph was rescued alive, but died a short time later in the Wilhelmshaven Marine Hospital.

Joseph is buried in the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany, his remains having been transferred from the Wilhelmshaven German Military Cemetery in July 1947.

Joseph is commemorated on Wall Panel 134

Photo Source: Liverpool Evening Express

