

P/O Charles Raymond Brown DFC 83727 RAFVR

Charles was born in 1912 in Hull, Yorkshire, the son of Mr and Mrs C D Brown. In May 1937 he married Joyce Sercombe in Holderness, Yorkshire. They had one son, who died shortly after birth.

Charles joined 101 Squadron at RAF West Raynham, Norfolk, as a sergeant pilot in June 1940, as the squadron was preparing to transfer from a training to an operational squadron. In September 1940 Charles was granted a commission.

In November 1940 Charles and his crew were decorated, with Charles awarded the DFC. His citation read:

"This crew has shown great skill and determination in locating their targets and pressing home their attacks in spite of encountering heavy A.A. fire on nearly every occasion".

On the night of 18/19 March 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Rotterdam. The target for Charles' Blenheim was Wilhelmshaven, a key base for the German Navy. They were part of a combined force of 44 Blenheims, with 101 Squadron contributing nine crews.

At 1935 hours on 18 March Charles and his crew departed RAF West Raynham in Blenheim IV R3846 (SR).

The aircraft failed to return and it was later reported to have been shot down by a German naval vessel and crashed into the sea near Texel, Frisian Islands, killing all on board. Only Charles was recovered for burial.

Originally buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Borkum, Frisian Islands, in May 1947 Charles was moved to the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Also killed were the observer P/O Gordon Collis DFM and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Godric Loughlin DFM.

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 136.