

PO Colin Campbell 78450 RAFVR

Colin was born on 4 May 1914 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, the only son of Charles Campbell and Isabella Campbell nee Howe. Educated locally, Colin was employed as a Clerk to a Fine Art Dealer before enlisting at the start of the war. He was commissioned in March 1940.

The 5 June 1940 marked the commencement of Operation Red by the German land forces, the offensive destined to overwhelm the remaining Allied forces in France. Over the next couple of weeks, the remnants of the French air force and the RAF flying from bases in England and France were thrown into a desperate battle to stem the German advance.

On 9 June 1940 18 aircraft from RAF Wattisham, 12 from 107 Sqn, together with 6 from 110 Sqn, were tasked to attack enemy columns and transport in the Forêt de Boray, near Poix-de-Picardie. At 1055 Colin, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed in Blenheim IV R3739 (OM-T).

Moderate but accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered in the target area, and Colin's aircraft was one of three 107 Sqn aircraft forced down, two of which were seen to land with engines in flames. Both the Pilot and WOp/AG were able to bale out and were taken POW, but Colin was killed, probably whilst still in the air.

Despite the losses, the action was successful and bombs were observed to burst amongst enemy columns and transport, many of which were completely destroyed.

Colin is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Colin is commemorated on Wall Panel 140