

Sgt Albert Charles Cutler 941260

RAFVR

Albert was born on 29 July 1918 in Coventry, Warwickshire, the only son of Thomas John Cutler and Maud Cutler nee Bryan.

Educated at Coventry Technical College, Albert was employed by Prudential Insurance when, in November 1939, he joined the RAF.

After basic training, Albert trained at No 2 E&WS, RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire and 10 B&GS RAF Dumfries, Scotland, where he was awarded his WOp/AG badge. Following advanced training at 17 OCU RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire, in July 1941 Albert was posted to 18 Sqn at RAF Oulton, Norfolk, shortly before the squadron re-located to RAF Horsham St Faith, Norfolk.

On 12 August 1941, 56 Blenheims, split into 2 forces and supported by a fighter escort, were tasked with simultaneous attacks on the Quadrath and Knapsack power stations at Cologne. Nine 18 Sqn aircraft participated - Albert's target was Knapsack, the largest steam generator in Europe, supplying a vital industrial area. Three squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 09:20 Albert, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Horsham St Faith in Blenheim IV V6437 (WV-C).

Flying at low level, Albert's Blenheim hit some high tension cables with the rudder, flying on for a few minutes still under control. The bombs were jettisoned in a field and the crew turned for home; however, a short time later the Blenheim crashed in the mouth of the Scheldt, off Vlissingen, killing all on board. Albert was recovered from the sea the same day.

Also killed: PO Bernard Frederick West Matthews (Observer); PO Malcolm Thomas Kershaw Walkden (Pilot)

Albert is buried in Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

Albert is commemorated on Wall Panel 152

Photo Source: Watton Info - The Cutler Crew

