

Sgt Ernest William De'Ath 747876 RAFVR

Ernest was born on 5 August 1913 in Wandsworth, London, the son of Robert Arthur De'Ath and Nora Ather De'Ath nee German.

Educated locally, Ernest volunteered for aircrew duties before the outbreak of war, and trained as a WOp/AG.

On 2 February 1941 training exercises were carried out by three 101 Sqn aircraft. The weather was overcast with poor visibility in snow showers.

Ernest and his crew departed RAF West Raynham, Norfolk in Blenheim IV N3750 (SR). Whilst on the exercise the aircraft crashed on the beach on Freiston Shore near Boston, Lincolnshire.

Ernest was killed on impact. The Observer was injured in the crash and was transported to the Emergency Hospital, Boston where he died of his injuries the following day. The pilot and one passenger escaped with minor injuries.

Also Killed: Sgt Harry Footer Rampley (Observer) *Died the following day*

Ernest is buried in Earlsfield Cemetery, Wandsworth, London

Ernest is commemorated on Wall Panel 154