

Sgt George Arthur Dvorjetz 905235 RAFVR

George was born on 31 March 1916 in Ealing, London, the son of Russian born parents Jacob Dvorjetz and Rachel Dvorjetz nee Silbermann.

Educated at Brighton College, Hove, George was subsequently employed as a Cinema Manager in Canterbury and was also a member of the Civil Air Guard, obtaining his pilot's licence in 1938. George enlisted in October 1939 and, despite having flying experience, he was trained as an Observer where the need was greater.

After training, in December 1940, George joined 82 Sqn flying Blenheims at RAF Bodney, Norfolk before joining 21 Sqn at nearby RAF Watton in April 1941. With one tour under his belt, George was considered a veteran in Bomber Command terms and was appointed Station Navigation Officer at RAF Oulton where he would occasionally fly with the 18 Sqn CO, Wg Cdr Tim Partridge.

On 16 July 1941, 36 Blenheims were allocated to carry out a daring mass high attack on ships in the docks at Rotterdam. George, on a rare day off, had gone over to a lake in the grounds of Blickling Hall, Norfolk, used to accommodate RAF Staff, intent on having a quiet day's fishing. He was called back and told to report for briefing, to fly with the CO on the Rotterdam raid.

At 15:17 George, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Horsham St Faith in Blenheim IV V6267 (WV-M), leading the second wave of the attack. This photo of the aircraft was taken on the run in to attack. (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205211308>)



Post war reports state eye-witnesses had reported seeing George's aircraft over Rotterdam with the port engine on fire, trying to land in a park. When it was realised that the park was full of children and many adults, the aircraft was pulled up over the rooftops but the aircraft's wingtip hit the Courthouse and it plunged into the bank of the Noordsingel Canal, killing all on board.

Bomber Command considered the raid an outstanding success, not only because of the tonnage of shipping claimed as destroyed or damaged, but also because 'only' four Blenheims

were lost out of the 36 aircraft that attacked the docks. This, however, was at the cost of 9 lives.

Also Killed: Wg Cdr Thomas Noel Partridge DFC (Pilot); FS John Oscar Noel Smith DFM (WOp/AG)

George is buried in Rotterdam (Crooswijk) General Cemetery, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

George is commemorated on Wall Panel 158

Photo Source: www.rafwatton.info

