

Sgt Charles Percival Ellins 1509658 RAFVR

Charles was born on 28 April 1921 in Portsmouth, Hampshire, the son of Reginald Ellins and Euletia Maud Ellins nee Bailey.

Educated at Flying Bull Lane School, Portsmouth, Charles was employed as a painter and decorator when he enlisted in the RAF in 1941.

Completing his training in England in July 1942 with the award of his Flight Engineer badge, following advanced training at 1657 HCU RAF Stradishall, Suffolk for conversion to the Stirling, in August 1943 Charles was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire.

On 23 September 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Mannheim, an industrial and communications centre home to vital war industries including the manufacturers of naval armaments, the Daimler-Benz works and the BASF chemical plants. A combined force of 628 aircraft, including eighteen 75(NZ) Sqn crews, were allocated to the op. Three crews failed to return.

At 19:52 on 23 September Charles, operating as the Flight Engineer, and the crew departed RAF Mepal, Cambridgeshire, in Stirling III EH935 (JN-K).

Homeward bound, at 23:07 Charles's aircraft was coned by searchlights and intercepted by Uffz Heinz Amsberg of 9./NJG 1 flying a Bf110 from Twente Airfield, Netherlands. The aircraft caught fire and, following unsuccessful attempts to extinguish the flames, the pilot ordered the crew to bale out.

The aircraft crashed between Edesheim and Knoringen, SE of Neustadt, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, killing five of the crew. Only the Air Bomber and Mid Upper Gunner were able to bale out and were taken as POW.

Also Killed: FO Laurence John Kirkpatrick RNZAF (Pilot); FO Hugh Powell Sands RNZAF (Nav); FS William Louis Jarvis RAAF (AG); Sgt Joseph Edwards Hoey (WOp/AG)

Originally buried in Knoringen Cemetery, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, in April 1948 Charles was moved to the Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 160

Photo Source: The Evening News

