Sgt Kenneth Custance Ellis 1259306 RAFVR

Kenneth was born on 21 September 1909 in Comberton, Cambridgeshire, the son of Bernard William Ellis and Florence Hilda Ellis nee Custance. In 1936 he married Doris Irene Gothard. Prior to the war, Kenneth was an Insurance Representative working in Cambridgeshire.

On the afternoon of 18 July 1942, Kenneth, the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV Z7304 (WV) of 18 Sqn on an air test.

At 15:45, in low cloud and poor visibility, the aircraft collided with one of the 365 foot high Chain Home radar transmitter masts at Stoke Holy Cross near Norwich. The aircraft fell into a nearby field and all aboard were killed.

The 'Curtain Array', slung between two of the masts and used to transmit the massive power of the radar, was brought to the ground by the impact. The station was only off the air for a few minutes while the Mechanics reconnected the transmitter to a 'Stacked Array', superceded by the Curtain but retained as a standby. The steel mast, third in a line of four, was badly damaged and was dismantled some time well after the accident. A new mast was constructed on new foundations considerably displaced from the original and the mid-level gantry platform, not required for the Curtain Array, was omitted from the rebuilt tower.

Also killed were : PO Philip Henry Lowther (Pilot); Sgt George Bernard Crawford (WOp/AG); Mr Kenneth Thomas Tagg (Civilian Assistant Meteorologist)

Kenneth is buried in St Mary Churchyard, Comberton, Cambridgeshire

Kenneth is commemorated on Wall Panel 160