

PO Frederick Alan Smith Fletcher 42494 RAF

Frederick was born on 6 March 1913 in Keighley, Yorkshire, the eldest son of Dr Francis Samuel Brook Fletcher and Florence May Fletcher nee Smith.

Educated at Wakefield Grammar School, Yorkshire, Frederick was employed for several years by Messrs Appleyard, Motor Engineers, Leeds, before becoming a salesman for Messrs Pointing, Leeds.

Frederick was commissioned as a pilot in the RAF in August 1939, and in the summer of 1940 was posted for advanced training with 101 Sqn at RAF West Raynham, Norfolk. At the outbreak of war, 101 Sqn had just been equipped with the Blenheim IV and was engaged in training crews for front line Blenheim squadrons.

On 12 June 1940, Frederick and his Observer were returning to RAF West Raynham in Blenheim IV L9258 (SR) from Weston Airfield, Spalding, where they had diverted the previous day due to bad weather at base, after completing formation flight bombing training on Wainfleet Range.



The Blenheim was observed to emerge from cloud in a dive and crash one mile East of Hilborough, Swaffham, Norfolk, killing both men.

Also killed: Sgt Lloyd Albert Winston Matthews (Obs)

Frederick is commemorated at Leeds (Lawnswood) Crematorium, Yorkshire

Frederick is commemorated on Wall Panel 164

Photo Source: Yorkshire Evening Post