

Sgt Frederick Foster 1074970 RAFVR

Frederick, known as "Freddy", was born on 1 February 1916 in Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, the grandson of Alexander and Margaret Foster.

Educated at Lurgan High School and Lurgan College, Frederick assisted his Uncle in the management of the local Picture House. Frederick enlisted in the RAFVR at the outbreak of war and volunteered in the Ulster Home Guard until he received his call up for Aircrew training as an Observer.

In May 1942 Frederick was posted to 107 Sqn at RAF Great Massingham, Norfolk from 42 OTU at RAF Andover, Hampshire.

On 4 June 1942, six aircraft from 107 Sqn, with fighter escort, were tasked with their 21st operation. The squadron was detailed to attack a tanker in Dunkirk Harbour.

At 19:09 Frederick, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Great Massingham in Boston III AL715 (OM). At 19:57 they reached the target where they encountered intense and heavy flak - all aircraft were hit. Frederick's aircraft was hit in both engines, and eventually ditched 10 miles from the Kent coast. A few hours later, the crew were picked up by an Air Sea Rescue launch, Frederick was seriously injured.

On 21 December 1942, Frederick succumbed to his injuries at the Princess Mary Hospital, RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire.

Frederick is buried in Lurgan Cemetery, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland

Frederick is commemorated on Wall Panel 165

Photo Source: Lurgan Mail Newspaper

