FS Ronald Albert Freestone 759027 RAFVR

Ronald was born on 26 November 1920 in Sneiton, Nottinghamshire, the son of John Henry Freestone and Harriet Annie Freestone nee Boshell.

Educated at Gateshead Secondary School, Durham, prior to joining the RAFVR at the outbreak of war he was employed as a Salesman for Montague Burton, a Clothing Supplier in Newcastle upon Tyne.

On the 6 May 1941, 18 Blenheims were tasked with Anti-shipping operations along the French and German Coast. Six Blenheims from 110 Sqn were tasked with attacking enemy shipping on Beat 7.

Ronald, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham at 11:15 in Blenheim IV R3600 (VE) and sighted an enemy convoy consisting of 5 ships - 3 destroyers, one corvette and one a vessel suspected to be a large corvette. When the aircraft were 3 miles away, the ships opened up with heavy and light anti-aircraft fire. The aircraft approached to within 1/2 mile and the Air Gunners raked the decks with machine gun bullets. The aircraft turned away and sighted further vessels with ME110 escort but no further attack was made. Ronald and the crew failed to return but were believed to be returning to base when they were lost.

Also killed were : Flt Lt Edward Nation Steel (Pilot); Sgt Joseph Dennis Bramhall (WOp/AG)

Ronald has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Ronald is commemorated on Wall Panel 167

Photo Source: Newcastle Evening Chronicle