

PO Peter George Frith 111953 RAFVR

Peter was born on 26 June 1923 in Cuddington, Cheshire, the son of Ernest William Frith and Marion Fannie Sophia Frith nee Sedgewick.

Peter completed his pilot training and was commissioned from Sergeant in November 1941.

Although 13 Squadron was an army support unit, it was co-opted to Bomber Command throughout the period for which the "Thousand Bomber" raids were taking place. The squadron mainly flew intruder raids to key German aerodromes in an effort to neutralise the German night-fighter effort; however, on 25/26 June 1942 13 Squadron did fly as part of the main force in attack against Bremen.

On 25 June 1942, 13 Sqn were attached to 2 Group for bomber operations. Of the 9 aircraft flown, 5 were flown with the main "1000 Bomber" raid to Bremen, and 4 continued the "Intruder Operations". Peter and his crew were tasked with an attack on the Nachtjagd base at Sint- Truiden airfield, Belgium.

At 23:50 the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV Z6084. Whilst approaching the target, the aircraft was attacked in Sector 6B by the night fighter crew of Oberleutnant Eckart-Wilhelm von Bonin & Feldwebel Friedrich Johrden of the 6./NJG 1 based at Fliegerhorst Sint-Truiden, flying an Me110.

The 19 year old pilot managed to fend off the attack for a long time, but thanks to radar guidance, the German night fighter Maintained contact. On 26 June 1942 at 01:38, following an eight-minute radar chase, the battle was settled above the village of Houwaart, where the Blenheim exploded and crashed.

Two squadron aircraft failed to return - both from the intruder attacks.

Also killed were: Sgt Henry Herbert William Vinter (Observer); Sgt Robert Tenant Plant (WOp/AG)

Peter is buried with his crew in a collective grave in Houwaart Churchyard, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium.

Peter is commemorated on Wall Panel 167