

Sgt Charles William Fry 755511 RAFVR

Charles was born on 23 January 1912 in Bengal, India, the youngest son of Sidney Fry and Katherine Caroline Louise Fry nee Williams. In July 1940 he married Florence Maud Ford in Whipton, Exeter, Devon.

Educated at Hele Grammar School, Exeter, Charles was employed as an Accounts Clerk with Devon County Council before joining the RAFVR and training as an Observer.

Between February and March 1941, 110 Sqn was on detachment to RAF Horsham St Faith, Norfolk from RAF Wattisham.

On 13 March 1941, Bomber Command tasked 139 aircraft against targets in Hamburg. At 15:00, nine 110 Sqn crews were briefed on the targets and at 20:27, Charles, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Horsham St Faith in Blenheim IV R2278 (VE). Whilst over the Dutch province of Groningen, Charles's aircraft was identified on German radar and night fighters were sent to intercept. At 22:48, whilst flying over the town of Zevenhuizen, a ME109 flown by Oberfeldwebel Paul Gildner of 4./NJG 1 attacked and shot down the aircraft. The Blenheim crashed near Tolbert, Groningen, Netherlands killing all on board.

Also killed : Flt Lt John Dickinson DFC (Pilot); Sgt Robert Mower (WOp/AG)

Charles is buried with his crew, and a crew from 214 Sqn who died on the same day, in a collective grave in the Groningen (Esserveld) General Cemetery, Groningen, Netherlands

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 167