

## F/O William Henry Graham 151100 RAFVR

William was the son of William Henry and Jessie Graham, of Oldham.

He was an Air Bomber serving with 1663 Heavy Conversion Unit based at RAF Rufforth, North Yorkshire.

Handley Page Halifax V, DG412 -B, took off from Rufforth airfield on 27 August 1943, on a daytime Bullseye exercise; it was the final flight before completing their training, and was returning from a mission to bomb Brest, in France. During the flight, the pilot lost control while practicing evasive action, and in the dive that followed, the aircraft came apart under the excessive loads imposed upon its airframe. It was considered almost certain the crew were trapped by the centrifugal force, and their bodies were recovered from the crash site at Langtree, four miles south west of Great Torrington, Devon.



William is buried at Oldham (Greenacres) Cemetery, Lancashire. Sec. M. Row 11. Grave 253. The epitaph reads "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". He was 28 years old.

A granite memorial stone in the village of Langtree commemorates the loss of the crew; the dedication service being held on the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash, with members of the airmen's families attending.

F/O William Henry Graham, Air Bomber (killed)  
Sgt. John Peter Williams, Pilot (killed)  
F/Sgt. Peter Chadwick Bartle RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
Sgt. Hugh Patrick Henry RAAF, Air Gunner (killed)  
Sgt. Raymond Frederick Stainsby, Navigator (killed)  
Sgt. George Rogerson Wheatley, Flight Engineer (killed)  
Sgt. James Taylor, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 172

Picture courtesy of Patrick Otter