

Sgt Frank Groom 1382101 RAFVR

Frank was born in 1923 in London, the eldest son of Frank Henry Groom and Violet Ethel Lowe Groom nee Churley.

Frank joined the RAF and trained as a WOp/AG before crewing up at 1657 Conversion Unit RAF Stradishall, Suffolk. The crew was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in March 1943.

On 22 June 1943, Frank's mission (Operations St Paul, Harrow and Catarrh) was to blind-drop 2 Dutch Agents and their equipment into Holland in the area of Marienberg, east of the Overijssel town of Ommen.

At 23:35 Frank, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V DG405 (MA-Y). Both Agents, the container with equipment and transmitting equipment were dropped successfully, and the aircraft set course for home.



At 02:06 on 23 June, the Halifax was engaged over the Noordoostpolder by Major Helmut Lent of the Stab IV./NJG1, flying a Bf110 from Leeuwarden airfield. The Halifax crashed into the IJsselmeer, 7km West of Urk, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO Robert Geoffrey Higgins (Pilot); FS Maynard Hazlett Moore RCAF (Nav); Sgt Norman Blanchard (FE); Sgt George Noel Cochrane (AG); Sgt Gordon George (AB); Sgt Charles William Hartin (Nav); Sgt Robin Douglas Pryde-Watson (AG)

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

Frank is commemorated on Wall Panel 174

Photo Source: www.teunispats.nl