

FS Stanley Grundy DFM 626664 RAF

Stanley was born in 1919 in Crewe, Cheshire, the youngest son of Fred Grundy and Stella Grundy nee Wilkins.

Educated at Derby School, Derby, Stanley was employed by LMS Railways in London and Watford when, in 1938, he joined the RAF. Trained as an Air Gunner, in 1940 Stanley was posted to the Middle East where he completed a tour before he returned to the UK in 1942 to undertake a tour as an instructor on 12 OTU RAF Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire. Despite on a "rest tour", Stanley undertook further ops whilst on the OTU.

In September 1942 Stanley was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

Stanley's DFM was awarded posthumously. The citation read:

"FS Grundy is now on his second operational tour, and prior to joining the this squadron carried out 4 operations with 12 OTU. Since then, he has completed 18 sorties with this unit. Throughout the time he has been with the squadron, this NCO has shown outstanding keenness for operational flying and he has proved himself to be a very determined and efficient Air Gunner. FS Grundy has flown with four different Captains during his present tour and has always displayed the same co-operation, coolness and endeavour to do his best in the air. By his consistent good work, this NCO has set a splendid example to gunners in the squadron. His fine record of achievement is deserving of recognition by the award of the DFM".

On the night of the 9/10 April 1943, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Duisberg, a major logistical centre in the Ruhr Area and location of chemical, steel and iron industries. A combined force of 109 aircraft, including eight 101 Sqn crews, were allocated to the task. Two crews failed to return.

On the evening of 9 April Stanley, operating as the Mid Upper Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Holme on Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, in Lancaster III ED618 (SR-X).

As Stanley's aircraft crossed the Dutch coast near Harlem, they were intercepted by Lt Oskar Köstler flying a Bf110 from Bergen Airfield who had picked up a signal on his onboard radar and spotted a lone Lancaster on the side of the main bomber stream's course.

Whilst flying west of Elburg, at 22:40 the Lancaster was hit in the bomb bay by the cannons and instantly exploded. Debris from the huge blast damaged the Bf110 and killed the pilot. The radio operator managed to bale out and survived. The Lancaster wreckage came down near Doornspijk, killing all on board. This was Stanley's 52nd op.

Also Killed: FO Norman James Ritchie RAAF (WOp/AG); WO John David Steele RCAF (Pilot); FS Michael John Bennett (Nav); Sgt D'Arcy Gould (AB); Sgt John Hence (FE); Sgt William David George O'Brien (AG)

Stanley is buried in Doornspijk General Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands

Stanley is commemorated on Wall Panel 175