

Sgt Jack Hardcastle 627887 RAF

Jack was born in 1921 in Hunslet, Leeds, Yorkshire, the son of George Thomas Hardcastle and Lily Hardcastle nee Fawcett.

Jack was employed as a telephone operator at Leeds Railway Station when, in November 1938, he joined the RAF and trained as an Aircraft hand.

Re-mustering as aircrew, following the award of his WOp/AG badge and conversion to the Blenheim, in July 1940 Jack was posted to 219 Sqn at RAF Catterick, Yorkshire.

In July 1940, 219 Sqn was actively involved in defending the UK, particularly during the Battle of Britain, and for his service he was awarded the Battle of Britain Clasp. In September 1940 Jack was posted to 105 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk.



On 28 October 1940, three 105 Sqn aircraft were tasked with an attack on the Ehrang marshalling yards, Trier, a railway junction where the Eifel Railway from Cologne joined the Koblenz-Trier line, making it a crucial point for transporting goods and personnel.

At 18:30 on 28 October Jack, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Watton in Blenheim IV T2229 (GB-).

The initial target was obscured by clouds, and the formation diverted to the alternative target of Koblenz, the HQ of the German Army Group B.

On return, Jack's aircraft crashed at Cranmer Hall, near RAF Sculthorpe, 2 miles NW of Fakenham Norfolk. The pilot and Observer were killed instantly, Jack died shortly later in hospital. This was Jack's 28th op.

Also killed: PO Ian Prosser (Pilot); Sgt Arthur Fraser Dallas RNZAF (Obs)

Jack is buried in Whitkirk Cemetery, Leeds, Yorkshire

Jack is commemorated on Wall Panel 176

Photo Source: bbm.org.uk