

Sgt John Frederick Hatch 903079 RAFVR

John was born on 1914 in Eccles, Lancashire, the son of Frederick George and Bertha May Hatch nee Moon.

John joined the RAF at the outbreak of war and trained as a WOp/AG

On 16 July 1940, 8 Blenheims from 18 Squadron were tasked with bombing operations on aerodromes in Belgium and Holland. At 04:52 John, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF West Raynham, Norfolk, in Bristol Blenheim IV P6933 (WV-G).

Whilst on the attack, the Blenheim was engaged by a Bf109 flown by Fw George Kiening of 6./JG54. The Blenheim crashed into the sea off Schelde, 10km NW of Vlissingen, Zeeland, Netherlands, killing all on board.

Also killed were : Sgt Anthony St John Bunker (Pilot), Sgt Peter Raymond Harris (Observer)

On 27 July 1940 John's body was recovered from the sea by the German Navy.

John is buried in a joint grave with the Observer in the Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 178