

PO Robert Geoffrey Higgins 14369

Robert, known as Bob, was born on 5 December 1922 in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, the youngest son of Arthur Higgins and Edith Annie Higgins nee Ireland.

Educated at Newport Pagnell School and Radcliffe School, Milton Keynes, before joining the RAF and training as a pilot Robert was employed as a Junior Clerk by the local District Council.

Robert completed his flying training in the USA and Canada, before crewing up at 1657 Conversion Unit, RAF Stradishall, Suffolk. The crew was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in March 1943. Robert was commissioned in May 1943.



On 22 June 1943, Robert's mission (Operation 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 Robert and his 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: FS Maynard Hazlett Moore RCAF (Nav); Sgt Norman Blanchard (FE); Sgt George Noel Cochrane (AG); Sgt Gordon George (AB); Sgt Frank Groom (WOp/AG); Sgt Robin Douglas Pryde-Watson (AG); Sgt Charles William Hartin (Nav)

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

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel 181

Photo Source: IBCC