

Sgt Charles Julius Chennell Holland 745631 RAFVR

Charles was born on 20 January 1920 in Poona, Bombay, India, the son of Julius Alfred Holland and Beryl Ethel de la Hoyde Holland nee Chennell. The family moved to Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland in 1933 when Charles's father transferred from the Imperial Service to the Northern Ireland Ministry of Finance.

Educated at Bangor Central Public Elementary School and Bangor Grammar School, on leaving he entered the Ordnance Survey Department of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

In 1939 he joined the RAF, completing his elementary flying training at 24 EFTS RAF Sydenham, Belfast, before moving to Air Observer training at Monkton, Ayrshire.

A prolific writer, whilst in training in a letter to his Mother he wrote:

"You have heard often that old proverb – one good moment is enough for any man. My moment will come I know, and I am sure I shall be ready and do the right thing before it passes".

Following advanced training, Charles joined 107 Sqn at RAF Wattisham, Suffolk, in the Summer of 1940.

On 22 July 1940, nine aircraft from 107 Sqn were tasked to carry out night bombing attacks against enemy airfields in France.

At 21:45 Charles, operating as Observer, and the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV L9414 (OM-Z), their destination was Creil Airfield, 50km NNE of Paris. Nothing further was heard from the crew.

Also killed: PO Peter George Anthony Watson (Pilot); Sgt William Patrick O'Heney (WOp/AG)

Charles's body was washed ashore at Littlehampton on the Sussex coast, and he is buried in St Andrew Churchyard, Tangmere, Sussex.

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 183

Photo Source: Belfast Telegraph

