

Cpl Oliver Henry Selby Holland 569978 RAF

Oliver was born in 1920 in Llanbradach, Glamorganshire, the eldest son of Henry Holland and Rose Holland nee Selby.

Educated at the Mining and Technical Institute in Caerphilly, he completed a course in General Engineering before he joined the RAF in March 1936 as an Aircraft Apprentice at RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire. After 3 years training he qualified as a Flight Mechanic and was posted to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk in August 1939.

In June 1940 21 Sqn were detached to RAF Lossiemouth, Morayshire, Scotland for operations against the German Navy in the recently invaded Norway.

At 18:30 on 26 October 1940, six Blenheims were being readied for take-off when 3 Heinkel 111's proceeded to attack the airfield from 100ft, the only major raid on RAF Lossiemouth. One bomb fell on the airfield destroying one Blenheim (T2233), damaging another beyond repair (R3760) and severely damaging 2 others (L1876 & L8744). Preparing the aircraft for flight, Oliver was in the cockpit of Blenheim IV T2233 and was killed instantly.

One of the Heinkels was downed.

Also Killed: PO Peter Henderson Slater (Pilot); Sgt Hywel Jones (WOp/AG)

Oliver is buried in Penyrheol Cemetery, Caerphilly, Glamorganshire

Oliver is commemorated on Wall Panel 183

Photo source: <https://historypoints.org>

