

## **FO Frank Holmes 78276 RAFVR**

Frank was born on 11 November 1906 in Moss Side, Manchester, Lancashire, the eldest son of Fred Holmes and Elizabeth Ann Holmes nee Gowling.

A graduate of the Manchester School of Art, Frank taught at the School before moving to Bury Technical College as Art Master.

In March 1940 Frank joined the RAF as an Air Gunner and was commissioned in May 1940.

Detached from their main base at RAF Oulton, Norfolk, on the morning of 30 April 1941 Frank, the Air Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk in Blenheim IV V6389 (YH) of 18 Sqn on a training exercise.

At 10:52 whilst flying North East of Kings Lynn, Norfolk, the pilot lost control of the aircraft and it crashed at Hillington, Norfolk, killing all on board. It was subsequently discovered that the drogue they had been towing had separated from its cable and had fouled the port elevator and trim tab, causing the aircraft to become uncontrollable.

Also killed were : Sqn Ldr Hugh John Norman Lindsay (Pilot); Sgt Albert Ernest Stone (Observer);

Frank is buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Marham, Norfolk

Frank is commemorated on Wall Panel 183

Photo Source : Manchester Evening News

