

Wg Cdr Ralph George Hurst 37288 RAF

Ralph was born in 1916 in Southampton, Hampshire the son of William Henry James Hurst and Emily Louisa Hurst nee Wills. In May 1941 he married Edith Ann Mercer in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Educated at King Edward VI School, Southampton, Ralph joined the RAF as a pilot in 1935 on a Short Service Commission. Originally posted to 57 Squadron, on 15 March 1937 when 226 Squadron was formed with personnel largely from 57 Squadron, Ralph was posted on to the new squadron and in April moved to RAF Harwell. Following the outbreak of war, Ralph served in France during the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940 before the Squadron was evacuated from Brest. The Squadron converted to Blenheims on their return, arriving at RAF Wattisham in May 1941.

On 4 July 1941, four squadron aircraft were tasked with an attack on Nordenay, Frisian Islands, Germany. Ralph and the crew departed RAF Wattisham at 05:30 in Blenheim IV Z7291 (MQ). The attack was carried out as detailed, but the aircraft was hit by flak and the tail was shot away. The aircraft was seen to crash into the sea off Norderney.

Also killed : Flt Sgt Thomas Clifford Davies DFM (Observer); Flt Sgt Reginald William John Green DFM (WOp/AG)

Ralph is buried in the Sage War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany, his remains having been transferred from the Nordenay Cemetery, Frisian Islands in April 1947.

Ralph is commemorated on Wall Panel 187

Photo Source: Ancestry

