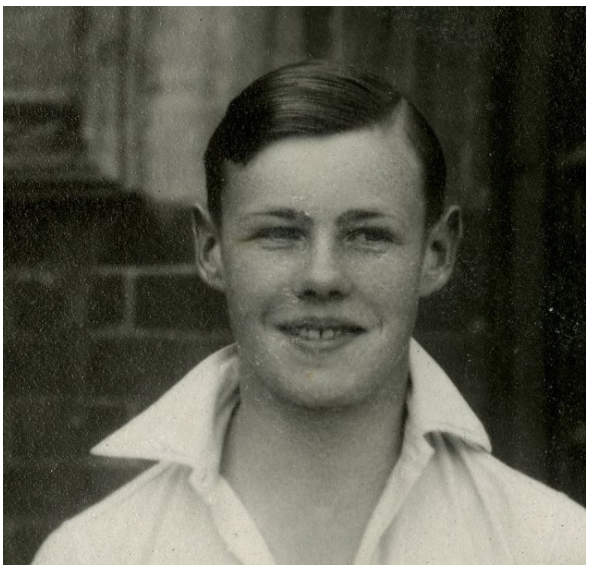
Sqn Ldr Richard Langebear 39420 RAF



Richard was born in 1914 in Edgbaston, Warwickshire, the only son of Robert Alfred Langebear and Mildred Jennie Langebear nee Hawkes.

Educated at Abingdon School, after a short time in business Richard joined the RAF and was commissioned in January 1937 as a pilot.

At the outbreak of war, Richard was serving with 18 Sqn at RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire and served in France with the Air Component of the BEF.

After some time away from Ops, Richard returned to 18 Sqn at RAF Oulton, Norfolk on 26 April 1941 from 13 OTU at RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire together with his Observer.

On 3 May 1941 twelve crews from 18 Sqn were detached from RAF Oulton to RAF Portreath, Cornwall.

On 9 May 1941 six aircraft were tasked with anti-shipping operations on the Southern end of Beat 16 and North West end of Beat 17.

At 13:30 Richard and the crew departed RAF Portreath in Blenheim IV V6379 (WV). Four aircraft returned to base on completion of the Beat without encountering any shipping. One aircraft spotted three stationary vessels; however, Richard's aircraft failed to return.

A witness reported that at 15:25 following an attack on a 1000-ton vessel, possibly a destroyer, his Blenheim was seen at 200 ft off Camaret-sur-Mer with its left engine on fire. A subsequent investigation revealed that his plane had probably been hit by gunfire from a British warship. All three crew members were killed.

Also Killed: PO Jack Richard Stone (Observer); FS Alec Kenneth Newbery MiD (WOp/AG)

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

Richard is commemorated on Wall Panel 196

Photo Source : Abingdon School