

Sgt Sir Charles Thomas Hewitt Mappin 4th Bt 1380356 RAFVR

Charles was born on 7 March 1909 in Eccleshall, Sheffield, Yorkshire, the eldest son of Sir Thomas Wilson Mappin and Violet Maud Mappin nee Mappin. In 1930 he married Ruby Joy Ann Duff in Westminster, London. They had one son who died as an infant.

Educated privately, Charles inherited the Baronetcy of Thornbury, Yorkshire in 1926 and was, in the words of the Daily Express, "a leader of the Bright Young Things". Entitled to a seat in the House of Lords, Charles chose instead to live the high-life and, by the early 1930s, he had spent most of his inheritance.

In September 1939, Charles was sailing around the Tahitian Islands on his yacht, and it was not until Spring 1940 that he became aware that war had been declared. Returning home immediately, Charles volunteered for aircrew duties with the RAF and qualified as a WOp/AG.

In October 1941 Charles completed his advanced training and was posted to 75(NZ) Sqn at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk.



On 8 November 1941, 54 Bomber Command crews were tasked with an operation against industrial targets in Essen, Germany, home of the Krupp Steelworks. Eleven 75(NZ) Sqn Wellingtons were allocated to the task. Three squadron aircraft failed to return.

In the early evening Charles, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Feltwell in Wellington Ic Z8942 (AA-J).

Whilst homeward bound and transiting over the Netherlands, at 22:15 Charles's aircraft was coned by searchlights and hit by flak. The Wellington crashed at Zuidland, Zuid-Holland, 13 miles SW of Rotterdam, killing 5 of the crew. The Rear Gunner survived and was taken prisoner, but was killed on 19 April 1945 in a friendly fire incident during a forced march from the POW Camp. This was Charles's third op.

Also killed: PO Ralph Owen Foster RNZAF (Pilot); PO Robert Leslie Owen Ryder RAAF (Obs); WO Lawrence Beresford Hamilton Hope (AG) died 19 April 1945; Sgt James Henry Reid (WOp/AG); Sgt John Stephen Wilson RNZAF (Pilot)

Charles is buried in Rotterdam (Crooswijk) General Cemetery, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 204

Photo Source: 75nzsquadron.wordpress.com