Lt Charles R Mente O-434829 USAAF

Charles was born on 13 January 1919 in New York, USA, the son of Charles Mente, and Carrie Weeks Mente nee Storm.

Educated in New York, Charles was employed as a bookkeeper for a commercial bank when, in July 1941, he enlisted as an Aviation Cadet in New York. Qualified as an Observer, Charles was posted to the UK as a member of the 15th Bombardment Sqn.

Lacking operational experience, 15th Bombardment Sqn crews, who had arrived without their aircraft, prepared for bombing operations under the guidance of 226 Sqn at RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk, using aircraft on loan from 226 Sqn and 107 Sqn.

On 1 July 1942, Charles, operating as the Observer, and his pilot departed RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, on a training flight in 107 Sqn Boston III Z2200 (OM). Whilst on approach to RAF Molesworth, at 17:24 the aircraft crashed 200m west of the airfield, killing all on board.

Also killed: Captain Sherman Franklin Stacher USAAF (Pilot)

Originally buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, at the end of the war Charles was repatriated to the USA and is now buried in Long Island National Cemetery, New York, USA.

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 211