

Sgt Felix James Mowles 648133 RAF

Felix was born in 1921 in Hadleigh, Suffolk, the son of Walter James Mowles and Nora Blanche Mowles nee Seager. In 1942 he married Beatrice Ferguson in Sudbury, Suffolk.

Educated in Hadleigh, on leaving school Felix was apprenticed to a local garage as a mechanic. Joining the RAF before war was declared, Felix was employed as a ground crew engineer before completing the Flight Engineer Course at No 4 School of Technical Training at St Athan. In October 1942 Felix was posted to 161 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire.

On 14 March 1943, Felix and the crew were tasked with "Operation Iridium", the sixth attempt to insert the 4 man Czechoslovakian SOE Iridium team to Bohemia. The team was tasked to organize the resistance, carry out intelligence surveillance activities, and transmit information back to London. The group radio was codenamed "Anna" .

At 20:00 Felix, operating as the Flight Engineer, the crew and 4 man Czech team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax V DG245 (MA-W).

Whilst in the region of Sušice, now in the Plzeň Region of the Czech Republic, the visibility deteriorated and the group could not be dropped as planned. The decision was made to return to base. Whilst flying to the south of Munich, the aircraft was hit by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed in the Perlacher Forest, killing all on board.

Also Killed: Flt Lt Alfred Ellis Prior DFM (Pilot); FO Alfred John Kingham (Pilot); FO Richard Winter Taylor DFC* RCAF (Nav/AB); PO George McWilliam (WOp/AG); Sgt Francis Douglas Bell (AG); Sgt John Henry Kempton (AG); Lt Miroslav Špot (Agent); Lt Miroslav Kříčenský (Agent); Platoon Leader Bohumír Kobylka (Agent); Sgt Vladislav Soukup (Agent)

Originally buried in Munich West Cemetery, in November 1947 Felix was moved to Durnbach War Cemetery, Bayern Germany

Felix is commemorated on Wall Panel 216

Photo Source: HadleighWW1

