

Sgt Leonard Richard Mynott 1354733 RAFVR

Leonard was born on 3 September 1916 in Tooting, London, the son of Walter Arthur Mynott and Eliza Mynott nee Russell.

Educated in London, he was employed by Lever Brothers at their Headquarters in Blackfriars, London until he enlisted in July 1940. Initial training at Blackpool was followed in October 1940 by a posting to No 2 Signals School, RAF Yatesbury, Wiltshire. By early 1941 Leonard was a fully qualified WOp/AG and in March 1941 he had arrived at 17 OTU at RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire where he crewed with his pilot. On 4 July 1941 the two were posted on to 21 Sqn at RAF Watton, Norfolk, making a crew with an experienced Blenheim Observer who had arrived the same day.

On 16 July 1941, 36 Blenheims, escorted by Spitfires, were allocated to carry out a daring mast high attack on ships in the docks at Rotterdam. At 15:35 Leonard, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Watton, Norfolk in Blenheim IV V6240 (YH-B), in the first wave of 19 aircraft, the target ship was the Strassburg.



The first wave attacked the Strassburg, which suffered little damage; however, various buildings in the docks area received direct hits. Whilst on the attack, Leonard's aircraft was hit by flak from Flakship Vp1107 and crashed in the Waalhaven in the heart of Rotterdam's dockland, killing all on board. The bodies of the pilot and observer were recovered for burial, Leonard's body was never found.

Bomber Command considered the raid an outstanding success, not only because of the tonnage of shipping claimed as destroyed or damaged, but also because 'only' four Blenheims were lost out of the 36 aircraft that attacked the docks. This, however, was at the cost of 9 lives.

Also Killed: PO Ralph Martin Slade (Observer); Sgt James Eric Singleton Bevan (Pilot)

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

Leonard is commemorated on Wall Panel 217

Photo Source: www.rafwatton.info