

PO Francis James Otterway 42873 RAF

Francis was born on 15 June 1920 in Sunbury, Middlesex, the son of Archibald Valentine Otterway and Dorothy Grace Otterway nee Cook.

Educated at Hampton Grammar School, Richmond upon Thames, in 1939 he commenced pilot training as a pupil pilot at Hanworth Aerodrome. He was commissioned in November 1939.

On 4 September 1940, 6 aircraft from 107 Sqn were detailed to attack Mardyck and Abbeville Aerodromes. At 21:00, Francis and his crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV R3824 (OM). Francis and the crew successfully attacked Mardyck Airfield; however, at 23:05 when landing back at RAF Wattisham, the aircraft went out of control and crashed into a parked Blenheim. Francis and the Observer were killed, the WOp/AG was fortunate to survive.

Also killed: Sgt Stanley Bews (Observer)

Francis is buried in Teddington Cemetery, Middlesex

Francis is commemorated on Wall Panel 221