Sgt John Abraham Humphries Potter 562838 RAF

John was born on 24 August 1911 in Leicester, Leicestershire, the son of Henry Abrahams and Amy Rosa Humphries, step son of Charles Potter. In 1938 he married Enid Elsie Phillips in Uckfield, Sussex and they had 2 children, the youngest born after his death.

John joined the RAF in August 1929 as an Aircraft Apprentice, training at 2 Wing RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire. By February 1940, John had re-mustered as an Observer and was serving with 18 Sqn in Meharicourt, France as part of the Air Component of the BEF.

From the beginning of October 1939, 18 Sqn were tasked with completing reconnaissance flights in three areas, extending as far North as Bremen. To be nearer to Germany, the squadron began sending crews on 48 hour tours of operational duties to the base at Metz, NE France. Aircraft on these reconnaissance flights faced the same risks as aircraft on bombing runs. On 21 February 1940 John and his crew were sent to Metz

At 11:30 on 25 February 1940 John, operating as the Observer and responsible for photographic duties, and the crew departed Metz in Blenheim I L1444 (WV-K) on a reconnaissance flight over NW Germany. Whilst over Germany, the Blenheim was attacked and badly damaged by enemy fire; however, the pilot was able to evacuate the area and crossed the North Sea en-route to England.

At 15:10, the aircraft crashed at the Donna Nook Bombing Range, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire, killing John and injuring the Pilot. The Air Gunner was unharmed.

John is buried in Mount Noddy Cemetery, East Grinstead, Sussex

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 227