Sgt Cullen Eric Powell 1256952 RAFVR



Cullen was born on 13 March 1920 in Bombay, India, the only child of Harold Vivian Powell and Sheila Margery Powell nee O'Grady.

In 1926, following the death of his father in Australia in 1925, Cullen and his mother returned to England from Calcutta, India.

Educated at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey Cullen entered Worcester College, Oxford in October 1939 but left in 1940 to join the RAFVR and trained as a pilot.

On 25 July 1941 107 Sqn was detailed to relieve 21 Sqn at RAF Manston and, at 12:00, 13 aircraft departed RAF Great Massingham for Manston.

On 1 Aug 1941, three squadron aircraft were detailed to attack shipping off Nieuport, Belgium. At 11:19 Cullen and his crew departed RAF Manston in Blenheim IV Z7498 (OM).

They successfully bombed two enemy ships totalling 2000 tons, but during the attack Cullen's aircraft was shot down by German Marine Flak and crashed in the Scheldt Estuary, near Vlissingen. Cullen was killed in the crash and the two other crew members were rescued and became PoW. Only 1 of the 3 aircraft returned.

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

Cullen is commemorated on Wall Panel 228

Photo Source: www.worc.ox.ac.uk