

FO Wilfrid Selwyn Pryce-Williams 151019 RAFVR

Wilfrid was born on 4 July 1917 in Llanwrst, Denbighshire, Wales, the son of David Pryce-Williams and Laura Pryce-Williams nee Edwards.

Educated at Llanwrst Grammar School, Wilfrid was employed as a bank clerk by the District Bank, Llandudno when, in November 1939, he enlisted in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

After two years Army service, Wilfrid transferred to the RAF and was sent to the USA and Canada where he completed his Air Bomber training.

Following advanced training at 11 OTU RAF Westcott, Buckinghamshire and 1657 HCU RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, in August 1943 Wilfrid was posted to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk.

On 22/23 September 1943, Bomber Command was tasked with an op against Hanover, the first major raid to the city for 2 years and the first of a series of four raids on this target. Hanover was an important railway junction at the intersection of two major east-west and north-south routes and was the fifth most active industrial centre in the Third Reich. A combined force of 711 aircraft were allocated to the task, including fifteen 218 Sqn crews. Three squadron crews failed to return.

At 18:50 on the 22 September Wilfrid, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Downham Market in Stirling III EJ105 (HA-N).

In the target area, Wilfrid's aircraft was damaged by flak which killed the Rear Gunner, and part of his turret fell from the aircraft taking him with it. The Rear Gunner was found near Benstorf, south of Hanover, with parts of the gun turret nearby. The Mid Upper Gunner and Flight Engineer baled out and were taken as POW.

The remaining four crew nursed the aircraft homewards. On reaching the East Anglian coast of England, and with one engine on fire, the Stirling crashed in the early hours of 23 September at Hall Farm, Barrow, 5 miles WSW of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, killing the four remaining crew members.

Also killed: PO Rodney Ernest Duffy RAAF (Pilot); FS Thomas Douglas Ellis RAAF (Nav); FS Roy Lawrence Gehrig RAAF (AG); FS Arthur Henry John Morgan RNZAF (WOp/AG)

Wilfrid is buried in St Trillo Churchyard, Llandrillo-Yn-Rhos, Denbighshire, Wales

Wilfrid is commemorated on Wall Panel 229

Photo Source: The North Wales Weekly News

