

Sgt Harry Footer Rampley 905139 RAFVR

Harry was born on 12 July 1912 in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, the son of Edward Rampley and Mabel Jane Rampley nee Footer.

Educated locally, before joining the RAF Harry was employed as an Estate Agent and volunteered with the ARP as an ambulance driver. In July 1938 Harry gained his Royal Aero Club Aviators Certificate at Ipswich Aero Club where a Reserve Flying Training School was established to train Volunteer pilots. Despite gaining his pilot certificate, Harry trained as an Observer and was posted to 101 Sqn.

On 2 February 1941 training exercises were carried out by three 101 Sqn aircraft. The weather was overcast with poor visibility in snow showers.

Harry and his crew departed RAF West Raynham, Norfolk in Blenheim IV N3750 (SR). Whilst on the exercise the aircraft crashed on the beach on Freiston Shore near Boston, Lincolnshire. Harry was injured in the crash and was transported to the Emergency Hospital, Boston where he died of his injuries the following day. The WOp/AG died on impact, the pilot and one passenger escaped with minor injuries.

Also Killed: Sgt Ernest William De'ath (WOp/AG) *Died the previous day*

Harry is buried in Ipswich Old Cemetery, Ipswich, Suffolk

Harry is commemorated on Wall Panel 229

Photo Source: Ipswich War Memorial

