

FO Derrick Redvers Redbourn 117644 RAFVR

Derrick was born on 23 June 1922 in Lambeth, London, the son of Jack Redvers Redbourn and Margaret Elizabeth Redbourn nee Walker.

Educated at Christs Hospital School, Horsham, West Sussex, in December 1938 Derrick joined the staff of Coutts Bank in the Strand, London.

Derrick volunteered for the RAFVR aged 17 and was soon called up for training as an Observer after the declaration of war.

Commissioned in December 1941, in October 1942 Derrick was posted to 107 Sqn based at Great Massingham, Norfolk from 17 OTU at RAF Upwood.



On 6 December 1942, 107 Sqn were tasked as part of Operation Oyster, a daylight raid on the Philips radio and valve factory in Eindhoven. The 8th Air Force operated a diversionary raid to Lille using Spitfires as escort. A low level raid in clear conditions led to very accurate bombing and the factory was extensively damaged. The raid was deliberately planned for a Sunday when few employees would have been on site. Full production took 6 months to achieve due to the level of damage. This successful raid was the biggest daylight raid of the war so far comprising 36 Bostons, 12 Mosquitos and 48 Venturas.

At 11:22 Derrick, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Great Massingham in Boston III Z2252 (OM-M). The crew were known to have bombed the target, but on the return were shot down by Uffz Günther Kirchner of 5./JG1 from Schiphol airfield flying a FW 190 A-4. At 12:52 the aircraft crashed into the sea off the coast of Noord-Beveland, killing all on board. More than two months later, on 11 February 1943, Derrick's body was washed ashore at Zoutelande, Zeeland.

Also killed : PO John William Beck RCAF (AG); WO Alan Johnstone Reid (Pilot); FS William John Alton Spriggs (WOp/AG)

Derrick is buried in Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands

Derrick is commemorated on Wall Panel 230

Photo Source: chwarmemorial.org.uk