

WO Norman Francis Slade 939760 RAFVR

Norman was born on 28 March 1908 in Langley, Worcestershire, the youngest son of William Henry Slade and Sarah Slade nee Lees. In 1931 he married Ivy Georgina Spittle in West Bromwich, Warwickshire. They had two children.

Educated at Oldbury Grammar School, Worcestershire, after leaving school he was employed as a Salesman and Collector until he enlisted in the RAF and trained as a Navigator.

On 28 August 1944, Norman and the 161 Sqn crew were tasked with Operation "Hendrik I" and "Stalking", for the Dutch Resistance. Six containers and three packages were intended for Hendrik I and three agents and one package were intended for Stalking.

At 21:56 Norman, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax VI LL388 (MA-W).

The crew did not make their destination. Whilst over De Steenhove, near Engelen, the aircraft was hit by German Anti Aircraft 20mm shells and the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing at Hedel, 4km N of s-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. The Air Bomber was killed, and Norman was mortally wounded, dying of his wounds 2 days later. The rest of the crew evaded or were taken POW.

Also Killed: FO Arnold Keith Michael Dean (Air Bomber); Gerrit Cornelis Kroon (Agent) escaped but died 2 May 1945

Norman is buried in the Engelen General Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

Norman is commemorated on Wall Panel 242