

Sgt Charles Henry Stewart 798545 F

Charles was born on 18 June 1917 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, the only son of Alexander Stewart and Jessie Stewart nee Henderson.

On the declaration of WW2, Newfoundland lacked any form of armed forces. Not possessing the financial resources with which to raise and equip ground, air, or naval forces for service overseas, the Commission of Government allowed Britain and other Allied countries to recruit men and women from Newfoundland and Labrador into their armed forces. Alexander was one of many Newfoundlanders to volunteer for service with the RAF.

Trained as an Air Gunner, at the beginning of May 1942 Charles was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Bourne, Cambridgeshire

On the night of 8/9 July 1942 Bomber Command were tasked with an attack on Wilhelmshaven, a key naval base for the German Navy, and of a combined force of 285 aircraft 101 Sqn contributed eight crews.

Just before midnight on 8 July Charles, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Bourn, Cambridgeshire, in Wellington III X3634 (SR-T).

At 01:40 on 9 July whilst over the target area, Charles's aircraft was hit by 1. Luftsperr-Abteilung 206 (o) and the Marine-Flak-Abteilung 232 Battery Sande and crashed into the Innenjade, a body of water near Wilhelmshaven, killing all on board.

Also Killed: PO James Richard Tregea (Pilot); Sgt Hugh Cuthbert Craig (Obs); Sgt Alexander Albert Brace (WOp/AG); Sgt Leslie John Symonds (AG)

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

Charles is commemorated on Wall Panel 247

Photo Source: IBCC

