

PO James Richard Tregea 104371 RAFVR

James, born Santiago Richardo Tregea, was born on 10 June 1922 in Mendoza, Argentina, the son of William Herbert Tregea and Violet May Tregea nee Abbott. In March 1941 James was naturalized British whilst undergoing his pilot training.

Educated at Bradfield College, Berkshire, on leaving school James joined the RAF and trained as a Pilot. In January 1942 James was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Bourne, Cambridgeshire, from 99 Sqn at RAF Waterbeach, 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 James and his crew departed RAF Bourn, Cambridgeshire, in Wellington III X3634 (SR-T).

At 01:40 on 9 July whilst over the target area, James'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: Sgt Alexander Albert Brace (WOp/AG); Sgt Hugh Cuthbert Craig (Obs); Sgt Charles Henry Stewart (AG); Sgt Leslie John Symonds (AG)

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

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 255