

Sgt John Charles Bennett 1284385 RAFVR

John was born on 28 February 1915 in London, the youngest son of James Albert Bennett and Eleanor Frances Bennett nee Haines. Prior to the war, John was employed as a Cashier for a Wholesale Food Distributor.

Although 13 Squadron was an army support unit, it was co-opted to Bomber Command throughout the period for which the Thousand Bomber raids were taking place. The squadron mainly flew intruder raids to key German aerodromes in an effort to neutralise the German night-fighter effort. The Sqn arrived at RAF Wattisham at 1900 on 25 May 1942 from RAF Detling. On 28 May, they were put on immediate readiness for "Intruder Operations".

On 30 May, in a major effort to help the bomber force attacking Cologne in the first of the Thousand Bomber raids, 34 Blenheims of 2 Group and 15 of Army Co-operation Command, attempted to attack German night fighter airfields alongside the bomber route.

John, operating as the Air Gunner, and the crew departed at 2230 on 30 May 1942 in Blenheim IV N3616 (R) tasked with bombing Juvincourt Aerodrome, France the largest German military airfield in France during the occupation. The crew failed to return after crashing in the sea off Calais. Robert's body was never recovered for burial.

Also killed were : PO Robert Michael Cundy (Pilot); Sgt Robert Drummond Stevenson (Observer)

Robert has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede memorial, Surrey

Robert is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (Not Yet Erected)