

AC1 Ronald Herbert Fish 550326 RAF

Ronald, known as Ron, was born in 1918 in Norton, near Malton, Yorkshire, the only son of Herbert Fish and Alice M Fish nee Prest.

Educated at Malton Grammar School, Ronald joined the RAF in 1935 and trained at the Electrical and Wireless School, RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

On 15 March 1937, 75 Sqn re-formed at RAF Driffield, Yorkshire from "B" Flight 215 Sqn as a Heavy Bomber Sqn within Bomber Command. When Ronald had qualified as a Wireless Operator he was posted to the squadron.

On 4/5 April 1938, two crews were detailed to undertake night cross-country training down to the south coast and return; the flight would be between 700 - 800 miles.

At 18.25 on 4 April 1938 the crew departed RAF Driffield in Harrow II K6995 (75-V). The training flight went without incident until in the final stages.

At 00.25 on 5 April Ronald transmitted a message to RAF Driffield to say they were over Hull, Yorkshire and reported there was a heavy ground fog. Just after 01:00 another message was received to say that they were nearing base and that Ronald was reeling in the aerial cable as they prepared to land. This was the last that was heard of the aircraft.

With Ronald's aircraft now overdue, both air and ground searches began; however, it was not until 07:00 that a local man driving between Hull and Tibthorpe sighted the wreckage of an aircraft near Tipthorpe Low Wood, 4 miles West of the airfield, and raised the alarm. All on board had been killed in the crash, thought to have been caused by the pilot descending to try and ascertain his position and flying into a tree or the ground.

Also killed: FS Edward James Merchant (Pilot); Sgt Ronald George Cowley Marshall (Pilot); Cpl Walter Greaves; LAC George Jeffrey Humphries

Ronald is buried in St Peter's Churchyard, Norton, Yorkshire

Ronald is commemorated on Wall Panel – Not Yet Erected