

All the crew of Hampden AE427 from RAF Swinderby, were killed when the aircraft crashed into Oslo Fjord after being hit by flak whilst on a mining operation.

Sgt Pilot John (Jack) Howett, 745810, killed aged 23.



John was born in Nottingham on the 5 November 1918 to Ernest and Clara nee Fish. His parents Ernest and Clara were married in 1915 whilst Ernest was serving in WW1. John had an older brother called Ronald. In 1939, the family were living at 59 Blyth Street, Nottingham and John was working as an assistant manager in a blouse and robe factory.

John married Ivy L Betteridge in 1940 in Nottingham and before their marriage Ivy worked as a blouse cutter. Their daughter Pamela L Howett was born in Nottingham in 1941.

Following John's death his widow married Kenneth Basford in Nottingham in 1947. In 1949 they had a son Roger J Basford. Kenneth had been John's best man at his wedding. Kenneth also enlisted in the RAF and was drafted to Java in the Far East where he was made prisoner of war by the Japanese and was one of prisoners forced to endure horrendous conditions and malnutrition building the Sumatra railway.

John and Ivy Howett's daughter Pamela married Neville Mays and Simon their son has kindly allowed the use of the images of his grandfather's crew.

11 November 1941 Nottingham Journal: An old boy of Mundella Secondary School, Flight Sergt. John Howett RAFVR of Rose Cottage, Blyth St, Mapperley, Nottingham has been posted as missing. Sgt Howett who is 23 is married and has a daughter. A salesman in the make-up trade before the war, he joined the RAF in the Spring of 1939 and was called up for service on the outbreak of war.

Sgt Peter Frederick Joseph Boreham, 610042, killed aged 20

Peter was born in 1921 in Wrexham to Adolphe and Daisy. In 1939, the family were living at 28 Crombie Road, Chislehurst, Kent and his father Adolphe was a reception clerk for an oil company.

Peter had an older sister Phyllis who was born 27 April 1915 and worked as a civil servant. Phyllis married Hayward F Eady in 1956 in Sidcup. They had no children.

Sgt Herbert Walter Fewkes, 1050516, killed aged 26



Herbert was born on 6 Feb 1916 in Leeds. His mother was Rose Helena Griffiths. In 1939, the family were living at 5 Royal Park Avenue, Leeds and Herbert is listed as working as a collector & clerk credit in the drapery trade. Herbert had two sisters and a brother, Gladys born 1907, Mary born 1909 and Percy born 1913.

Herbert's brother Percy married Gwyneth Jones. The wedding was listed in Armed Forces marriages in Heliopolis, Egypt in 1938.

In the 1939 Register, Herbert's sister Gladys was living at RAF St Athan, Cowbridge, Glamorganshire.

Report of Herbert's death: *Mrs R Fewkes of Royal Park Av, Hyde Park, Leeds has received news that her son Sergt. Herbert Walter Fewkes (26) W/op a/g KIA November last. Mrs Fewkes other son is a Sergt in the RAF which he joined 11 years ago. Mr Fewkes was killed in WW1 while serving in the Royal Garrison Artillery.*

Herbert's father, Walter Harry Edward Fewkes (142882) was a gunner and was killed on 2nd August 1917 and is buried in Voormezele Enclosures in Belgium. He was 39 and had been a stockbroker's clerk.

Researched by Dorothy Ramser