

Alfred John BANFIELD

Born: 1917

Parents: Son of Thomas and Annie Banfield of Chichester

School Years: 1929 – 1934 - Sherborne House - Chichester High School for Boys

Special Prize German) – 1932

Form Prize 1933

Oxford School Certificate – Honours - 1934

Exempt Matriculation University of London

Special Prize – Distinction in Mathematics

Sherborne House Captain

Joined the R.A.F. July 1939 – Posted to Iraq



"Never stir up a hornet's nest"

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Sergeant

Service Number: 567344

Service Record: 100 Squadron
Flight Engineer -

Base: R.A.F.
Grimsby

Date of Death: 17 June 1943



"Lancasters" in operational formation

On Wednesday 16 June 1943 the aircraft of 100 Squadron took off at 22.45 hours from RAF Grimsby/Waltham as part of a 212 bomber mission to Cologne in Germany. Among the crew on Lancaster Type III, serial number ED553 Code HW-R was *Old Boy* Alfred John BANFIELD.

This aircraft later crashed at Wommelgem, Belgium with loss of all crew including *Old Boy* Alfred John BANFIELD. He was 26.

Alfred John Banfield was buried at Schoonselhof Cemetery - Antwerp – Belgium - Plot 11 – Row F – Grave 11

100 Squadron Losses during the War

Between the first mission in March 1943 and the end of the War in 1945, 100 Squadron flew 3,984 individual sorties dropping over 18,000 tons of bombs. The Squadron losses totalled 92 aircraft lost (in addition 21 were lost in crashes) and 593 crew killed.

Their base at RAF Grimsby/Waltham was one of thirty operational Bomber Command airfields within the county of Lincolnshire.

'The Martlet' School Notes - July 1943

"As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death in action over enemy territory of Alfred John Banfield. He was the eldest of three boys in the School, two of whom had brilliant careers. When he left in July 1934 he passed into the R.A.F., and, after training in England, served overseas in Iraq. Thence he returned to operational duties in the nearer theatre of war. Our deepest sympathies go out to his father, sisters and brothers in their grievous loss".

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial