Dennis William Farrar



Photo courtesy of Bill Berry

Rank: - Flight Sergeant

Number: - 1591148

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 51 Sqdn. Roll: Flight Engineer

Cemetery: - Rheinberg War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany 14. C. 3.

Dennis William was born in Batley in 1924 the son of Herbert and Florence May (nee Jackson) Farrar. The couple had married at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 15 January 1916 when Herbert gave his occupation as a shipping clerk, on active service, RFA.

Renee was born in 1919. In 1939 the family was living at 129, Soothill Lane and Herbert gave his occupation as Chief Shipping clerk in constructional engineering.

Dennis William was based at Snaith and was flight engineer in Halifax MZ487 MH-Z, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Arnold. The other crew members were F/O. K T Bell, Sgt. J S Kewell, Sgt. W Osmond and W/O W Poston. This was one of 24 aircraft from 51 squadron, which took part in a raid against the synthetic oil plant at Wanne-Eickel, in the Ruhr. A force of 323 aircraft (277 Halifax's, 27 Lancasters, and 19 Mosquitoes) of 4,6 and 8 groups carried out the raid. Losses were four Halifax's.

The target was completely covered and as a result the bombing as far from accurate. The Germans thought that the target was the Shamrock coal mine.

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and 1939-1945 War Medal

Dennis William is remembered at the Royal Air Force Association, Batley, Hanging Heaton Memorial (St. Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group