Charles Storey FORSTER (1921 – 1943)





LAC, 1036858.

Charles Storey FORSTER

RAF

620 Squadron

2nd July 1943

Age 21

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE

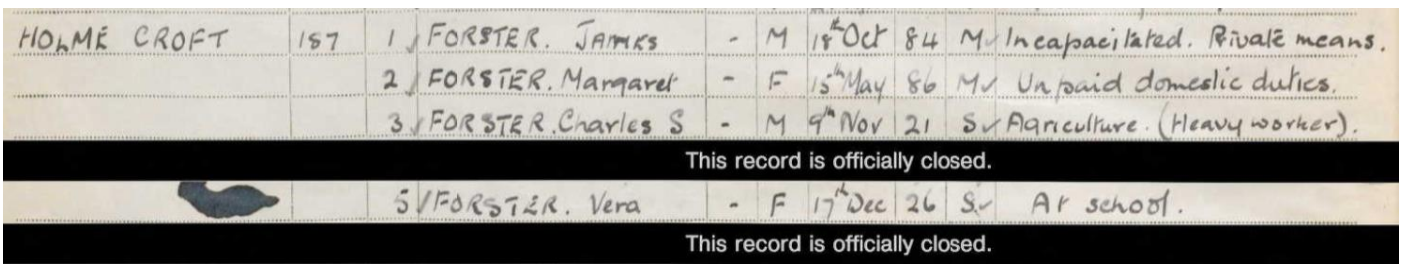
WE ARE IN DEATH

No photo



Charles Storey FORSTER was the son of James and Margaret May Woods Forster, formerly Loraine. He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 9th November 1921, the eighth of ten children. His parents were married in Elswick on 26th December 1907. His father was a Blacksmith's striker in the ordnance works in Newcastle on Tyne.

By 1939 they had moved south to Louth where they lived at Holme Croft. His father was incapacitated and had private means. Charles was employed as a heavy worker in agriculture.



HOLME CROFT	187	1	FORSTER. James	-	M	18th Oct	84	M	Incapacitated. Private means.
		2	FORSTER. Margaret	-	F	15th May	86	M	Unpaid domestic duties.
		3	FORSTER. Charles S	-	M	9th Nov	21	S	Agriculture. (Heavy worker).

This record is officially closed.

		5	FORSTER. Vera	-	F	17th Dec	26	S	At school.

This record is officially closed.

Charles' route into the RAF is not known but he was serving as a Leading Aircraftsman with 620 Squadron in 1943.

620 Squadron was formed on 17th June 1943 and based at RAF Chedburgh. It was comprised of 10 Stirlings from each of 149 and 214 Squadrons, and two days later on 19/20 June, as a part of No. 3 Group of RAF Bomber Command, it began operations with an attack by eight Stirlings on the Schneider armament works at Le Creusot in France.

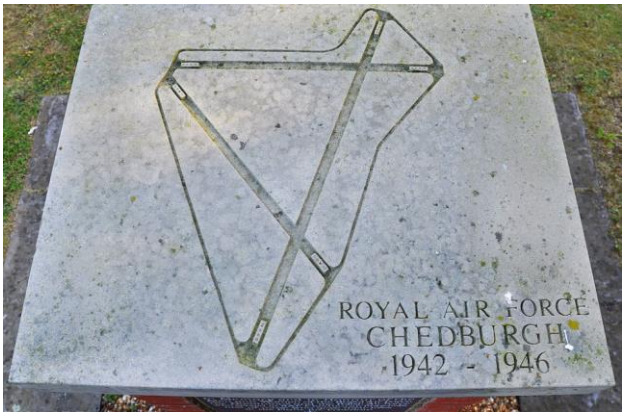
They lost their first aircraft with the loss of all crew. On 2nd July 1943 two Stirling aircraft, EF394 (V) and BK724 (Y), collided over the airfield whist flying in formation during an air affiliation exercise. One came down near to the local pub The Marquis Cornwallis and the other in Stansfield. Only the rear gunner of the Stansfield crash survived with horrific burns. The two crews included five ground staff who were along for experience. Charles, aged 21 years, was one of the men who lost his life.

Charles was buried at Haverhill cemetery, Suffolk, England, grave 199, section U. Others who perished in the same accident are also buried in Haverhill Cemetery. They are Sgt D M Thomson, RAF, from Watford and Sgt R G Lancelott, RAF, from Birmingham, Sgt R C Young, RAF, from Enfield and Leading Aircraftman C S Forster, RAF, from Cleethorpes and Sgt Robert Elmer Atkinson of the RCAF.

The memorial to those who lost their lives at RAF Chedburgh.



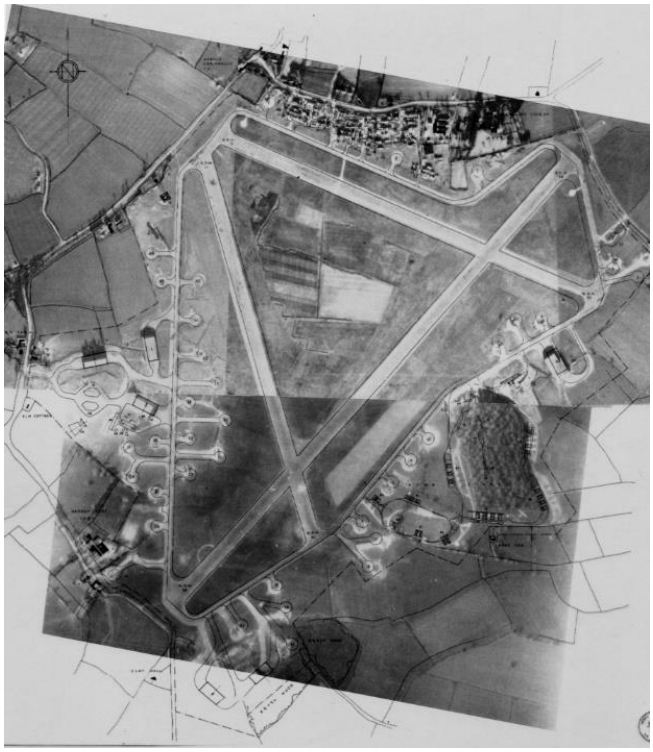




Chedburgh was one of the earliest operational wartime airfields in Suffolk. Built by John Laing and Co. it was a satellite bomber station for nearby RAF Stradishall.







Others who lost their lives were Sgt Thomas Corless who was buried in Burnley Cemetery, AC 1St Class Arthur Haight who was buried in Sand Hutton, L/A James Alexander Macdonald who was buried in Urray Churchyard, Sgt William Shearer who was buried in Inverurie Cemetery and Sgt Leslie Gordon Turville who was buried in Hoddesdon Cemetery.



Charles is also remembered on a family grave in Cleethorpes Cemetery.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MAY FORSTER DIED JULY 7TH 1957 AGED 71 YEARS ALSO HER HUSBAND JAMES DIED AUG. 8TH 1958 AGED 73 YEARS ALSO THEIR SON CHARLES. R.A.F. KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE. 1943 AGED 20 YEARS AND THEIR DAUGHTER VERA DIED 1940, AGED 14 YEARS.