

1194506 SGT PILOT BEN MICHAEL PICK

138 Squadron, RAF

Missing in action 23 December 1942

On 26 July 1940, a short article in the North Berks Herald reported that Ben Michael Pick of Oxford Road, Benson survived the sinking of the MV King John by enemy action on 13 July. He landed safely in the West Indies after being adrift for four days.

Sgt Pick flew the Halifax bomber. In 1942 the squadron was based at Tempsford shortly before it was to be re-equipped with the Lancaster. In the week before he was listed as missing, Sgt Pick was on three night missions: 17 December – Target France, Operation Cockle, landed back at Tempsford at 01.10, 18th; 21 December – Target Belgium, Operations Caracel, Shrew and Periwig, Captain F/O Newport-Tinley, co-pilot Sgt B. Pick in Halifax E272, land back at Manson at 03.00; 22 December – Target Belgium, Operations Gibbon 1, Luckyspot 8 and Carasal in Halifax E272 in formation with Halifax H726, which departed from Tempsford at 21.28. Sgt Ben Pick was listed as missing in action the following morning.

Aged just 21, Ben Pick was buried at Staphorst Cemetery in Holland (grave 3). His father and mother, Ben and Lizzie Robinson Pick, are well remembered as being the publicans at the Horse & Harrow public house at Roke.