

## Jack Ward



**Rank:** - Sergeant (Observer)

**Number:** - 1064100

**Regiment:** - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 214 Sqdn.

**Died:** - Killed in Air operations 16/04/1942 Age: 25 years.

**Cemetery:** - Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands Plot JJ.  
Coll. grave 54-56.

Jack was born in 1916 the youngest son of Percy and Mary Ward nee Windle who had married at Holy Innocents, Thornhill Lees on 30 November 1901. Elsie was born in 1903 followed by Mabel 1905, Eric 1907, Alfred 1909, Doris 1912, Arthur 1914. Before 1909 the family was living at 10, Maxwell Avenue, Batley Carr.

Jack attended Batley Grammar School and in 1942 he married Edna Grant (Registered Spen Valley).

After leaving school, Jack worked as a builder. He wanted to become an architect, but the war interfered with his plans. In April 1940 Jack volunteered for the RAF and was posted to Padgate recruit's centre.

The board recommend him for training as an observer. He was placed on reserve and received his call up papers in January 1941 where he started his course. In April 1941 he was posted to Bombing and gunnery school and underwent Air Observer training. He passed these

**WARD.**—In memory of my dear pal, Sergt. Jack Ward, killed on operations over enemy territory, April 15th-16th, 1942.  
“Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”  
We mourn for him in silence,  
We make no outward show;  
For those who mourn sincerely,  
Mourn silently and low.  
—From his pal, Bill Clegg (R.A.F.).

Batley News, 14 Apr 1945 (Roll of Honour)

exams and was promoted to Sergeant. In September 1941 he was posted to Chipping Warden (OTU) and he was crewed with 5 other men to undertake night bomber training in Wellingtons. In November 1941 Jack was posted to an Operational Squadron, 214 Sqdn. at Stradishall. On the 8th January 1942 he was posted to the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental/Evaluation Establishment at Boscombe Down for testing Navigation systems. Jack returned to his Squadron on 10 April 1942 and posted to the crew of P/O L. M. Leech (a 21-year-old Canadian experienced pilot). On the night 15/16 April 1942 his crew took part in a raid to the German capital city of Dortmund. Over Holland on route to the target area their aircraft was intercepted by a German night fighter and shot down. Their aircraft crashed in Holland at 03.58 hrs between the villages of Helmond and Deurne in a small wooded area and took the lives of the entire crew. This was Jack's first Operational Operation. Together with Jack, also died P/O Shortt, P/O. Leech, Sgt Heppenstall, Sgt Turner and Sgt Egan. They were laid to rest at Eindhoven (Woensel) General cemetery.

His cousin, Geoffrey Ward born 1920, was shot down and killed over Hanover on 2 January 1944.

Jack is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial. He was awarded the Air Crew Europe Star; 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Thanks to Adrian van Zantvoort