

## William Conyers Wright



Headstone photograph thanks to Bill Berry

**Rank:** - Sergeant (Wireless Operator – Air Gunner)

**Number:** - 1154295

**Regiment:** - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 50 Squadron Code VN

**Died:** - 23 October 1941 aged 27

**Cemetery:** - Kiel War Cemetery, Germany Plot 1 Row F Grave 12

Batley News, 1 Nov 1941; 14 Feb 1942

William Conyers Wright was born in 1914 the son of Walter and Gertrude Eliza Wright (nee Conyers, m. 9 Apr 1913, Dewsbury, St. Mark) and Mary was born in 1917. The family lived at Oak Cottage, Caledonia Road, Batley.

William attended Batley Grammar School and later worked at Messrs Jessop's (Tailors), Commercial Street, Batley before leaving to become the manager of Fifty Shilling Tailors at Dudley, near Birmingham in 1934. His mother died in May 1941 and his father moved to live at 33, Cross Park Street, Batley.

William volunteered for the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in August 1940. At the time William failed to return after a night raid over enemy territory No 50 Squadron was operating Hampdens from Waddington. It is likely that Sergeant Wright died in the only aircraft, a Hampden, to be lost in the attack. The raid was carried out by a mixed force of 114 aircraft, only 69 of which reached the target area. A German diarist records an aircraft being shot down when trying to dive out of searchlight beams. (Thanks to Bill Berry).

William was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Batley Conservative Club; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.

