

Jack Culley

Sergeant Wireless Op./Air Gunner 207 Sqdn, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Service Number 1186097.

Died 6 August 1942 Age 21

Memorial Uden War Cemetery North Brabant Holland.

[https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2765636/culley,-jack/3 childre](https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2765636/culley,-jack/3%20childre)

Son of Charles (born 13/05/1889) and Nora Culley nee Osborne (born 12/09/1892) of Carlton. They were married in 1913, registered in the Basford Registration District in the December quarter of that year.

They had 3 children

Ida M - birth registered in the Basford Registration District in the March quarter of 1916

Jack - birth was registered in the Basford Registration District in the March quarter of 1921

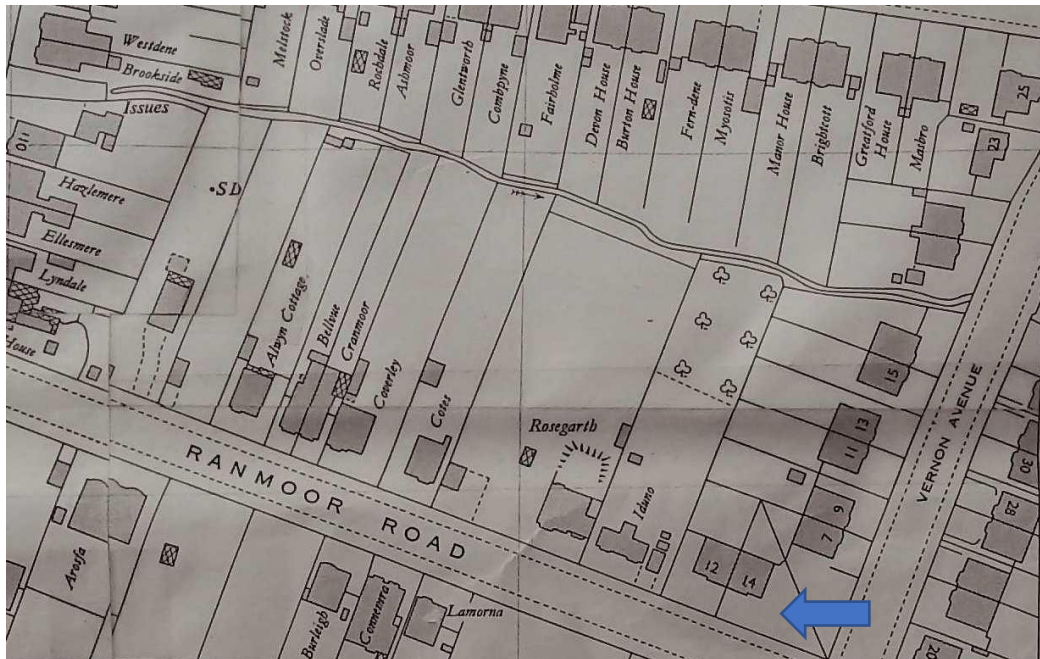
Joyce - birth registered in the Basford Registration district in the September quarter of 1923.

Jack's family were on Lockerbie Street, Colwick from c1926-1930 then moved to 55, Chatsworth Avenue Carlton 1931, as Charles and Nora are listed here on the on the Electoral Registers for those years.

Jack would probably have attended either Colwick St John school but more likely Ashwell Street infant and Junior school which was nearer to Lockerbie Street. When the family moved to Chatsworth Avenue he would have attended All Hallows School. He also joined All Hallows Church Choir. He was included in a photograph of the choir taken in 1932



On the 1939 Registration Jack's parents are listed as residing at 14 Ranmoor Road Gedling. His father was a 'signal and telegraph linesman -heavy worker'. His mother Norah is a housewife (listed as Unpaid Domestic Duties) there are 3 closed entries which will probably be Jack and his two sisters.



At some point Jack was either called up or volunteered for service and joined the RAF. He was assigned to 207 squadron which in 1940 was based at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire part of Bomber Commands no. 5 Group. Jack was a wireless operator/air gunner and flew on many missions.

On 21st June 1942 he was at RAF Bottesford in Leicestershire

<https://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/ww2/allied/royalairforce/sqdview.php?pid=405>

R5860 was delivered to 207 Squadron 18 June 1942.

The aircraft was one of 200 Manchesters ordered from Avro Manchester – Sept 1939 and built as Lancaster mark I delivered from February 1942 to July 1942 with Merlin 20 engines.

This aircraft was lost returning from its first operation. When lost this aircraft had a total of 7 hours. Airborne 23 45 20 June 1942 from Bottesford. Both starboard engines failed and caught fire as the crew were returning to base. Unable to control the flames, or bring the propellers under control the Lancaster was ditched 01 02 21 June 1942 in the North Sea approx. 90 miles east from the Humber estuary. All including Jack Culley were successfully rescued.

On 6th August 1942 the same crew were on R5761 on a mission to bomb a target in Essen. On the way home the aircraft was shot down over Holland, near the church at Megan in Noord Brabant.

The crew were all killed

- F/L G.A. Ings,
- Sgt.R. Bell-Berry
- F/S W.J.A. Shapter, RCAF
- Sgt J Culley, Wireless operator/ Air gunner
- F/Sgt G.C. Everitt Wireless operator/ Air gunner
- Sgt D.R. Manser Air gunner
- Sgt J.W.E. Holland Air gunner.

Nottingham Evening Post 'Deaths' Friday August 7th 1942

Culley, William John, sergeant RAFVR. Proud and loving memories of a dear son and brother. Killed in action over Germany August. Mother, father, sisters Hilda and Margaret

All Hallows Parish Magazine September 1942

Service Men. *Great sympathy is felt with the family of John Culley who has been reported as missing from operations over France. So recently as July Jack was rescued from the North Sea after thrilling adventures. Within a month his plane left on an errand from which it did not return. What a debt we at home owe to the courage of these lads! Jack Culley was a member of our choir till his voice 'broke*

All Hallows Parish Magazine February 1944

The parents of Jack Culley. One of our RAF heroes to whom we owe so much have had news, after long months of agonising silence, that he and his plane-mates came to grief over Holland. They are buried in the cemetery at a little place called Uden in North Brabant



South Notts Echo 5th. February 1944

Photographs of Uden War Cemetery North Brabant Holland. Can be found on the website

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/search?cemetery-name=Uden+War+Cemetery&cemetery-loc=&only-with-cemeteries=cemOnly&locationId=>

and a photograph of the grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18429407/jack-j-culley>