

Flying Officer Weston Craig – Navigator

Weston Craig was a fellow North-Easterner from South Shields, a fact that made his presence in the crew a special comfort to Albert. In a Lancaster full of men from across Britain and the Commonwealth, there was something reassuring about hearing a familiar accent, sharing jokes about home, and knowing that, even in the chaos of war, someone else understood where you came from.

Born on May 16, 1922, Weston was the son of Robert and Jessie Craig. Before the war, he worked as an administrator in the Civil Service, a steady, reliable profession that reflected his naturally methodical mind. He was mild-mannered, kind, and highly intelligent, qualities that made him well suited to his eventual role as a navigator. His job was one of immense responsibility: guiding the crew through the vast, dark skies, across enemy territory, and home again. Every mission depended on his precision, his ability to read the stars, the maps, and the ever-changing weather conditions. A single miscalculation could mean missing the target, or worse, failing to find their way back to safety.

Interestingly, Weston had initially started to train as a pilot, but according to family lore, he had a knack for breaking undercarriages during landing practice. Whether true or not, he transitioned to navigation, a role that proved essential to his crew's survival. Cool-headed under pressure, he took on the weight of responsibility without complaint, earning the trust of those who depended on him in the most perilous of circumstances. (Source: Ingrid Shepherd and Dawn Woodward, Co-Authors of "From Bomber County to Berlin".)