

Sergeant Albert A Walton- Wireless Operator/Gunner

Born in May 1921 and from West Boldon, Co Durham, Albert is the central character in this book. An excellent Wireless Operator and Air Gunner.

Together, these men formed a family in the skies, a mix of Northerners, Southerners, Scots, Canadians, and Midlanders who trusted one another with their lives. In the quiet moments, they laughed, shared stories, and dreamed of the futures they hoped to return to. In battle, they were fearless, bound by duty and an unbreakable bond.

The process of 'crewing up' in Bomber Command was often an organic one. Unlike the rigid assignments of some military units, aircrew were given the opportunity to mingle and form bonds before officially becoming a team. In many cases, friendships were forged over a pint in the mess, a casual conversation in the barracks, or shared moments during training exercises.

For Albert and his crew, this process was no different. Some had arrived at 101 Squadron together, transferred on the same day from their previous training school. Each man brought a unique set of skills, but it was trust and camaraderie that made them a true unit. Pilots would naturally gravitate toward those they felt confident flying with. Navigators sought out those they could rely on, and gunners looked for men they knew would have their backs in the heat of battle. (Source: Ingrid Shepherd and Dawn Woodward, Co-Authors of "From Bomber County to Berlin".)