



### **Ft. Sgt. Howard Victor Adams 1100855 RAFVR**

Howard Adams was the wireless operator in a 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit Lancaster which crashed near Newark as he and his crew approached the end of their training before joining a Bomber Command squadron.

He was among 10 men to die in the crash at Cromwell, near to the river Trent, including an experienced instructor and two members of the ground crew who had joined the flight. The crash happened in the early hours of 12 March 1943 after Lancaster R5556, a former ex-44 Squadron aircraft (*pictured above during its time with 44*), took off from RAF Winthorpe, near Newark, as part of the regular programme of training.

The port engine caught fire before the aircraft went out of control and crashed at Cromwell, only a few miles away from Winthorpe. There were no survivors.

Howard was the 22-year-old son of William and Mabel Adams and came from Liverpool. He is buried in Allerton Cemetery in the city.

The others who died were the instructor Flt. Lt. James Cowan DFC RNZAF, pilot Sgt. Tony Burgess, flight engineer Sgt. Douglas Lovelady, navigator Flt. Sgt. Albert Hannay RCAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Eric Hall, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Stan Johnson, rear gunner Sgt. Albert Clark and passengers LAC Ken Robson and AC1 Len Rogers.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/Eric Simms Memorial Collection