

Sgt. Clifford Ronald Anderson
1897548 RAFVR

'A shadow of sadness has passed over the whole squadron...' This is how the 166 Squadron historian recalled the loss of rear gunner Clifford Anderson and his vastly experienced fellow crew members on the night of 20/21 February 1945.

Clifford was part of the crew of A Flight commander Sqn. Ldr. Ken Collinson DFC at 166 Squadron and, like most of his crew members, was tour-expired but it seemed had volunteered for another operation, this time against Dortmund.



He and his crew had between them amassed over 200 operations and earned four Distinguished Flying Crosses. The crew had joined 166 in the late summer of 1944 and had first flown operationally on 10 September. The Dortmund raid was their 32nd together.

For the Dortmund trip they were flying in Lancaster I PA179 AS-A, an aircraft that had already brought them safely home from nine of their operations. They left Kirmington at 2145 hours, as part of a force of 514 Lancasters from 1, 3 and 6 Groups, but what happened to them after that is not recorded. The aircraft is believed to have come down in the Ruhr area for after the war the bodies of the seven men on board were reinterred in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, 50 miles north of Cologne.

Those killed with him were the pilot Sqn. Ldr. Ken Collinson DFC, flight engineer P/O Alex Adams DFC, navigator Flt. Sgt. Charles Miller, bomb-aimer F/O John Sinclair DFC, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Alfred Harrison and mid-upper gunner (and squadron gunnery leader) Flt. Lt. John Barritt DFC.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 002.

Illustration: 166 Squadron Association.