

F/O Edward James Argent 156647 RAFVR



A 9 Squadron Lancaster at Bardney

Edward Argent was a young Lancaster pilot who was killed during an attack on Brunswick less than three weeks after being rescued after ditching in the North Sea.

He was among four of those who were killed who had previously been picked up by an air sea rescue launch after spending four hours in a dinghy off the Norfolk coast, at the end of December 1943.

Edward lost his life on the night of 14 January 1944 when his 9 Squadron Lancaster, ED721 WS-S, crashed near the small town of Bartolfelde, south of Brunswick. They had taken off from Bardney at 1643 hours, part of a force of 498 bombers, 38 of which were lost. His flight engineer and bomb-aimer both managed to escape by parachute and became prisoners of war.

Part of a relatively experienced crew, he was the 20-year-old son of Herbert and Ellen Argent and came from St Margaret's in Richmond-on-Thames. He is buried with other members of his crew in Hanover War Cemetery.

The others who died were navigator F/O Frederick Forshew, wireless operator Sgt. George Fradley, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Alfred Trevena RAAF and rear gunner WO2 David Powley RCAF. The survivors were flight engineer Sgt. W Lyon and bomb-aimer Sgt. H Jolliffe.

His name can be found on panel 003.

Sources: Bombers First and Last by Gordon Thorburn/Bomber Command Losses by Bill Chorley/Peter Green collection.