

Flt. Sgt. Sydney Dennis Bird R/115874 RCAF



Sydney was a Navigator/Bomb Aimer and served in 49 Squadron based at RAF Fiskerton. A Canadian, he was killed on 15 June 1943 on the crew's 10th operation. He was the 23-year-old son of Charles and Nellie Bird of Lashburn, Saskatchewan.

An all-Lancaster force of 197, guided by 6 Oboe Mosquitoes, made a successful attack on Oberhausen. Despite the target being cloud-covered, accurate sky-marking enabled the bombers to do considerable damage. Twelve Lancasters lifted from Fiskerton's runway. The crews soon found themselves engaged in a savage battle from both flak and fighters which resulted in Bomber Command losing 17 aircraft. Sydney was killed, along with his crew, over Germany, their Lancaster crashing near Lembeck; the crew are buried together in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

The rest of the crew of Lancaster ED453 were:

WO N Nixon – Pilot (Killed)

Sgt. C Wilde – Flight Engineer (Killed)

Sgt. R T Moore – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (Killed)

Sgt. R K B. Muir – Air Gunner (Killed)

Sgt. N W Fyfe – Bomb Aimer (Killed)

Sgt. F R Fowler – Air Gunner (Killed)

Sgt. E Dangerfield – Extra Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (Killed)

Sydney can be found on Panel 9.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.