

Flight Sergeant George Ralph Blackmore R/59272 RCAF



A No. 103 Squadron Wellington at RAF Elsham Wolds

Canadian George Blackmore was the rear gunner in a No. 103 Squadron Wellington which disappeared during a raid on Turin in September 1941.

Five aircraft were lost on the attack, but the crew of Wellington 1C R1396 are believed to have been the only casualties in a raid which was directed primarily at the Fiat steelmaking plant in the northern Italian city.

George's aircraft had taken off from RAF Elsham Wolds at 2004 hours on the evening of September 10, one of six provided by the squadron for the raid. All landed at RAF Honington in Suffolk to top up their tanks before flying on to Italy. What happened to R1396 was never established; the aircraft and crew recorded as 'lost without trace', the presumption being that the Wellington probably crashed in the sea.

He was part of an experienced 103 Squadron crew and was among many Canadian aircrew who were killed serving with the squadron. The others who died were the pilot P/O David Petrie, second pilot Sgt. Peter Bennett, observer Sgt. George Rye, bomb-aimer/wireless operator Sgt. Charles Wagon and wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Aubrey Vernon. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 60).

George had enlisted on 28 June 1940 and then married Elsie Bertha Hart on 28 December the same year, at Timmins. After initial training he was posted to the UK; following operational training he was assigned to No. 103 Squadron on 23 June 1941.

The son of David Evans Blackmore and Gertrude Blackmore (née Sigward) of Manitoba, Canada, he was 29 years old.

George's name can be found on IBCC panel 010.

Sources: Elsham Wolds Association/Peter Green photographic collection