

Sgt. Edward John Cook 1025304 RAFVR



F/S WF Austin DFM RAFVR and crew - 103 Squadron - KIA 2nd March 1943.

Edward Cook was a relative late-comer to the highly-experienced crew of Flt. Sgt. 'Bunny' Austin in 103 Squadron at RAF Elsham Wolds. He joined the crew on 9 January 1943, by which time the remainder had already completed 10 operations and the skipper had earned an immediate Distinguished Flying Medal.

Edward was the son of Lt. Cmdr. Edward Cook Royal Navy, and his wife Grace, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire. He was 22 years old at the time of his death.

By the night of 2 March 1943 he had completed 19 sorties while the remainder of the crew were nearing the end of their tour. Their aircraft, W4361 PM-N, left Elsham at 1853 hours but nothing further was heard. It was one of 17 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings lost in an attack involving 302 Bomber Command aircraft.

Killed with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. W F Austin DFM, flight engineer Sgt. K H Chapman, navigator P/O A F Reif RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. P G Roberts RNZAF and mid-upper gunner Sgt. D E J Boland.

All have no known grave and are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey.

Edward's name can be found on panel 022

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association

