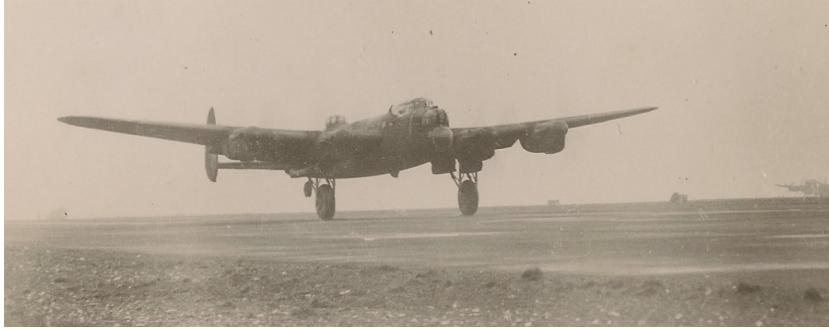


## **Sgt John Douglas Dadswell 1678501 RAFVR**



**A 625 Squadron Lancaster pictured at Kelstern 1944**

In the early hours of 16 March 1944 19-year-old mid-upper gunner John Dadswell and his Lancaster crew were only 20 miles away from their home airfield at Kelstern after a long flight to Stuttgart when disaster struck.

As their aircraft, ND637 CF-L of 625 Squadron, approached the Lincoln area it collided with another Lancaster ED 606 of 463 Squadron which was circling before landing at Waddington. Both aircraft crashed together near the village of Branston, four miles from Lincoln. All 14 young men – eight Englishmen, three Canadians, two Australians, a Scotsman and a South African – on board the two aircraft were killed.

John was the youngest member of the crew and is buried in Harton cemetery in South Shields.

The other members of his crew were pilot P/O John Bulger RCAF, South African flight engineer Sgt. Alfred Aiston RAFVR, navigator WO2 Gordon Ivey RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Robert Jones RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Dennis Hewitt RAFVR and rear gunner Sgt. Richard Fettis RAFVR.

His name can be found on panel 026.

Sources: Bill Chorley/625 Squadron Association.

