

## **Flt Sgt Gordon Hudson Davison 936543 RAFVR**

Gordon was born on 4 Nov 1919 in Redcar, North Yorkshire, and was the only son of James Hudson Davison and Margaret Jane Davison nee Weetman. Gordon was educated at Coatham School, Redcar as a fee paying day boy. Before joining the RAFVR in 1940 he was employed as a Local Journalist. Gordon trained as Air Gunner and was briefly posted to 44 Sqn at RAF Waddington from 25 OTU in January 1942 before his posting, together with 7 other AGs, to 83 Sqn in February 1942 at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, flying the Avro Manchester.

On the 12 April 1942, 251 aircraft from Bomber Command set off for Essen in what would be the eighth raid on the city in five weeks. The crew of R5838 (O-LS), with Flt Sgt Davison in the rear gun turret, was one of 3 Manchesters 83 Squadron allocated to the mission.

R5838 departed RAF Scampton at 2218 en-route to Essen. The bombing commenced from 12,000 feet at targets identified by flares dropped by flare aircraft. Whilst over the target, the aircraft was attacked by a night fighter and, despite violent evasive action by the pilot, the aircraft was badly damaged and Flt Sgt Davison was killed. On return to base, one engine failed whilst over the Dutch coast, and the aircraft diverted to RAF Coltishall where it landed safely at 0415. The aircraft was subsequently written off due to damage to wings and flaps.

Gordon is buried in Redcar Cemetery, Redcar, North Yorkshire

Gordon is commemorated on Wall Panel 27 and Ribbon of Remembrance 0337