

Flt. Lt. Frederick Ross Dunton 126830 RAFVR



The headstones of the crew

Frederick 'Derry' Dunton was a Cambridge scholar who trained as a Lancaster pilot only to be killed three days after being posted to a Lincolnshire squadron.

He was the pilot of 166 Squadron Lancaster PD261 AS-S, which is believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over the target area during a raid on the Polish city of Stettin on the night of 29/30 August 1944. There were no survivors.

Derry Dunton was the 22-year-old son of Arnett and Sylvia Dunton of Paignton in Devon, and later of Altrincham in Cheshire. In 1935 he became a boarder at Malvern College where he excelled in history. He was a member of School House and served as Junior Chapel Prefect, Head of House and editor of the school newspaper, the Malvernian. Malvern College still awards the Frederick Ross Dunton Memorial Prize annually.

He later became an Exhibitioner at Christ's College, Cambridge, before joining the RAF and eventually arrived at Kirmington to join 166 Squadron on 26 August 1944. The raid on Stettin, which involved 402 Bomber Command Lancasters and 1 Mosquito, was their first. Their aircraft was one of 23 that failed to return.

Derry is buried together with the other crew members in Poznan's Old Garrison Cemetery. The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Charles Murray, navigator Flt. Sgt. Robert Harding RAAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Trevor Davis, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. David Powers RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Carey and rear gunner Sgt James Peake.

Derry's name can be found on panel 031.

Sources: Malvern College/Aircrew Remembered/166 Squadron Association.