

Sgt. Robert Edgeworth 1508681 RAFVR



F/O Hutchinson and crew pictured at Wickenby. They are (back row, l-r) Sgt. Edgeworth, WO2 Binder, F/O Young, Flt. Sgt. Macey; (front) F/O Hutchinson, P/O Goodkey and Sgt. Hodgson. They are pictured in front of Lancaster DV177 UM-K2 which was shot down by an intruder over Essex in April 1944.

At just 18 years of age Bob Edgeworth was one of the youngest men ever to be lost on Bomber Command operations when he was killed along with other members of his 626 Squadron crew during a raid on Schweinfurt.

He was a relative newcomer to the experienced crew of F/O Jack Hutchinson DFC RAAF, six of whom were on the 30th and final operation of their tours.

Their Lancaster, LL797 UM-B2, had left RAF Wickenby shortly after 1800 hours on the night of 24/25 February 1944 as part of the first wave of an attack on the southern German city of Schweinfurt and, in particular, its key ball bearing industry. They were intercepted by a night fighter over eastern France and the Lancaster exploded, crashing near Marsal in the Moselle region. All eight on board were killed and were later buried in the village churchyard.

The other crew members who died were the pilot F/O Jack Hutchinson DFC RAAF, second pilot Sgt. Bryan Bowditch (who was there to gain experience), flight engineer Sgt. Arthur Hodgson, navigator P/O Len Goodkey RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Peter Young, mid-upper gunner WO2 Hector Binder RCAF and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Ken Macey.

Bob was the son of Harold and Dorothy Edgeworth of Liverpool and his name can be found on IBCC panel 031.

Photographic source: Wickenby Archive