

Sgt. John William Edwards
1052838 RAFVR

John Edwards was a wireless operator/air gunner on board one of two Wellingtons lost by 103 Squadron during an attack on Bremen on the night of 2/3 July 1942.

He was flying in Wellington IC DV611, which had left RAF Elsham Wolds at 2321 hours and was reported to be approximately 30 minutes from the target when the aircraft was apparently attacked by a night fighter.

The Wellington was critically damaged, went into a dive and exploded, blowing clear the Canadian observer, P/O David Davidner, who parachuted to safety and spent the remainder of the war as a PoW. The other four occupants of DV611, including John, were killed.

John was 22 and came from the South Yorkshire mining village of Maltby. He was the son of John and May Edwards. He and his crew had flown 10 operations together before the Bremen raid.

Also killed were the pilot P/O Archie Little RAAF, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Thomas Elliott and the rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Joe Chicoine RCAF. All four are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

John's name can be found on IBCC panel 032.

Photographic source: David Fell and Elsham Wolds Association.

