

Sgt John Ellenor 1816199 RAFVR



John was an air gunner who served with 49 Squadron based at RAF Fiskerton. He was killed on 27 April 1944. He was 33 years old and the son of William and Louisa Ellenor. He and his wife Olive had a daughter called Barbara, who was 4 years old at the time he died.

Mosquitoes of 627 Squadron, Woodhall Spa, used 5 Group's low-level marking technique for the first time. The attempt was not accurate and much of the bombing fell outside Schweinfurt. Meanwhile, German night fighters had managed to penetrate the 215-strong main force, which took a heavy toll as 21 Lancasters failed to return.

P/O John Dickinson and his crew were lost after being shot down by Hpt. Helmut Bergmann. After surviving so many close calls in the earlier part of their tour, the 'reaper' finally got them on their 25th operation. Many on the squadron thought that Johnny Dickinson and crew (who loved flying their Lancaster at very low-level on training flights) had been blessed with that precious bomber crew commodity - 'luck', and were sure that they would get through their tour. Seven white headstones in a neat line mark where all seven lie at peace in Ugnys-sur-Meuse Cemetery, France.

The others who died were the pilot P/O John Dickinson, flight engineer Sgt. Richard Hainsworth, navigator Flt. Sgt. Frederick Wale, bomb-aimer WO2 Norman Mackenzie RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Claude Sizer and rear gunner Sgt. Robert Hudson DFM.

John can be found on IBCC Panel 32. His older brother William also died serving in Bomber Command (in January 1944), whilst another brother was sent home.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.