

## **Flt Sgt Burton Dix Howard RCAF R/88689**

Burton Howard was a Canadian rear gunner who died along with five of his crew when their aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter during an attack on Stuttgart on the night of 20/21 February 1944. It was their sixth operation together.

His aircraft, ND338 LE-Q of 630 Squadron, had taken off from East Kirkby, one of fourteen from the squadron, joining a force of 598 bombers heading for the southern German city. An effective diversion led to only nine aircraft being lost although a second from 630 Squadron crashed on take-off.



ND338 was intercepted by a night-fighter fitted with an upward-firing cannon, crashing near the small town of Plittersdorf, close to the Rhine and the French border. The only survivor was the wireless operator, Sgt Angus Newson.

Burton was born in the town of Milestone in Saskatchewan where he was raised and educated. He was a member of the Anglican Church community there before joining the RCAF at the outbreak of war. He was the twenty-six-year-old son of Robert and Mary Howard, who later moved to Elora in Ontario, and he had a sister and two brothers, one of whom was badly injured while fighting with the Canadian Army in Italy.

The others who died were the pilot PO Harold Mackintosh RAAF, flight engineer Sgt Elwyn Hughes, navigator Flt Sgt Geoffrey Slater, bomb-aimer Flt Sgt Owen Preston RAAF and mid-upper gunner Flt Sgt Stephen Tatai RCAF. All were buried in Plittersdorf before being reinterred in the Durnbach War Cemetery.

Burton's name can be found on panel 051.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Canadian veterans.