

Sgt Anthony Jules Lawson Lyon 1336486 RAFVR

Anthony was born on 3 November 1921 in Southampton, Hampshire, the eldest son of Archibald Lawson Lyon and Gladys Irene Bessie Lyon nee Chinchin.

Before joining the RAF and training as an Observer, and subsequently an Air Bomber, Anthony was employed in the aircraft construction industry and was a volunteer despatch rider for the ARP.

In April 1943 Anthony was posted to 101 Sqn at RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, flying on Lancasters.

On 4 May 1943 Bomber Command was tasked with "Operation Sprat", the largest non-thousand plane raid of the war to date, and the first major attack on Dortmund as part of the Ruhr Offensive. Of the 596 aircraft despatched on the raid, 101 Sqn contributed 18 crews. Two squadron aircraft failed to return, and 4 crash landed killing a further 7 crew members. This was Anthony's 9th Op.



At 21:40 Anthony, operating as the Air Bomber, and the crew departed RAF Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire in Lancaster I W4888 (SR-P).

Whilst over the IJsselmeer on the Frisian Coast, Anthony's aircraft was intercepted by Oblt Lothar Linke, flying a Bf110 from 12./NJG1 operating from Leeuwarden airfield. Oblt Linke claimed 4 aircraft on this raid. Damaged and on fire, the pilot realised that they would not be able to return to the UK and a decision was made to make an emergency landing along the Frisian Coast.

Shortly after the Lancaster flew over the Workum railway station, the aircraft skimmed over a large farmhouse where the tail section broke away, throwing the Rear Gunner out of the aircraft into a meadow west of that farmhouse. At 01:40 the burning plane crashed around 150 metres from the two farmhouses on the south side of the Dyke, 1km S of Workum. The Navigator had managed to parachute out before the aircraft crashed, killing Anthony and the 4 remaining crew. The Navigator, with serious burns, was taken as a POW.

The five crew from the main fuselage, including Anthony, were recovered and buried in the local cemetery. On 7 May, the Rear Gunner's body was discovered in a meadow to the west of the farmhouse, and he was buried alongside his crew.

Also Killed: FO Nicholas James Stanford (Pilot); FO William Thomas Lewis DFM RCAF (Wop); FS George William Francis Reynolds (AG); Sgt John Milner Hadfield (AG); Sgt Arthur Harold Clark (FE)

Anthony is buried in Spoordyk General Cemetery, Workum, Friesland, Netherlands

Anthony is commemorated on Wall Panel 65

Photo Source: www.teunispats.nl