Flt. Sgt. Kenneth Joseph Macey 1320991 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 ex-12 Squadron Lancaster DV177 UM-K2 which was shot down by an intruder over Essex in April 1944

Ken Macey was the 22-year-old rear gunner in the experienced 626 Squadron crew of F/O Jack Hutchinson DFC RAAF which was lost on the night of 24/25 February 1944 on what was the 30th and final operation of his tour.

Their Lancaster, LL797 UM-B2, had left RAF Wickenby shortly after 1800 hours 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, wireless operator Sgt. Robert Edgeworth (at 18 one of the youngest men to be lost on Bomber Command operations) and mid-upper gunner WO2 Hector Binder RCAF.

Ken's parents, John and Mary Macey, lived in Southampton.

Ken's name can be found on IBCC panel 065.

Photographic source: Wickenby Archive