

Sgt. John Edward Addison 1358415 RAFVR



John was the son of William and Jane Addison, of Hillhead, Glasgow.

He was an Air Gunner serving with 487 (NZ) Squadron, based at R.A.F. Methwold, Feltwell, Norfolk. The Squadron motto was Ki te Mutunga, translated as "Through to the end".

Lockheed Ventura I AE713 EG-T, took off at 1643 hours from Methwold airfield, on 3 May 1943, one of 12 Venturas, as part of Operation Ramrod, with an escort of 3 squadrons of Spitfires. The target, was an electricity power station, on the northern outskirts of Amsterdam. A diversionary attack unfortunately flew in too high, and too soon, thus losing the surprise and alerting the defenders of the impending attack. Caught out by low fuel, many of the escorting fighters had to leave, therefore, reducing the effectiveness of the defensive escorting force. Numerous fighters had been scrambled, a deadly cocktail of FW-190s and Bf-109s, with figures suggesting in excess of 80 enemy aircraft. AE713 was shot down by a FW 190A, from Woensdrecht airfield, and exploded in mid-air, crashing between the Zaandam-Enkhuizen railway and the Ringdijk by Zaandam, killing all four crew.

In the space of only a few minutes, eleven aircraft had been attacked, ten had been shot down with the loss of 28 young RAF lives.

John is buried at Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Netherlands. Plot 69. Row C. Coll. grave 8. The epitaph reads "God's last gift, remembrance".

Sgt. John Edward Addison RAFVR, Air Gunner (killed)
Sgt. George Henry Southam RAFVR, WOp/AG (killed)
F/O Stanley Bailey Peryman RNZAF, Pilot (killed)
F/O Edward Trevor Williams RAFVR, Navigator (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 121

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