

Sgt Gordon William Cox 1381469 RAFVR

Gordon was born on 5 April 1920 in Odiham, Hampshire, the youngest son of John Henry Cox and Janet Mary Hizzine Cox nee Hall.

After leaving school, Gordon was employed in a local ironmongers before enlisting into RAFVR in October 1940. By August 1941 Gordon had qualified as a WOp/AG before converting to the Blenheim IV at 42 OTU, RAF Andover, Hampshire with FO Looker and FS O'Neill. They were then posted as a crew to 13 Sqn at RAF Odiham in October 1941.

Although 13 Squadron was an army support unit, it was co-opted to Bomber Command throughout the period for which the "Thousand Bomber" raids were taking place. The squadron mainly flew intruder raids to key German aerodromes in an effort to neutralise the German night-fighter effort; however, on 25/26 June 1942 13 Squadron did fly as part of the main force in attack against Bremen.

On 25 June 1942, 13 Sqn were attached to 2 Group for bomber operations. Of the 9 aircraft flown, 5 were flown with the main "1000 Bomber" raid to Bremen, and 4 continued the "Intruder Operations". Gordon, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew were tasked with an attack on the Nachtjagd base at Venlo, Holland.

At 23:50 on 25 June 1942, Gordon and the crew departed RAF Wattisham in Blenheim IV T2254 (OO-A). On 26 June 1942 at 02:39, the aircraft was hit by flak and crashed near Aartselaar, Belgium.

Two squadron aircraft failed to return - both from the intruder attacks.

Also killed were: FO Peter Huxley Looker (Pilot); FS William George O'Neill (Observer)

Gordon is buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium

Gordon is commemorated on Wall Panel 149.

Photo Source: Rootschat

