

PO Edward George Crawley J/90002 RCAF

Edward, known as Ed, was born on 24 Sep 1916 in Coburg, Ontario, Canada, the only son of Frank George Crawley and Maud Lilley Louisa Crawley nee Neath.

Educated at South Simcoe School and Oshawa Vocational, Edward was employed as a press operator by Coulter Manufacturing, Oshawa, Ontario when, in October 1941, he volunteered for service in the RCAF.

Called up in November 1941, Edward completed his flying training in Canada in January 1943 with the award of his WOp/AG badge and, following further training at 31 OTU RCAF Debert, Nova Scotia, in May 1943 Edward embarked for the UK.

Following additional training at 11 Radio School, RAF Hooton Park, Cheshire, and the coastal operator's course, in September 1943, Edward was briefly posted to 415 Sqn at RAF Thorney Island, West Sussex before moving in October 1943 to 407 Sqn at RAF Chivenor, Devon. Edward returned to 415 Sqn at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk in February 1944. By July the squadron was based in RAF Docking, Norfolk.



On 13 July 1944 three 415 Sqn crews were tasked with an anti-shipping patrol of the Frisians, Dutch Coast and Dunkirk. The squadron had transferred to Bomber Command the day before; however, this was essentially a Coastal Command task.

At 00:46 Edward, operating as the Wireless Operator, and the crew departed RAF Docking, Norfolk in Wellington MF494 (NH-G). The crew were due on patrol at 02:20 and off patrol at 02:47 just south of Heligoland. Nothing further was heard from the crew, although the two other aircraft on the patrol reported a sighting of a night-fighter.

Post war investigations revealed that Edward's aircraft was shot down 20 miles North of Ameland, Friesland, at 02:03 by Uffz Rudolf Wilsch, flying a BF110 of 7./NJG1 from Leeuwarden Airfield.

Edward was posthumously commissioned, backdated to 12 July 1944.

Also Killed: Flt Lt Robert Leonard Harman RCAF (Nav); FO Robert Jordan Sheen RCAF (Pilot); PO Lloyd Eby Findlay RCAF (AG); PO Gordon Keith Huish RCAF (WOp/AG); PO Joseph Jacques Rodolphe Vannier RCAF (WOp/AG); FS John Hands (FE)

Edward has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Edward is commemorated on Wall Panel - 150

Photo Source: findagrave