

PO Elwyn Hinton Edwards 169113 RAFVR

Elwyn was born on 12 September 1921 in Pontypridd, Rhondda, the only son of Richard Hinton Edwards and Annie Mary Edwards nee Meats.

Educated at Pontypridd Boys School, Elwyn was employed as a Civil Servant at the Guardians Office, Pontypridd before he enlisted in the RAFVR in 1941 and trained as a Navigator. In December 1943 Elwyn was commissioned from FS.

Elwyn and his crew came together at 1657 H.C.U. before posting to 218 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk, in September 1943.

During the moon period of March 1944, "A" Flight, 218 Sqn was attached to RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire to augment the two existing base SOE squadrons. On the night of the 4/5 March, Bomber Command committed 76 aircraft to SOE sorties, dropping equipment to the Resistance fighters in Europe. These operations were vital for the success of the forthcoming invasion.

At 21:14 on 4 March 1944 Elwyn and his crew departed RAF Tempsford in Short Stirling III EE944 (HA-H). According to one of the surviving crew, the aircraft was hit by flak as they crossed the French Coast on the outbound leg, damaging the port outer engine. The crew continued until, on reaching Paris, it was clear that they were losing too much fuel and would be unable to complete the mission.

The crew reached RAF Tempsford in the early hours of the 5 March but were instructed by the Control Tower to go round, probably because they were approaching too high. Elwyn opened the throttles but, at 150 feet, the engine failed. Unable to prevent the port wing from dropping, at 02:17 the Stirling side-slipped into the ground, killing 5 of the 7 man crew.

Also killed : FO Bernard Denness (Navigator); FS Peter Henry Kilsby (AB); Sgt Ernest Vamplough (FE); Sgt Douglas Graham Davies (WOp/AG)

Elwyn is buried in Pontypridd (Glyntaff) Cemetery, Glamorganshire.

Elwyn is commemorated on Wall Panel 159

Photo Source: Pontypridd Observer

