Sgt. Godric Loughlin DFM 634506 RAF



Godric was born in 1917 in South Shields, Durham, the son of James Loughlin and Elizabeth Loughlin (née Everitt).

Godric arrived on 101 Squadron at RAF West Raynham, Norfolk, in June 1940, as the squadron was preparing to transfer from a training to an operational squadron.

In November 1940 Godric and his crew were decorated, with Godric awarded the DFM. Godric received his award from His Majesty King George VI who presented him (right) with his medal at RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk, during his official visit on 26 January 1941.

His citation read:

"This crew has shown great skill and determination in locating their targets and pressing home their attacks in spite of encountering heavy A.A. fire on nearly every occasion".

On the night of 18/19 March 1941 Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Rotterdam. The target for Godric's Blenheim was Wilhelmshaven, a key base for the German Navy. They were part of a combined force of 44 Blenheims, with 101 Squadron contributing nine crews.

At 1935 hours on 18 March Godric and the crew departed RAF West Raynham in Blenheim IV R3846 (SR).

The aircraft failed to return and it was later reported to have been shot down by a German naval vessel and crashed into the sea near Texel, Frisian Islands, killing all on board. Only the pilot was recovered for burial.

Also killed were the pilot P/O Charles Raymond Brown DFC and observer P/O Gordon Collis DFM.

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

Godric is commemorated on Wall Panel 200.

Photo Source : IWM