AC2 John Edward Lowe 1026738 RAFVR



John was born on 22 June 1912 in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, the son of Edward Lowe and Edith Lowe nee Nairn. He married Lucy Elizabeth Jebson in 1938 and had one daughter.

Educated at High Pavement School, Nottingham and Nottingham University College, prior to enlisting he was a Master at Ilkeston Road Boy's School, Nottingham.

John joined the RAF in November 1940, just 2 months before his death, and had arrived on the station from basic training on 11 January 1941. He was a member of RAF Wattisham Ground Crew.

Just before midday on 31 January 1941, a lone He111 made a low level attack on RAF Wattisham and the local town of Stowmarket. The aircraft strafed and bombed both. One house in Stowmarket received a direct hit killing one civilian, and the large Congregational Church was destroyed by 3 bombs. It is unknown what the main target was, but the church itself could have been a target because it was believed the Germans knew that soldiers were often billeted in the old Gothic-style churches. There was also a string of war production factories alongside the railway lines.

On the airfield, John was fatally injured in the attack. Transported to Ipswich Hospital, John died soon after arrival - he was one of 2 airmen killed, one other was injured in the attack.

Also killed was : AC2 Frank William John Myles

John is buried in Nottingham Northern Cemetery, Nottinghamshire

John is commemorated on Wall Panel 201

Photo Source: Nottingham Evening Post