

Sgt. John Edward Taylor 1869191 RAFVR



John was the son of John William and Ada Kate Taylor, of Radford, Coventry.

He was an Air Gunner in 7 Squadron.

Lancaster PB667 MG-Q took off from RAF Oakington at 1031 hours 20 March 1945 to bomb railway tracks over Recklinghausen, Germany; their 22nd mission and just 49 days before the end of the war. On its return it was badly damaged and caught fire over Zuid Belevand in Holland. Watching the bomber from the ground was a group from 4th Commando Brigade. They saw the bomber on fire and losing altitude but FO Bacon managed to control it long enough to avoid crashing into a town before the engine exploded and the Lancaster crashed into a field. The fire was immense and all perished. The seven bodies were later recovered by the commandos and buried next to the wreckage.

John was reburied at Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery. Grave 13.A.9. His epitaph reads "Loving memories will remain until the day we meet again." He was 19 years old.



One of the original propellers emerged from the soil in the summer of 2010 and forms the heart of a monument, unveiled in 2013, in Nieuwdrop honouring the sacrifice of the crew.

Sgt. Johnny Edward Taylor, Air Gunner (killed)
F/O George Henry Huttleston, Air Bomber(killed)
Sgt. Harry McClements, Flight Engineer (killed)
F/O Lindsay Page Bacon RAAF, pilot (killed)
Flt. Sgt. Richard Roy Evans, Navigator (killed)
Sgt. Jim Alex Cornwall, Air Gunner(killed)
WO Philip Athol Tennant RNZAF, Wireless Operator (killed)

John is commemorated on Panel 251

Photos taken from tracesofwar.com & databankzeelandwo2.nl