

Reverend James Dawson Crawford

James was born on 24 November 1901 in Co Down, Northern Ireland the eldest son of Joseph Henry Crawford and Eleanor Jane Crawford nee Tate. He was married to Eva Emily Clarke and had one daughter.

James completed his theological training at the Faith Mission College in Edinburgh, and was employed as an Officiating Chaplain for Other Denominations at RAF Feltwell.

On 16 March 1942, 57 Sqn Wellington (X3599) departed RAF Feltwell at 10:45 on a cross-country exercise to Aldergrove, Northern Ireland. James was on board, taking the opportunity to travel home on leave to Ireland. Bad weather was encountered over the Irish Sea and, in order to continue visually, the pilot descended from 5000 feet to 800 feet to keep below cloud. As they approached the coast, the aircraft commenced a climb to avoid the hilly terrain but, despite both engines running normal, the aircraft flew into Eagle Rock, Slieve Donard, Co Down killing 6 of the 7 on board. Only the rear-gunner who was at the back of the aircraft survived.

Also killed were : Flt Lt Hugh Lamour Magee, FO John William Elliott RCAF, FO Harold Eric Hunter RNZAF, Section Officer Barbara Kathleen Blakiston-Houston, Sgt William Swordy Taylor

James is buried in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (Not Yet Erected)