Sydney Dickinson





Sergeant (Navigator) 987302 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserves 149 (East India) Squadron Code OJ

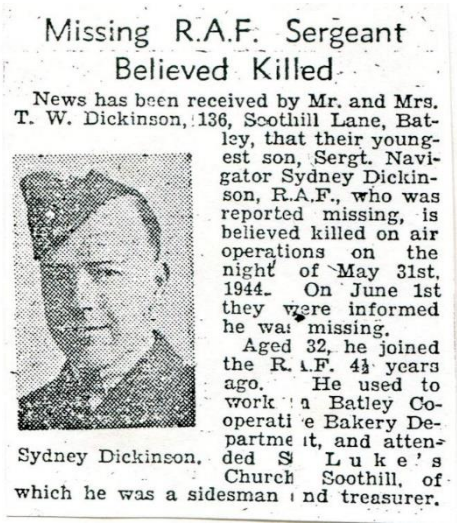
Batley News, 20 Jan 1945 (photo)

Sydney was born on the 13 June 1911 the youngest son of Thomas William and Sarah Dickinson (nee Copley who had married on 26 Dec 1905, at Christ the King Church Battyeford. William Henry was born in 1906 followed by Gilbert in 1908. Thomas William moved about because of his job as an engine-wright.

The family settled in Soothill and Sydney worked in the bakery department of Batley Co-operative Society. He attended St. Luke's Church, Soothill where he was a sidesman and treasurer.

Sydney joined the R.A.F. in late 1939 and became a Sergeant Navigator. News was received that he was missing on air operations on the night of May 31st 1944. It is likely that Sydney was navigator in Stirling bomber which was lost during mime- laying operations off the Dutch and French coasts on the night of May 31- June 1 1944. His body was later found and he is buried at Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands Row H Grave 11. At the

time No 149 Squadron was flying Stirling 111 bombers from Methwold having moved from Lakenheath on May 15 1944.



Missing R.A.F. Sergeant Believed Killed

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Dickinson, 136, Soothill Lane, Batley, that their youngest son, Sergt. Navigator Sydney Dickinson, R.A.F., who was reported missing, is believed killed on air operations on the night of May 31st, 1944. On June 1st they were informed he was missing.

Sydney Dickinson.

Aged 32, he joined the R.A.F. 4½ years ago. He used to work in Batley Co-operative Bakery Department, and attended St Luke's Church Soothill, of which he was a sidesman and treasurer.

The squadron, after having re-equipped with Stirlings, took part in the first 1,000-bomber raids. In 1943 it made a significant contribution to the Battle of the Ruhr, and also took part in the Battle of Hamburg and the famous raid against the German V-weapons experimental station at Peenemunde. Between February and July 1944, the squadron helped supply the French Maquis with supplies, arms and ammunition by parachute.

Sydney was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at St Luke's Church, Soothill; Mother's grave at St. Paul's Hanging Heaton, Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley; Soothill Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group with thanks to Bill Berry