Edward John Flaherty (O'Flaherty)





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 1219836

Regiment: - Royal Air Force 90 Sqdn. Roll: Flight Engineer

Died: - 21/07/1944 Age: 23 years

Cemetery: - Boxtel (Heilig Hart van Jesus) Roman Catholic Churchyard, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands Grave 7.

Edward John was born on 21 Jul 1921, registered Sculcoates area of Hull the son of Isabel Flaherty nee Wright and Martin O'Flaherty who had married in 1917. He died in Ireland in 1922. In 1926 Isabel married Robert Priestley "of Batley".

In 1939 Edward John was living with his grandmother Florence K Wright and Frank E Barton at 16, Kings Bench Street, Hull and was an apprentice joiner.

Robert Henry Priestley was born in Brougham in 1892. In 1901 he lived in Salford and 1911 in Manchester and was a Tram trolley Boy. He served in the forces in WW1 and in 1939 he was a police constable in Stockport, Cheshire.

It is not known when Edward John joined the RAF but he was stationed at RAF Tuddenham and took off from there on the night of 20 July 1944 with the operation target of bombing Homberg-Meerbeck oil plant. 158 aircraft, including 20 Lancasters were downed, which was

mainly due to night-fighter activity. The raid caused severe damage to the plant, resulting in output dropping from 6000 tons of fuel per day to as little as 120. The 8th Air Force also hit this target.



Edward was in Lancaster LM185 WP-D and with him were Flight Sergeant H.M. Brown, Sgt A.F. Marshall, Sgt W N Morgan, Sgt R. P Naylor, Sgt P H Richardson and Sgt. W. Lane when they crashed on the outskirts of Boxtel, Holland.

Edward is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

DEAREST ONLY SON CHERISHED MEMORIES

Researched by members of
Batley History Group