

Operations

On the 19 February 1944, David flew his first operation with a new crew as the navigator

David wrote a letter addressed to his parents on 5 February 1944. He states that he had had a spot of bother before Christmas and did not think that he would be allowed to go on operations for some time, but Group decided to give him another chance and he was put into a new crew. He then decided to report sick with air sickness. He was tested by the Medical Officer and was told that he was not bad enough to be grounded and would be sent back to the squadron.

He was crewed with:

Pilot, Patrick Eric Norman Nice, 23

Flight Engineer, Peter James Vincent Pitcher, 20

Air Bomber, Felix Fitzsimmons,

Wireless Operator, James Tomlinson, 21

Air Gunner, Albert Chappell, 19

Air Gunner, Frederick Samuel Coote, 23

On the 19 February 1944, the crew took off from Bardney on an operation to bomb Leipzig at 23.36 and returned safely at 07.19 on 20 February.

On the night of 20 February, 18 crews took off and were tasked to bomb Stuttgart. David and the crew of LM477 took off at 23.54. They did not return and remain missing without trace.