

At 00.45 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 Lancaster R5844 of 106 Squadron took off from RAF Coningsby on a bombing raid to Essen.

**The crew were:**

Pilot: John Allan Worswick DFC, 116145, age 27. Son of Benjamin Harold Mozart Worswick and Louisa Worswick, husband of Margaret Worswick, of Simonstone, Lancashire.

Pilot: Robert Isaac Hart, 1312986, age 19

Obs: George Robson DFM, 562271, age 31. Son of John William and Hannah Robson, of Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

W/op/Air/Gnr: Alfred George Bake DFM, 48692, age 25. Son of Gilbert Victor and Mary Ann Bake, husband of Mary Agnes Bake, of Burnage, Lancashire.

W/op/Air/Gnr: John Downie Brown, 981758, age 25. Son of John Cummock Brown and Louisa Hutchinson Downie Brown, of Stenhousemuir, Stirlingshire.

Air/Gnr: Thomas Ernest Hodgson, 524685, age 28. Son of Thomas Ernest and Ruth Hodgson, of Darlington, Co. Durham.

Air/Gnr: William Lewis Lambert, 906679, age 24. Son of William and Edith Eleanor Lambert, of Ashton Gate, Bristol.

106 Squadron operational records state: *Failed to return. P/O Worswick was recalled from his rest period to make this trip. Nothing was heard from the aircraft.*

This was the second raid in the 1000 bomber raids. The ground was covered in haze or low cloud resulting in very scattered bombing. Reports from Essen stated that 11 houses were destroyed and 184 damaged. A prisoner of war camp was burnt out with 15 killed and 91 injured. The scattering of the bombing also killed 83 people in Oberhausen, 52 in Dusberg and 15 in Mulheim.

No details of the exact reason the aircraft was lost and there were no claims from the Luftwaffe night fighters were made for this aircraft.

The crew are all buried alongside each other in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

Amongst Robert's papers is a certificate and letter regarding him becoming a member of the Caterpillar Club. Details of this event have not yet been found but it is thought that he had to jump in an emergency out of an aircraft whilst training as the letter is addressed to RAF Moreton in Marsh the home of 21 Operational Training Unit.