

VETERAN OF THE WEEK

22-28 October 2023

J25837 F/O Raymond Edwin Linklater

No. 576 Bomber Squadron, RAF

Royal Canadian Air Force

Second World War



Photo: Courtesy of the Library and Archives of Canada.

Raymond Edwin Linklater was born on the 6th of November 1920 near Burnham, Saskatchewan to Magnus and Beatrice Linklater. Raymond would attend RCAF Pre-Enlistment School in Regina prior to enlisting in the RCAF, passing with good marks. He then would enlist in the RCAF on the 17th of March 1942 at the No. 5 Recruiting Centre in Regina. His first posting was to the No. 2 Manning Depot in Brandon, Manitoba. He remained there until the 22nd of June 1942, when he was posted to the No. 3 Bombing and Gunnery School at McDonald, Man. From there he would take his initial, elementary, and service flying training at the No. 2 ITS, No. 1 EFTS, and the No. 11 SFTS respectively. He would then embark for duty overseas in the U.K. on the 23rd of June 1943, arriving there on the 1st of July. Raymond would continue to train in the U.K., eventually being posted to No. 576 Squadron based out of Elsham Wolds. He would go on to participate in seven bombing raids with the unit. Raymond's last mission was on the 14th of July 1944, a bombing raid on the rail yards at Rivigny. Due to poor visibility of the target, Raymond and his crew were ordered to return to base. Unfortunately, while on the way back in the early morning hours of the 15th of July 1944, Raymond's Lancaster bomber was shot down by a German night fighter. The plane was blown in two and crashed near Loches-Sur-Ource, Abe, France, killing Raymond and the 6 other crew of Lancaster N.D. 994. The local civilians retrieved the bodies of the airmen and buried them in the local cemetery after a funeral service at the local church. He was twenty-three years old. Thank you for your service and sacrifice F/O Linklater.