

# VETERAN OF THE WEEK

8-14 October, 2023

**1452698 Sergeant Pilot Edward “Ted” Sowery**

No. 39 SFTS, Swift Current

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Second World War



Edward “Ted” Sowery was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1922 in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, England to Captain Charles E. and Alice Sowery. Edward worked in a textile mill before deciding to enlist with the RAFVR. He enlisted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1941 at the No. 2 Recruitment Centre in Cardington and in mid February the following year he was taken on strength of the No. 1 Aircrew Receiving Centre at Babbacombe (Devon). He was then transferred to the Air Crew Disposal Wing at Brighton (7<sup>th</sup> March 1942), from there he would be posted to the No. 7 Initial Training Wing located at Newquay, Cornwall. That July he was posted to the No. 7 Elementary Flying Training School near Desford, Leicester where he would complete his basic flying training. In early September he was transferred to the Air Crew Dispersal Centre at Heaton Park, Manchester and that December, Edward was sent overseas to Canada. After having arrived in Canada, he was posted to the No. 33 Elementary Flying Training School located near Caron, Saskatchewan. He later was posted to the No. 35 Service Flying Training School at North Battleford. Edward was then sent to flying instructor school at the No. 2 Flight Instructor School at Vulcan and later at Pearce, AB. After completing his instructor training, on the 25 of June 1943, he was transferred to the No. 39 Service Flying Training School at Swift Current. Sadly, while serving as an instructor at the No. 39 SFTS, Edward would be killed in a training accident on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1943. He was 21 years old. He was on a training flight with a student when the aircraft stalled and went into a spin, crashing north of Rush Lake, SK. Edward is buried in Block 2, Grave 19 in the Veterans Plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Swift Current. He is one of the 33 Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves located in Swift Current.