



Name: Edward Windus

Position: Flight Sergeant

DOB-DOD: 1921- 17 April 1945

Edward Windus was a skilled worker at Bournemouth ATE before he joined the 462 (R.A.A.F) squadron Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve in 1943.

Edward trained as a navigator in South Africa and was then posted to the 21 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at RAF Moreton-in- Marsh on 6 June 1944.

At the OTU, one of the earliest activities was 'crewing-up' – pilots, navigators, bomb-aimers, wireless operators & gunners who had been posted in after completing their individual discipline were all put together in a hangar and left to form their own crews – this worked really well and led to very few incompatible crews being formed.

After learning to operate a medium bomber such as the Wellington as a team, Edward Windus and his crew were posted out to 1644 Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU) at RAF Dishforth on 13 September 1944.

At the HCU they were taught to operate a heavy 4-engined bomber in preparation for posting out to operational squadrons. The crew had their flight engineer assigned at the HCU which in turn became a fully-fledged heavy bomber crew.



After successfully completing the HCU course, Edward & his crew were posted to 462Sqn at RAF Driffield on 6 November 1944. 462Sqn was an Australian (RAAF) heavy bomber squadron when it was reformed in August 1944, moving from 4 Group to 100Group (electronic warfare) on 27 December 1944.

All raids after 27 December 1945 were specialist operations carrying an extra crew member (titled Special Duties Operator or SDO) who was responsible for either operating the ABC

(AirBorne Cigar – voice transmissions to deliberately mislead enemy fighter aircraft by purporting to be their ground controllers passing intercept instructions.

Transmitters on the aircraft were much more powerful than the actual enemy ground transmitters and thus blotted out the genuine transmissions.) equipment or dropped bundles of 'Window' – metallised foil strips cut to precise lengths to either jam enemy radar or give the impression of a far larger bomber force in a particular area than was actually the case. Window ops to spoof force strength required precise navigation & flying and perfect timing on release of the bundles of strips.

On 17 April 1945, Edward died on spoof raid to Augsburg just three weeks before the end of the war in Europe. He is buried in Burnbach War Cemetery, south of Germany, and is remembered by his parents Gerald and Gwendoline Windus of Boscombe, based in Bournemouth. Their touching words in memory of their son *"Cherished memories of our beloved son Edward. Forever in our thoughts"* are recorded in tribute to him on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site.

Edward is also remembered by BT with his name inscribed on a memorial at Bournemouth ATE.

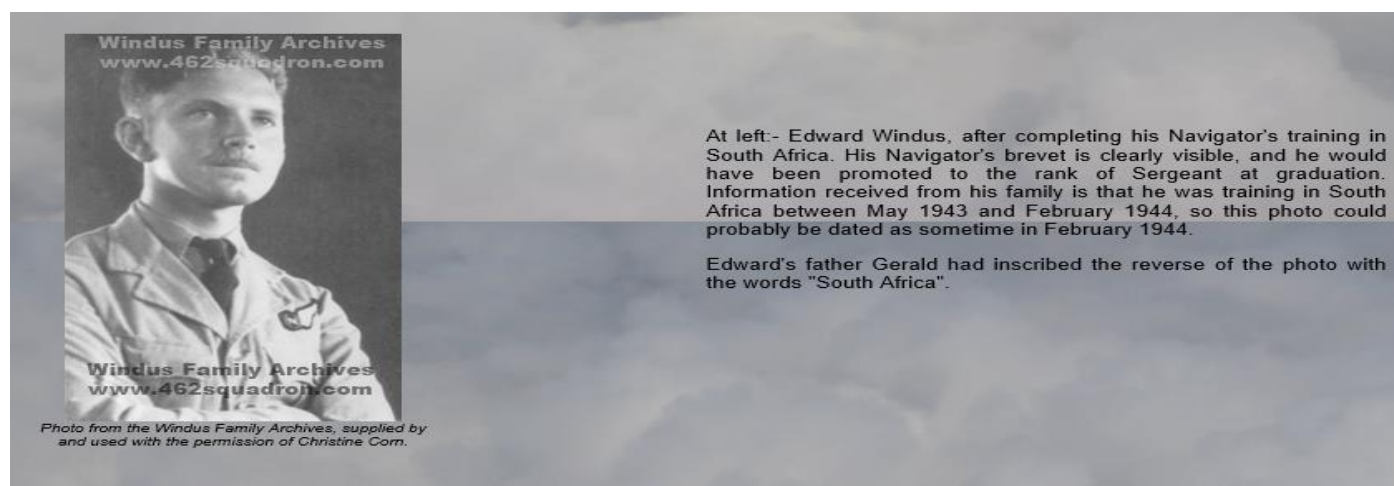


Photo extracted from a tribute to the Crew of Halifax III, NA-240, Z5-V
http://www.462squadron.com/pages/squadron_crews/lodder_crew_44.html

Kindly provided by Graham Platt BT Technology