

Sergeant Jack Saul LOCKWOOD

No 1359179 RAFVR



Photo of Jack in 1942 kindly sent by the Lockwood family

Jack Lockwood was born in 2nd May 1920, the son of farmer William Storm and Margaret Edith Lockwood, who at the time he was admitted to Lincoln School lived at Scampton House, Scampton, Lincoln.

Having attended Miss Wileman's Private School, he entered Lincoln School in May 1933, but left in July 1934 to take up a place at Denstone College, an independent private school in Staffordshire. Mick Wall reported that Jack's brother Arthur had told him that, after leaving school, he farmed at Spridlington Grange Farm and was an accomplished horseman. He then joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry in 1939 two months before war was declared, but in 1941 the Yeomanry exchanged their horses for tanks, which was a disappointment to Jack, who applied to join the RAF.

On appointment, Jack was sent to Canada and eventually to Pensacola in Florida USA, where he qualified as a pilot and returned to Cranwell to complete his training.

He was then posted to 172 Squadron of Coastal Command which was stationed in Chivenor, North Devon.

On the night of 13th August 1943 Jack was piloting his Wellington Bomber No 630 back to the airfield in poor weather conditions when it crashed and he was killed. He died at the age of 23 and is buried in St John the Baptist Churchyard in Scampton, close to his home, and to Scampton Airfield, which was highly active during the Second World War. Scampton was of course the first home of the famous 615 Dambuster Squadron. Numerous service personnel including German airmen are buried in the same churchyard.



Jack Lockwood's grave
Photograph by Peter Harrod

Mick Wall has also added an historical note informing us that Squadron 172 of Coastal Command was formed and based at Chivenor and, at the time Jack was based there, the crews flew Wellington bombers equipped with radar and searchlights to assist in their anti-submarine role. The area of operations at the time was the Western Approaches and the Bay of Biscay.

A short entry in the Christmas 1943 edition of *The Lincolnian* informed its readers that Jack was only at Lincoln School for a short time in the Middle School, but left to go to Denstone College before he was able to make his own impact on it. I have requested details of his career at Denston, but have not received a response

With thanks to Peter Harrod for submitting this article