

Flight Lieutenant Christopher Edwards



Chris's Vulcan

Chris and his crew had been together with 617 squadron based at Scampton for about a year. They were all very experienced officers with many hours flying the Vulcan. This was Christopher's third tour. A tour being two plus years, both as a co pilot and then on to captain. Their rank in the air force was different to that inside the aircraft.

They were chosen to take part in the annual air and water show in Chicago during August 1978. They took off on a practice for the local press the day before the show and I'm afraid to say they experienced huge problems with engine failure and bursting into flames.

Chris took the aircraft well away from all built up areas crashing into a rubbish site and all the crew members on board were killed.

The Vulcan usually carried a five man crew consisting of two pilots captain and co pilot a navigator and two electronics officers. They had the squadron flight commander on their crew and for some reason decided not to fly that day and so had to watch the whole event.

The four killed were brought home and we went through four funerals in a military style. They are buried in Scampton church yard as they would have been inside the aircraft. So Chris is beside Simon Farlow his co-pilot and his two rear crew behind being Jamie Hamilton and Nigel Thomas.

Janet Edwards