

In Memory Of

Flying Officer

# MICHAEL JOHN HEDLEY COOKE

Service Number: 182730

207 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 15 March 1945 Age 23

Son of John Hedley Cooke and Dora Cooke; husband of Phyllis Eva Cooke, of Colwall, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour

OXFORD (BOTLEY) CEMETERY

Plot H/1. Grave 234.



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COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

**Name:** COOKE, Michael John Hedley

**Date of Birth:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 1921

**Date of Death:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 1945

**Age at Death:** 23

**Service Number:** 182730



The crew of LL902 (Michael is first row second from left)

**Rank:** Flight Sergeant, RAF Volunteer Reserve

**Unit:** 207 Squadron

### **Military Service**

Michael was one of the crew of the Avro Lancaster Mk I (serial number LL902 EM-A) from 207 Squadron which took off at 1647 hours on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1945 from Spilsby to bomb the Wintershall synthetic-oil plant at Lutzendorf.

On its return from the bombing operation there was severe fog around Spilsby and the aircraft was diverted. However, whilst being diverted the weather deteriorated at the diversion site and the aircraft flew into the ground in severe fog near Little Rissington Gloucester at 0250 hours whilst attempting to land at Little Rissington. Six crew died in the crash and the seventh (the rear gunner) died the following day in hospital.

### **Commemorated/Memorial**

Oxford (Botley) Cemetery, Plot H/1. Grave 234.

There is a memorial dedicated to all those who lost their lives when part of 207 Squadron Royal Air Force at RAF Spilsby.



### **Colwall Connection**

Michael was born in Birmingham. He was the son of John Hedley Cooke and Dora Cooke of Cromwell Crescent Worcester. He married Phyllis Eva Cooke (nee Voller) of Evenholme, Colwall on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1944 at the Colwall Parish Church.