



**SGT. AIR GUNNER RICHARD F. DAWSON, R.C.A.F.**, eldest son of Mr and Mrs, Fabian Dawson, 4545 West Broadway avenue, Notre Dame de Grace, who was killed on operations 10 miles southwest of Topcliffe, Yorkshire, England, April 23. He has been buried in the R.A.F. cemetery at Harrogate, Yorkshire. A memorial mass (military) will be held in the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola at 8.45 here tomorrow morning. Twenty years old on April 15, Sgt. Dawson was born in Montreal and attended the parish school of St. Ignatius and later Loyola College. He entered the R.C.A.F. in February, 1943, and headed his class at graduation at Mont Joli last October.

# Halifax R9384 near Baldersby St.James.

During the afternoon of 23rd April 1944 the crew of this 1659 Heavy Conversion Unit were undertaking a basic circuit and landing training flight. The exercise would involve making multiple short flights around the circuit of Topcliffe airfield, this would give the crew practice at taking off, landing and the general procedures of flying circuits of the airfield and communicating with flying control. Soon after taking off for one of the short flights people on the airfield saw that the port outer engine of the aircraft emitted a lot of white smoke. The aircraft was seen to climb to around 500 feet and begin a turn to port, unfortunately the turn became a steep banked turn and it then dived into ground at 14.38hrs near what was then called Home Farm (now "The Grange"), Baldersby St.James. Sadly all on board were killed. The faulty engine was salvaged and stripped to find the cause of the fire, an internal component failure was found to be the cause.

Pilot - P/O Horace Montague Richard Herbert RCAF (J/858150), aged 27. Buried Harrogate Stonefall Cemetery, Yorkshire (B/A/20).

Flight Engineer - Sgt Thomas Ellams RAF(AAF) (858945), aged 37. Buried Dukinfield Cemetery, Cheshire.

Wireless Operator / Air Gunner - Sgt Athol Lorne Lunan RCAF (R/144320), aged 23, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Buried Harrogate Stonefall Cemetery, Yorkshire (B/A/19).

Rear Gunner - Sgt Richard Fabian Dawson RCAF (R/202351), aged 20, of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Buried Harrogate Stonefall Cemetery, Yorkshire (B/A/17).

Mid Upper Gunner - Sgt Joseph Theodore McGovern RCAF (R/210726), aged 20. Of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Buried Harrogate Stonefall Cemetery, Yorkshire (B/A/18).

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Richard Dawson was born on 15th April 1924 at Montreal, Quebec, Canada and was the son of Fabian and Mary Alice (nee Fyfe) Dawson. He was the eldest of ten siblings. As a young man he left college in 1941 and worked as a cargo clerk for the RAF / Canadian Ferry Command, he was based Dorval, Quebec. His role here as one of the civilian workers deserves far more credit and reseach. He enlisted for RCAF service on 13th November 1942 in Montreal and after training was awarded his air gunners' flying badge on 15th October 1943. On arrival in the UK he trained at 23 OTU and was posted to 1659 HCU probably on 2nd April 1944.

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