

## Henry Leonard Wood

Sergeant Wireless Op./Air Gunner , 49 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died on 03 November 1943 Age 20

Service number 1578075

Memorial - Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

Inscription 'In loving memory of our dear son. Mum, Dad and sister Sylvia.'

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2047107/wood,-henry-leonard/>

Henry Leonard Wood was born in 1923 his birth registered in the Nottingham RD in the March Quarter he was the son of Leonard John and Henrietta Hephzibah (nee Yallop) Wood who married in Nottingham, registered in the September quarter of 1921.

A daughter Sylvia was born on 17 September 1924 registered in Basford Registration District

Presumably the family had moved to Gedling between 1921 and 1924. On the 1926 - 1931 Electoral Registers they are residing on Hardy's Drive.



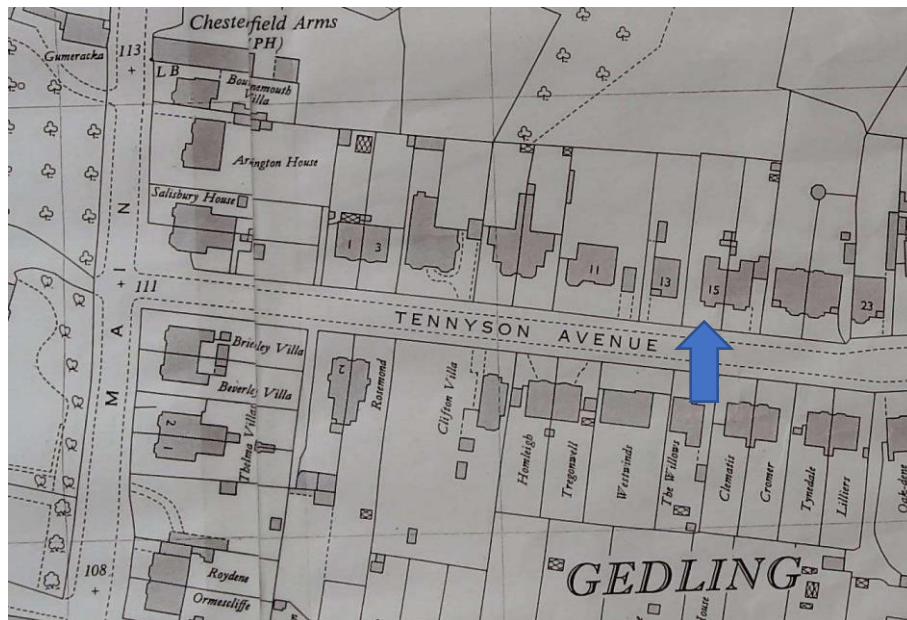
Hardy's Drive  
photographed  
by G. Hicking  
c1958

From 1953  
Ordnance  
Survey map



Hardy

By September 1939 when the 1939 register is taken, they are living in Tennyson Villas on Tennyson Avenue. Leonard's occupation is 'Fitter Turner Colliery Surface worker' Henrietta is 'Unpaid Domestic Duties, Sylvia is 'Shop Assistant Gowns and Mantles' There is a closed record which would probably be for Henry Leonard Wood



Henry Leonard joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve, trained as a wireless operator/air gunner and was eventually a member of 49 Squadron. In 1943 49 Squadron was based at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire.

The following is taken from the website

[http://www.49squadron.co.uk/personnel\\_index/detail/Wood\\_L](http://www.49squadron.co.uk/personnel_index/detail/Wood_L)

**“3/4 November, 1943; DÜSSELDORF:**

It wasn't until 3rd November that Bomber Command was able to send a large force out again, when almost 600 bombers were sent against the German city of Düsseldorf. The 'rest' period had enabled most squadrons to replenish their establishment of aircraft and 49 was no exception. Now re-settled back at Fiskerton (from Dunholme Lodge), the unit was able to provide 18 aircraft for the evening's

operation. The raid was successful with many fires reported but Command did lose 18 aircraft and crews.

For the second raid in succession 49 Squadron lost two aircraft: The second aircraft reported missing, was that piloted by F/Lt Carfoot (JB305) and crew on only their second trip. F/Lt Norman Carfoot had previously served in Coastal Command (having flown over 2,000hrs) before volunteering for Bomber Command... in search of more excitement!

Over Düsseldorf, his Lancaster became coned in searchlights and almost instantly suffered hits from heavy flak. Sgt Church, the crew's navigator, recalls the final moments aboard the aircraft:

*"Flak set the port wing on fire and the next moment tracer shells from an attacking JU88 passed inches in front of my chest (Sgt Wood, the W/Op, was killed instantly during this attack). The pilot ordered us all to bale out, but first he asked me to check if the rear gunner was OK; just then, over the intercom, the Aussie voice of F/Sgt Steve List confirmed that he had in fact heard the bale out order. I then put my chute on and followed the flight engineer, Sgt Mason down the steps into the nose ready to jump; the bomb aimer, Sgt Putnam RCAF went first. I turned to take one last look at my skipper, Norman Carfoot, silhouetted by the flames from the blazing wing as he held our doomed Lanc as steady as a rock... he just waved ... I think we both knew then that he wasn't going to make it."*

Just those three crew members who jumped from the nose hatch survived; Sgt Church believes that the Lancaster must have exploded shortly after he left the aircraft."

Lancaster JB305 (EA-E)

F/L N.H. Carfoot Pilot (Killed)

Sgt J.S. Mason F/E (P.o.W.)

Sgt H.D. Church NAV (P.o.W.)

Sgt H.L. Wood W/AG (Killed)

Sgt W.H. Marson A/G (Killed)

F/S S.G. Putnam RCAF B/A (P.o.W.)

F/S S.M. List RAAF A/G (Killed)

Crew on their 2nd operation

Henry Leonard Wood is buried in the Reichswold Forest War Cemetery

Details and photographs of the cemetery can be found on the website

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2136759/reichswald-forest-war-cemetery>