

# Flight Sargent C.H.Elliott Air Gunner



This work has been produced on behalf of  
97 (Straits Settlements) Squadron Association by the webmaster 97 (Straits  
Settlements) Squadron Association

References: 97 Squadron Operational Record Books 1939-1943

*Achieve Your Aim by Kevin Bending*

Mark Howard

2023

Approved  
George R.I.



J.D. Hinton-Amstrong  
Chester Herald  
and Inspector of Royal  
Air Force Badges

College of Arms,  
January, 1939.

**Commanding Officers:**

Wg Cdr D.F. Balsdon

Wg Cdr J.H. Kynoch

Wg Cdr J.H.H. Collier DSO DFC

Wg Cdr G.D. Jones DSO DFC

Gp Capt N.H. Fresson DFC

Wg Cdr E.J. Carter DFC\*

Wg Cdr A.W. Heward DFC\* AFC

Gp Capt P.W. Johnson DSO DFC AFC

(\* denotes Bar)

Early in 1941, a large donation was made to the British Government by the Malay Straits Settlements for the purchase of some Avro Manchester bomber aircraft. In appreciation of this, 97 Squadron was authorized to assume the title of "97 (Straits Settlements) Squadron", and it was reformed in February 1941, at Waddington.

25th February 1941 97 Squadron was scheduled to operate from RAF Coningsby as part of 5 Group. The Squadron began to convert to using Lancasters in January 1942 and, in March of that year, 97 Squadron re-located to Woodhall Spa.

re-formed 25.2.41 as No.97 (B) Sqdn from nucleus provided by No.207 (B) Sqdn at: Waddington Feb 1941-Mar 1941

Coningsby : Mar 1941-Mar 1942

Woodhall Spa : Mar 1942-Apr 1943

Bourn : Apr 1943-Apr 1944

"A", "B" & "C" Flts detached to Gransden Lodge, Graveley & Oakington, respectively during Aug/Sep 1943.

Coningsby : Apr 1944 onwards

Aircraft flown by 97 Squadron

Avro Manchester : Feb 1941-Feb 1942

Avro Lancaster B.I and B.III : Jan 1942 onwards



## List of Operations

Air Gunner C.H.Elliott To 97 Sqn from 106 Conversion Flt

1.17/18 Nov 42 Gardening (P/O McBurney),

2.28/29 Nov 42 Turin (P/O McBurney)

### **17/18 November 1942**

Bombing, overshoots and TR 1335 training. 6 aircraft for mining operations and two aircraft for night cross countries. One aircraft, Sgt Rowson, did not take off – aircraft u/s. The rest were diverted to various aerodromes. Three aircraft completed tasks, remaining two aircraft returned early due to technical troubles.

Gardening in “Privet” and “Pollock” areas – 3 mines

W4355T P/O S.L.McBurney, Sgts J.Izatt (F/Eng), L.Thorneycroft, A.J.Smith, W.H.Kelleher, Bull, Darrock(?). Up 1734 Down 0156. Veg planted in Pollock area. Nothing to report. Landed at Leconfield \*Elliott was in place of Darrock?

### **28/29 November 1942 Turin**

Night flying tests. 12 aircraft detailed for ops – Turin. 10 aircraft attacked the primary aiming point, one aircraft experienced engine trouble and landed at Downham Market, the remaining aircraft developed engine trouble, both aircraft jettisoned bombs. Raid was successful and weather clear over target, many bombs seen to burst.

R7574N P/O S.L.McBurney, Sgt J.Izatt, F/Sgt L.Thorneycroft, F/Sgt A.J.Smith, Sgts W.H.Kelleher, G.Bull, C.H.Elliott. 13 SBC. Up 1859 Down 0321. Primary target identified by loop in river and flares. Incendiaries dropped in town and seen to burst. Many fires seen burning.

He leaves 97 Squadron 13/1/1943 for A.C.R.C before returning to 97 Squadron 16/3/1943 he is on squadron until 18/3/1943 when he moves to sick on Coningsby unknown the sickness he suffered but no operations were carried out on those dates as below.

16.3.43 There was a stand down but training flights were carried out.

17.3.43 12 Lancasters detailed for ops – later cancelled. Training was carried out.

18.3.43 As 17.3.43.



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