

An extract from the national press of July 1942.

Wounded, fought on, and routed the 3-1 enemy.

With an artery of one hand severed and wounds in the other hand and both legs the wireless operator of the Hudson aircraft not only repaired his damaged set but stayed at his instrument till the aircraft reached its base. This is only one of the high spots in the story of an epic fight between the Hudson and three Focke-Wulf 190s, Germany's newest fighters.

The rear gunner of the British machine had his face badly cut by shell splinters but he stayed at his guns till his turret was almost blown to pieces.

Put to Flight

So fierce was the fight put up by the four RAF officers in the Hudson that the Focke-Wulfs were put to flight, one of them being badly damaged.

The attack occurred as the Hudson was patrolling the Norwegian coast. "Coming out of the clouds the Wulfs were on top of us and sprayed us with cannon shells" said Pilot Officer H. C. Bailey DFC of Woking Surrey, the captain of the Hudson.

"Our rear gunner hit one of the fighters and when last seen it was diving down with smoke pouring from it" the wireless operator was Pilot Officer E. Townsend of Oxford, the air gunner was pilot Officer R.D. Wall of County Meath, a journalist in peace time, says the Air Ministry News Service.

EDDIE TOWNSEND

Some of the villagers may remember Eddie Townsend who died a few years ago and is buried in the churchyard at Shipton under Wychwood.

He served with the Royal Air Force during World War 2 as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner and the above article which was issued by the then Air Ministry has recently come to light. This may be of interest and it certainly serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by him and by many who fought for our freedom during the war.

They shall not grow old
As we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE.

REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11th.