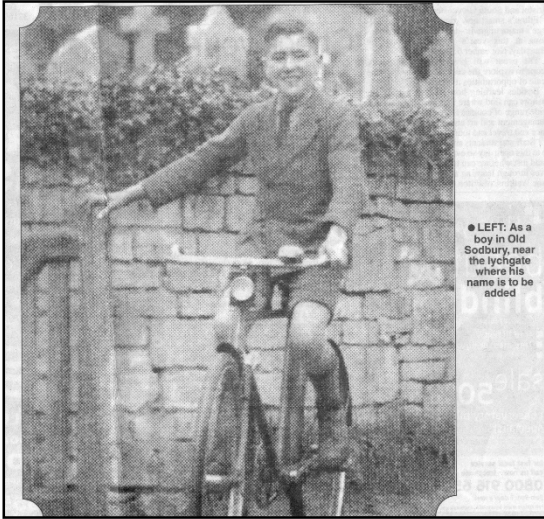


Sergeant EDWARD SAMUEL HUNT

1184062, 142 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
who died age 21 on 14 July 1942

Remembered with honour in the Old Sodbury (St. John The Baptist) Churchyard



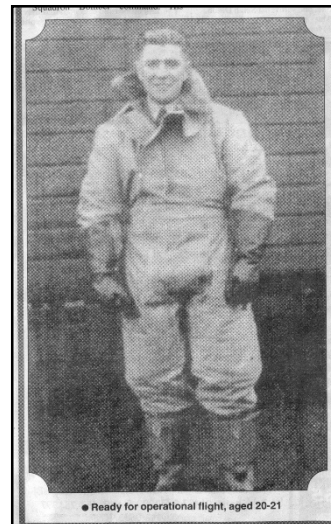
Edward Hunt was an adopted son of Tewkesbury but his family moved to Tewkesbury when he was a boy and his sister, Mrs. Allen, made her life in this Town.¹

Their father, Josiah, died aged 41, 1923 at the *Dog Inn*, Sodbury and his mother continued the licence and married Mr. Mott, a Londoner. Edward's mother, Beatrice, moved to Tewkesbury as landlady of the *Anchor Hotel*, which belonged to the same brewery chain. Edward, however, trained for *Sainsbury's* at their school in London; but he volunteered for the RAF from Oxford.

When war broke out he volunteered as a 'Sgt. air-gunner/wireless operator' in 142 Squadron. His active service comprised one of the first

"thousand bomber raids". After 29 operations at the tender age of 21, he was due for stand-down. However, he flew off from Waltham Airfield, near Grimsby, for one last mission to bomb Duisberg- in which his fully laden Wellington bomber lost engine power and crashed in Norfolk, killing all the crew.

Although his name is inscribed upon Tewkesbury's War Memorial, he was buried in his native Old Sodbury. However, his name was not honoured there until 2003 when a local campaign resulted in his being commemorated on the lych-gate of his graveyard.²



Two photographs of Sgt. Hunt in the R.A.F.



¹ Information kindly supplied by Mrs. Allen, wife of Bill Allen. Mrs. Allen stayed at the *Anchor* until 1947 and married Bill in 1965; they kept the Crown pub in Dymock, followed by the Crown at Shuthonger until 1979 when they retired.

² I am grateful for Mrs. Allen allowing me to copy this newspaper article by Gilbert Crump.