

# Robert Edward BANKS

DIED IN WW2 1944-05-07 AT THE AGE OF 24

BORN ON 1920-04-09

Year of graduation from WHS 1938



## Regiment & Unit

Rank: Flight Lieutenant.

Unit Royal Canadian Air Force 354 (R.A.F.)

No. 354 squadron was first formed at Drigh Road, Karachi on 10 May 1943 as part of coastal command, and was posted to RAF Station Cuttack on August 17, 1943, where it received liberator MK.V bombers. Detachments of the squadron were located at Sigirya and St. Thomas Mount. The squadron redeployed to Minneriya in Ceylon on October 12, 1944, with detachments at Kankesanterai and Cuttack, and returned to Cuttack whilst maintaining a detachment at Kankesanterai in January 1945, where they received the Liberator Mk.VI. The squadron was disbanded on May 18, 1945 at RAF Cuttack.



## History of Gravesite:

He was buried in Singapore.

Before 1939 the Kranji area was a military camp and at the time of the Japanese invasion of Malaya, it was the site of a large ammunition magazine. On February 8, 1942, the Japanese crossed the Johore Straits in strength, landing at the mouth of the Kranji River within two miles of the location where the war cemetery now stands. On the evening of February 9, they launched an attack between the river and the causeway. During the next few days fierce fighting ensued, in many cases hand-to-hand, until the superior numbers and air strength required a withdrawal.



## Bibliography

Wiki “No. 354 Squadron RAF.” Wikipedia,

Wikimedia Foundation, 24 Oct. 2020,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No.\\_354\\_Squadron\\_RAF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._354_Squadron_RAF).

Grave memorial “Edward Lowndes.” Find a Grave,  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/search?firstname=Robert&middle=&lastname=Edward%20Banks&birthyear=&birthyearfilter=&deathyear=&deathyearfilter=&location=&locationId=&memorialid=&mcid=&linkedToName=&datefilter=&orderby=r&plot=>.

“Edward Lowndes.” Find a Grave,  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/search?firstname=Robert&middle=&lastname=Edward%20Banks&birthyear=&birthyearfilter=&deathyear=&deathyearfilter=&location=&locationId=&memorialid=&mcid=&linkedToName=&datefilter=&orderby=r&plot=>.

Canada, Veterans Affairs. “Canadian Virtual War Memorial.” Robert Edward Banks - The Canadian Virtual War Memorial - Veterans Affairs Canada, 20 Sept. 2022,

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1813832>.