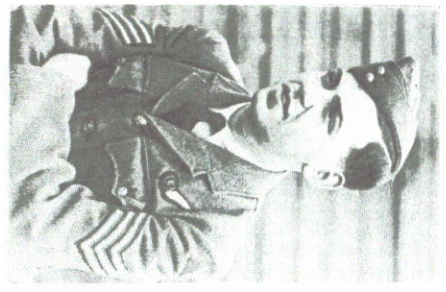


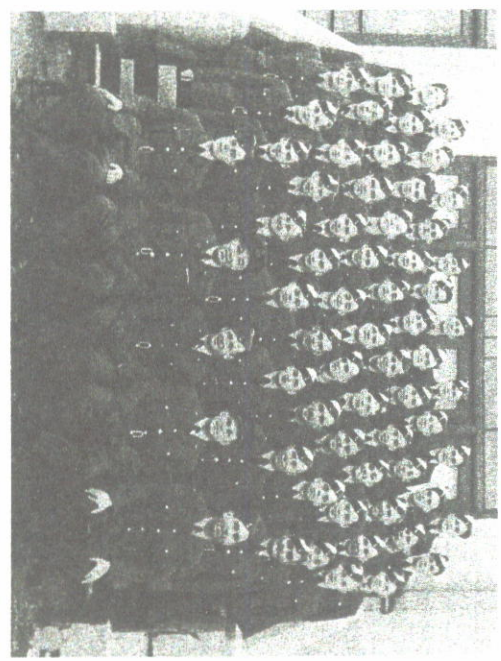
THE GRAY FAMILY



Family photograph taken prior to Gilbert departing in March 1943 to join the Royal Force, having volunteered for flying duties.



In February, 1944, now a qualified Sergeant Flight Engineer, he became a member of a Lancaster crew with pilot, navigator, bombardier, wireless operator and two gunners. He flew with 106 Squadron based at Metheringham, in Lincolnshire and completed a 'tour' of 34 operational sorties over enemy-held Europe, including taking part in the D-Day offensive on June 6, 1944. 50% of Bomber Command aircrew became casualties.



March 1943: Initial Training Wing at Bridlington - most would be killed in action flying in heavy bombers. Gilbert is in row four, third from left.



