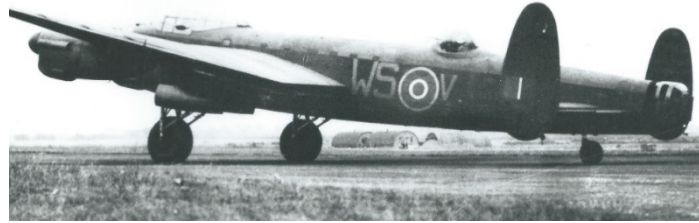


**Sgt. Stanley James
Abbott 1880551 RAFVR**

Stanley Abbott was a mid-upper gunner in a 9 Squadron Lancaster which was one of three aircraft from the squadron lost in an attack on a French V1 site on the night of 24/25 June 1944.



The squadron supplied 16 aircraft to the attack, one of eight raids on V1 sites that night, an operation which cost the lives of 17 men from 9 Squadron.

Stanley and his crew had only joined the unit at Bardney in mid-May but, five weeks later, he was almost a veteran with ten operations behind him.

They took off from Bardney at 2251 hours on board Lancaster LL853 WS-W, one of the handful of 5 Group Lancasters fitted with a ventral turret in response to the upward-firing guns of most Luftwaffe night fighters. But it was likely it was the flak defences around the site at Prouville which shot down his aircraft, LL853 being picked up by searchlights on the bomb-run. The pilot held the aircraft steady but shortly after the bombs were dropped the Lancaster was hit and exploded, only the rear gunner and under gunner managed to escape by parachute. The wreckage of the Lancaster came down near the village of Coulouvillers, near Abbeville, where the six who were killed are now buried.

Stanley came from the Suffolk village of Somersham and was the son of Thomas and Olive Abbott.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Sgt. John Halshaw, flight engineer Sgt. David Davison, navigator P/O Herbert Blaydes RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Norman Brown and wireless operator WO Richard Agg DFM. The survivors were Sgt. Harry Garratt and Sgt. Bill Wilson.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: Bombers First and Last by Gordon Thorburn/Bomber Command Losses 1944 by Bill Chorley/Google.