

Sgt. Percy Alfred Oliver Adams 1608426 RAFVR



Percy Adams was the flight engineer of a 550 Squadron Lancaster shot down in bright moonlight by a night fighter during an attack on the city of Stuttgart in July 1944. He was flying on his fifth operation with 550 having joined the squadron three weeks earlier. He was the youngest member of the crew at the age of 20 and was the son of Percy and Mary Adams of Weymouth, Dorset.

His Lancaster, LM455 BQ-T, left RAF North Killingholme at 2137 hours on the night of 28/29 July 1944, one of 17 aircraft provided by the squadron towards a force of 494 Lancasters taking part in what was the third in a series of raids on Stuttgart. The bomber stream found itself in bright moonlight over France and during a series of engagements 39 were lost, including BQ-T.

It crashed near the village of Blamont in eastern France, close to the road between Nancy and Sarrebourg. There were no survivors and all seven crew members are buried in Blamont Communal Cemetery, the only British war graves there. A memorial stands at the site of the crash, erected by local people. Curiously, it lists four of the crew as air gunners. Percy was the only NCO in the crew.

The others who died with him were the pilot F/O Paul Roche RCAF, navigator F/O Bob Archer RCAF, bomb aimer F/O Donald Rudd, wireless operator F/O Stanley Spakowski, mid-upper gunner F/O Raymond Calderhead and rear gunner F/O Edward Meaker.

His name can be found on panel 001

Photographic source: 550 Squadron Association