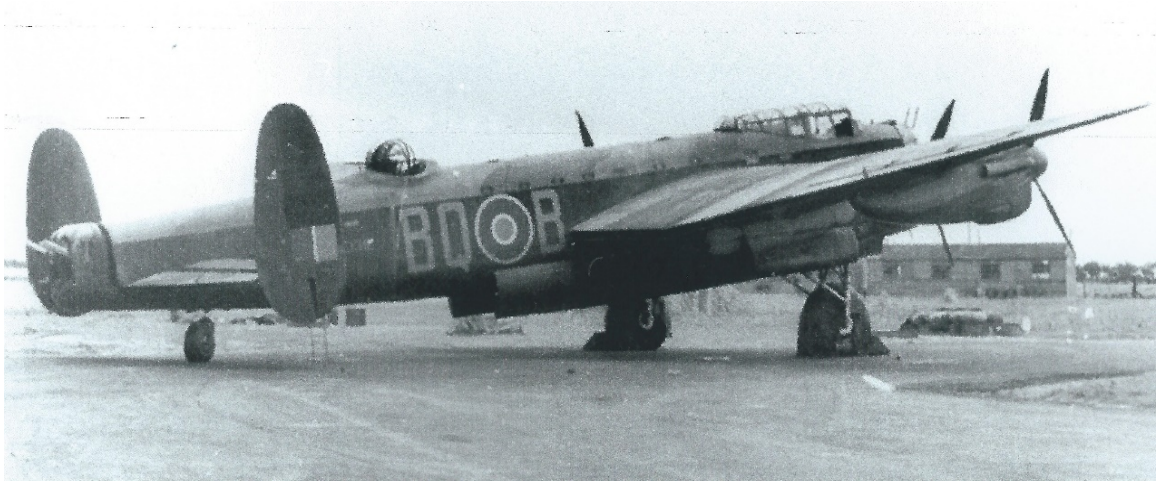


## **F/O Kenneth Lee Agnew 136364 RAFVR**



**A 550 Squadron Lancaster at North Killingholme**

RAF North Killingholme was among the last bomber airfields to become operational in North Lincolnshire when 550 Squadron moved in early in January 1944 after being formed 15 miles away at Waltham, from C Flight of 100 Squadron.

Navigator Kenneth Agnew was one of its first members and he and five of his crew were the first to lose their lives after the move to North Killingholme.

He and his very young crew were among 12 from the squadron, led by their CO W/C Jimmy Bennett, picked to take part in what was the first major attack of the war on the city of Brunswick on the night of 14 January 1944. One of the 550 aircraft failed to take off and two more aborted with technical problems but only eight returned. Kenneth's aircraft, Lancaster DV306 BQ-E, was intercepted by a night fighter at 17,000 feet over the target area and shot down. Only the Canadian bomb-aimer survived.

Kenneth was the 22-year-old son of James and Doris Agnew and came from the Bury suburb of Whitefield in Lancashire. He and the other casualties are now buried in Hanover War Cemetery.

The others who died were the pilot F/O David Cobbin, flight engineer Sgt. Frederick Stiling, wireless operator Sgt. Raymond Laverick, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Leslie Gilmar RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Raymond Willis. The surviving bomb-aimer was P/O J L McKeown RCAF.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: 550 Squadron Archives/"Five-Fifty: The Wartime Story of a Lancaster Squadron" by Patrick Otter.