

## **F/O Oliver Leslie Albutt 151080 RAFVR**

Oliver Albutt was a navigator lost when his Lancaster was shot down during a series of attacks which were staged as part of the D-Day deception plan.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster JA918 BQ-W, of 550 Squadron, the only aircraft lost in an operation involving 400-plus aircraft attacking coastal batteries in Northern France and Belgium. The object was to keep the Germans guessing as to the location of the forthcoming invasion.



550's target was the battery at Mardyck, located in the sand dunes south of Dunkirk. Eighteen aircraft from the squadron left North Killingholme late on the night of 9 May 1944 and took part in what was later described as a 'text book' attack, with the battery well marked by Mosquitos.

BQ-W crashed in the sea off the Belgian coast, a victim of the flak defences in the area. Oliver's was one of four bodies later recovered and he is buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery.

Oliver and his crew had arrived at North Killingholme from Feltwell early in March. He held a Bachelor of Science degree in economics and lived in Pinner, Middlesex with his wife Margaret. Oliver was the 31-year-old son of George and Catherine Albutt.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Ernest Sage RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Henry Robinson, bomb-aimer Sgt. William Taylor, wireless operator F/O David Goulden RNZAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Hopper and rear gunner Sgt. Ernest Pepper.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: 550 Squadron/Five Fifty: The Story of a Lancaster Squadron.