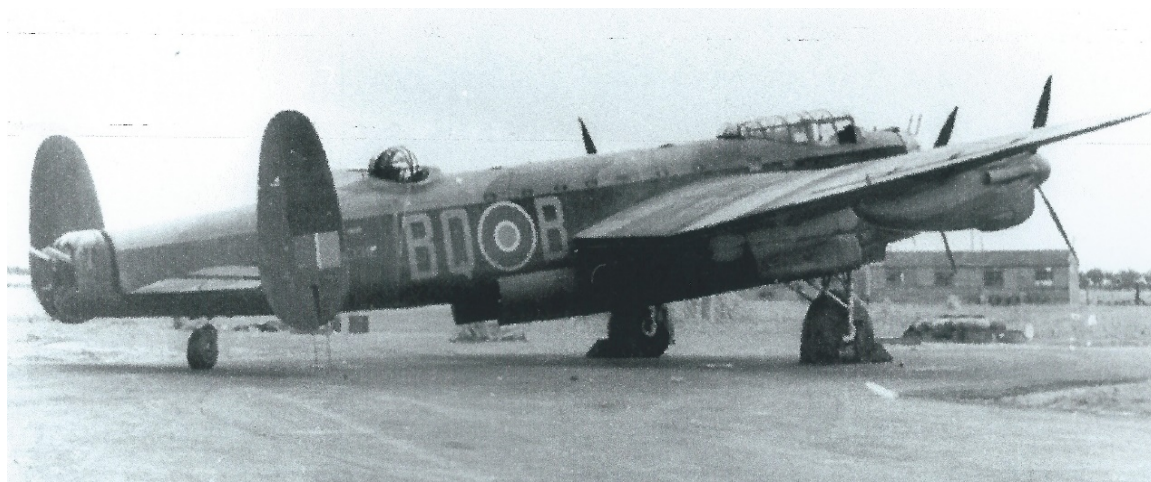


WO Washington Henry Samuel Ansell 903498 RAFVR



A 550 Squadron Lancaster at North Killingholme

In the early hours of 30 August 1944 a Lincolnshire-based Lancaster was intercepted by a German night fighter over the waters of the Kattegat, east of the Danish mainland at 10,000 feet and shot down, killing all seven of the men on board.

The Lancaster, EE193 BQ-C of 550 Squadron, a veteran ex-57 Squadron aircraft, was one of 403 sent by Bomber Command to Stettin, 16 of them from 550's base at North Killingholme.

It carried an unusual crew, at least four of whom were over the age of 30 and were married men. The pilot was 32-year-old Washington Ansell from south London who had first flown with the squadron early in July that year.

His aircraft crashed in the Kattegat, north-west of Serjero. The only body recovered was that of the flight engineer and the remainder of the crew, including the pilot, are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Washington lived in Clapham with his wife, Doris, and was the son of Washington and Ada Ansell of south London.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Geoffrey Battersby RAFVR, navigator F/O Clare Cameron RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Ivor Hood RAFVR, wireless operator Sgt. Alfred Anderson RAFVR, the 19-year-old mid-upper gunner Sgt. Ernest Parker RAFVR and rear gunner Sgt Oliver Tabuteau RAFVR, a Canadian serving in the Royal Air Force.

His name can be found on panel 003.

Source: 550 Squadron Association/'Five-Fifty: The Wartime Story of a Lancaster Squadron' by Patrick Otter.

