Flt. Sgt. Colin Richard Anthony 1809483 RAFVR



A 567 Lancaster pictured at a muddy RAF Fiskerton, autumn 1944

Colin Anthony was an air gunner killed when his Lancaster was lost in November 1944.

He was the rear gunner of Lancaster III NE115 UL-B2 of 576 Squadron which was lost during what turned out to be the final major raid of the war on the industrial city of Dusseldorf on the night of 2 November. His aircraft left RAF Fiskerton to join a force of 992 Lancasters and Halifaxes which caused major damage to an already well-bombed target. Nineteen aircraft were lost, four of them making it back to Allied lines. It is likely UL-B2 was a flak victim, the aircraft exploding before crashing, the only survivors being the pilot, P/O J J Mulrooney, who was to spend the next six months as a prisoner of war.

Colin is buried along with the other five casualties, in the Rheinberg War Cemetery, 50 miles north of Cologne.

Killed with him were the flight engineer Sgt. Joe Beeson RAFVR, navigator WO Fred Paton RAAF, bomb aimer F/O Clive Mortal RAAF, wireless operator WO James Casey RAAF and mid-upper gunner P/O Ted Parker DFM RAF.

His name can be found on panel 003

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association