

F/O Robert William Archer J/35033 RCAF



Bob Archer was the Canadian navigator 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 came from Penticton in British Columbia and was the 29-year-old husband of Dorma and the son of Edward and Sarah Archer.

His Lancaster, LM455 BQ-T, left RAF North Killingholme at 2137 hours on the night of 28/29 July, 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.

The aircraft 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, erected by local people, stands at the site of the crash. Curiously, it lists four of the crew as air gunners. Unusually, the crew included six members with the rank of Flying Officer

The others who died with him were the pilot F/O Paul Roche RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Percy Adams, 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 003
Photographic source: 550 Squadron Association.