

## Sgt. Victor John Badger 1581501 RAFVR



Victor Badger was a 21-year-old Lancaster wireless operator killed on his 22<sup>nd</sup> operation with 166 Squadron.

He died along with the other six members of his crew when their aircraft was shot down by a night fighter during the third and final Stuttgart raid on the night of 25/26 July 1944. They were intercepted over France and in the ensuing battle between the Lancaster and the Ju88 both aircraft were shot down although the Luftwaffe crew managed to parachute to safety.

Victor and his crew were flying in Lancaster LM386 AS-V, one of 15 aircraft provided by the squadron for the final Stuttgart raid. They were part of a force of 550 Lancasters and Halifaxes, 12 being lost including a second from 166 Squadron.

They had left Kirmington at 2125 hours and were shot down in the St Sauver area of central France, crashing at Taingy where all the crew are buried in the town's communal cemetery (*pictured above*).

Victor and his crew, which included England footballer Fred Fisher, had joined 166 Squadron at the end of April. He came from the village of Upton Snodsbury, near Worcester and was an old boy of Pershore High School. He is remembered on the Worcestershire roll of honour and in St Kenelm's Church in Upton Snodsbury.



The others who died were the pilot F/O Bernard Singleton, flight engineer Sgt. Kenneth Welsh, navigator F/O Herbert Blaber, bomb-aimer F/O Stanley Shrives, mid-upper gunner Sgt. James Fitzpatrick and rear gunner Sgt. Frederick Fisher.

His name can be found on panel 004.

Sources: 166 Squadron Association; Aircrew Remembered/ Terence Heard and Brent Whittam.