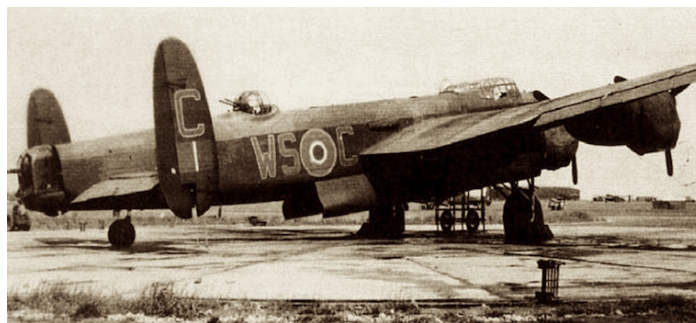


**Flt. Lt. Charles Guthrie
Shields Bain 118058
RAF**



Charles Bain was a senior member of 9 Squadron when his Lancaster was shot down during a costly operation by Bomber Command to hit a series of targets across northern Germany.

He was one of five men killed when his aircraft was shot down during a raid on a small town in Lower Saxony, his Lancaster I W4155 WS-D crashing near Quakenbruck.

His aircraft was one of twenty seven Lancasters from 5 Group sent to raid small towns on the night of 17/18 December 1942. Nine of them were shot down, including two from 9 Squadron. Charles' Lancaster, which was detailed to attack Diepholz, south of Bremen, is believed to have been attacked by a night fighter. It was set on fire and crashed close to the road between Oherle and Grafeld at 1932 hours on the evening of 17 December, two and a half hours after leaving Waddington.

Two of the crew managed to bale out at low level. The five who died were all buried locally before being reinterred in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

Charles was a pre-war member of the Royal Air Force and had been appointed as the squadron's Gunnery Leader whose role often meant flying with less experienced crews.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Colin Allen RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Charles Nadin, navigator F/O Laurence Newman and wireless operator Sgt. Charles Dickens.

His name can be found on panel 004.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron.