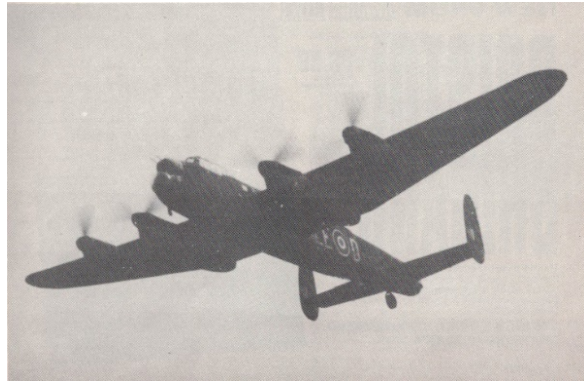


Sgt. James Stuart Bain 1821620
RAFVR



Scotsman James Bain was a Lancaster wireless operator who was killed along with five of his crew when his aircraft crashed in Lincolnshire on return from a raid on a synthetic oil refinery in Poland.

His 630 Squadron Lancaster was one of 207 from 5 Group that attacked the refinery in Pölitz on the night of 21/22 December 1944. On their return thick fog covered much of southern England, and conditions were only slightly better at 630's base at East Kirkby, and NG258 LE-B was ordered to divert to RAF Strubby, 15 miles to the north.

There, the Lancaster was in the circuit when it crashed at 0250 hours on farmland between the hamlet of Scrafield and Mareham-on-the-Hill, near Horncastle, killing all but the 19-year-old rear gunner Sgt. Lesley Pooley, who later recovered in hospital in Woodhall Spa.

James and his crew were on their eighth operation with 630 Squadron, after arriving at East Kirkby at the beginning of November. His home was in Edinburgh and he was the 20-year-old son of William and Janet Bain. James was later buried in Liberton Cemetery in Edinburgh,

The others who died were the pilot F/O Arnold Stockill, flight engineer Sgt. James Duffett, navigator F/O William James, bomb-aimer Sgt. Raymond Bruck and mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Quinlivan.

His name can be found on panel 004.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.