

Sgt. Alfred Douglas Baker 1724295 RAFVR



Sgt. Baker and the graves of the crew of BQ-S

During July 1944 Bomber Command launched three attacks on rail yards at Revigny in eastern France as part of the campaign to cripple the French transport network. Each were costly affairs and Alfred Baker and his Lancaster crew fell victim in the first of these.



He was the flight engineer of Lancaster III LM647 BQ-S, of No. 550 Squadron, which was shot down during the first of these raids on the night of 12/13 July, a 1 Group attack that cost 550 two Lancasters with a third abandoned out of fuel, while neighbouring 166 Squadron lost four. This was the crew's second operation with 550.

According to Oliver Clutter-Brock's 'Massacre on the Marne', BQ-S was the eighth Lancaster to be shot down, a victim of a night fighter attack, crashing near the village of Vignory, in the Haute-Marne region of northern France. Six of the crew were killed while the mid-upper gunner died shortly afterwards from his injuries.

Alfred, who was 21, came from Canterbury and was the son of Albert and Maggie Baker.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Davies, navigator Sgt. Douglas Mackenzie, bomb-aimer Sgt. Cyril Pyke, wireless operator F/O Norman Davies, mid-upper gunner Sgt. George Taylor and rear gunner Sgt. Daniel Donoghue. All seven are buried in Vignory Communal Cemetery.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 004.

Photographic sources: CWGC and 550 Squadron Association