

Flight Sergeant Robert Sidney Bennett 1335173 RAFVR

Robert Bennett was an air bomber (bomb aimer) serving with No. 170 Squadron based at R.A.F. Hemswell, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire who died with his Lancaster crewmates in the final months of the war.

They were on their eighth trip as a crew, flying Lancaster III PB397 TC-X in a squadron with motto "Videre non videri" – "To see and not be seen".

Robert and his crew took off at 1826 hours on 7 January 1945, from Hemswell airfield, on a night operation to attack the German city of Munich. It is understood they collided with Lancaster NG290 AS-B, from 166 Squadron, en route to the target. The aircraft came down south east of Stuttgart, near Hengen, killing all 14 members of the two aircraft.



Robert is buried at Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany. Coll. grave 4. H. 27-30. The epitaph reads "Always in our thoughts". He was just 19 years old.

Robert was the son of Sidney Leslie and Emily Maud Bennett, of Hassocks, Sussex. His name is inscribed on the war memorial at the church of St. John the Baptist, Clayton, West Sussex.

His crewmates who died with him that night were:

Sgt. Peter Day RAFVR
F/O Norman Kenneth Dunlop RAAF
F/Sgt. Jack Mace RAFVR
Sgt. Thomas Miller RAF (AAF)
Sgt. John Henry Pinsent RAFVR
F/Sgt. Charles Albert Robinson

He is commemorated on Panel 8

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