

P/O Douglas James Bradshaw 119905 RAFVR

Douglas Bradshaw was from Norwich, the son of William and Mary Bradshaw, husband of Marie Edith. He died on 8 November 1942 aged 31.

He was on only his second operation with No. 142 Squadron, after being posted in from No. 20 OTU on 17 October 1942. Douglas was the observer on Wellington bomber BJ768 QT-Q which took off at 1741 hours from RAF Grimsby on a 'gardening' (mine laying) operation, in the northern end of the Bay of Biscay. According to German reports the aircraft was shot down by flak from the airfield of Vannes-Meucon. BJ768 crashed at Lesranigo and there is a memorial to the crew in the village of Grand-Champ, 11 km NW of Vannes.



Extract from a book written by Roger Leroux "Le Morbihan en guerre 1939-1945". This (translated and condensed) extract relates to the crash of the Wellington BJ768:

"... On the night of November 8 to 9, an English plane, hit by the DCA, crashed at Grand-Champ, the five airmen were killed ... then 300 to 400 people, mostly women and children, gathered at Abel Le square. Roy. ... On January 6, 1943, the BBC will congratulate the people of Vannes for having expressed their feelings by grouping in front of the hospital to attend the funeral... an association was even formed in Lorient to maintain them [the graves] and opened a clandestine subscription for this purpose. "

All the crew lost their lives and are buried in Vannes (Boismoreau) Communal Cemetery (Div. B, Row 1, Grave 14). Vannes is a town in Southern Brittany, France.

Douglas is commemorated on IBCC Panel 12

SOURCES

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1225830>

<http://www.memorial.act.gov.au/search/person/sautelle-claude-besnard>

<https://absa39-45.forumpro.fr/t174-wellington-bj768>

http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk/marg/142sqn_losses.htm

rafcommands.com

PHOTOGRAPH

www.absa3945.com