

Sergeant Reginald Brookes 1415865 RAFVR



Reginald Brookes was a Lancaster flight engineer who served in No. 49 Squadron based at RAF Fiskerton in Lincolnshire. He was killed on 28 February 1943 along with the rest of his crew in the target area of St Nazaire a U-boat base. It was the crew's 9th operation.

That night a large force, consisting of 437 aircraft, was dispatched to the target at St Nazaire; the second U-boat base to be selected for attack. 49 Squadron's contribution of eight aircraft had a mixture of experienced crews and novices. Bomber Command lost five aircraft: two Wellingtons, one Stirling and two Lancasters. Reginald's aircraft, flown by 26-year-old Canadian pilot WO Fred Duncan, came down in the target area having been shot down by flak; sadly all onboard perished.

The rest of the crew of Lancaster ED467 EA-E were:

Sgt. F.C. Duncan RCAF - Pilot

F/O R.G. McCracken - Navigator

Sgt. H. Kay – Wireless operator

Sgt. D.W. Belsham – Air gunner

F/Sgt. A.M. Dickie RCAF – Bomb aimer

Sgt. J.A. Kelly Air gunner

Reginald was 22 years old, son of Arthur and Sarah Brookes (née Radford), of Baddeley Green, Staffordshire. He was husband of Laura Brookes (née Eaton), who he married in June 1941 and father of Geoffrey Brookes.

He rests in the Escoublac-La-Baule War Cemetery, joint grave 2. F. 14-15, and is also commemorated in St. Clement's Church in Fiskerton where there is a Roll of Honour and Book of Remembrance for the men of 49 Squadron.

Reginald's name can be found on IBCC Panel 13.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.