

F/O Thomas David Brown 124924 RAFVR

Thomas Brown was the Scottish bomb-aimer of a Wellington bomber shot down by a night fighter over Holland.

He died along with all his crew in the early hours of 28 May 1943 when his No. 166 Squadron Wellington was homebound from a raid on the German city of Essen.

His aircraft, HE752 AS-W, was intercepted over Holland by a 100 fighter flown by Oblt. Hans-Heinz Augenstein. It crashed close to the hamlet of Oele on the outskirts of the city of Hengelo, a few miles from the German border.



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Thomas and his crew were flying in one of six No. 166 Squadron Wellingtons that took part in the attack by 518 Bomber Command aircraft, in which considerable damage was done to the Krupps factories in this much-bombed city. On the same night, other 166 Squadron aircraft were engaged in mining operations. They had left RAF Kirmington at 2302 hours on 27 May; their aircraft was the only one not to return from the squadron.

He and his crew had joined 166 at Kirmington three weeks before the Essen raid. Thomas came from Edinburgh and was the 21-year-old son of John and Agnes Brown.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Donald Tonkinson, navigator Sgt. Percy Guest, wireless operator/air gunner P/O Arthur Johnson and rear gunner Sgt. Norman Rayner.

Thomas is buried in the Hengelo (Overijssel) General Cemetery in the Netherlands, Plot D Row 1 Grave 64.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: 166 Squadron Association/On Wings of War by Jim Wright/Air Battle of the Ruhr by Alan Cooper.