

Flight Sergeant Edward Maines Bryant R/183553 RCAF

Edward Bryant was a Canadian Lancaster bomb-aimer lost soon after D-Day on his crew's ninth operation together.

The crew included two other Canadians and an American pilot, and had joined No. 166 Squadron at RAF Kirmington in mid-June 1944. They were all killed five weeks later when their aircraft was shot down during a raid on Stuttgart on the night of 25/26 July. It was the second in a series of three heavy raids on the German city, 12 aircraft being lost from the 412 taking part.

They had taken off from north Lincolnshire at 2110 hours and were reportedly shot down by a night fighter at 0215 hours. Their Lancaster, ND634 AS-U, crashed at Olbronn, near Pforzheim. It is believed to have been a victim of Obstl. (Lt. Col.) Helmut Lent, one of some 110 aircraft he was to claim as one of the Luftwaffe's leading night fighter pilots.



Edward came from the city of Stratford in Ontario and was the 20-year-old son of John and Eva Bryant. He is buried in Durnbach War Cemetery in Bavaria along with the other members of his crew (Coll. grave 9. D. 10-13).

The others who died were the pilot F/O Bill Shearer USAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Bernard Elliott, navigator Flt. Sgt. George Hodgkins RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Jack Moore, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Arthur Henderson RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. George Sims, who had won a DFM earlier in the war flying with 10 Squadron.

Edward's name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: 166 Squadron Association/Find-a-Grave.