

Sergeant Reginald Burnett 1550978 RAFVR

Reg Burnett was a rear gunner whose Lancaster vanished during a long-haul raid on Turin on the night of 12/13 July 1943.

His aircraft, ED726 EA-V, was part of a force of 294 Lancasters sent to attack Turin and one of 13 which failed to return. No trace of their aircraft or the seven crew who perished was ever found.

Three nights earlier his aircraft was damaged by flak over Gelsenkirchen, but it made it back to base at RAF Fiskerton in Lincolnshire and was repaired in time for the Turin raid.

Reg was part of a No. 49 Squadron crew on their 13th operation. Two members of his regular crew, the bomb-aimer and wireless operator, had been replaced after suffering from heavy colds.

He was the 25-year-old son of Leonard and Florence Burnett.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Millar AFM, flight engineer Sgt. Paul Goodyear, navigator Flt. Sgt. James Gillin RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O George Lockie, wireless operator Sgt. Harry Read and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Donald Bettinson. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 144).

His name can be found on panel 015.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.

