

F/Sgt. Reginald Lionel Castellari
631242 RAFVR

Reg Castellari was a Wellington wireless operator/air gunner on No 166 Squadron.

He was a crew member of Wellington III BK464 AS-X, one of the three Wellingtons lost by 166 Squadron out of the 12 aircraft sent from their base in North Lincolnshire. His aircraft took off from RAF Kirmington at 2321 hours on the night of Saturday 10 April 43. His aircraft is believed to have been on its way back to England when it crashed into a fuel storage area in the docks at Le Havre. The body of only one crew member, Sgt. Peacock was recovered and he is buried at Ste Marie Cemetery (Le Havre), the other 6 aircrew are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.



The loss of these three Wellingtons by No 166 Squadron that night were the last Mark III Wellingtons on the squadron before they converted to the Mark X Wellington and later Lancasters.

Five hundred and two bombers were sent to raid the city but thick cloud cover and the absence of accurate marking led to virtually every bomb missing the city, with just one building damaged with no listed casualties in the city. Eighteen people were reported to have died as the bombs were scattered over neighbouring countryside.

The cost to Bomber Command and its crews was high. Twenty-three aircraft were lost along with the lives of 105 young airmen, including 15 aircrew of No 166 Squadron.

The other aircrew who died with F/Sgt. Castellari were the pilot Sgt. Philip Hall, navigator Sgt. Tudor Edwards, bomb-aimer Sgt. Harry Elliott and rear gunner Sgt. Eric Peacock.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 018.

Photographic source: 166 Squadron Association