

**Sgt. Douglas Walter
Dagger 1616793
RAFVR**

Londoner Douglas Dagger was a young Lancaster wireless operator killed along with his crew on their third operation, an



attack on a key railway junction close to the French/Belgian border in the summer of 1944.

He and his crew had joined 9 Squadron at Bardney at the beginning of July. They flew operationally for the first time on 18/19 July and were killed three days later when their aircraft, PD205 WS-H, was shot down over the target, the yards at Courtrai (Kortrijk) in southern Belgium, their Lancaster crashing at in the suburb of Bissegem. There were no survivors.

The attack involved 302 Lancasters from 1 and 5 Groups and 'devastated' the target at the cost of nine aircraft lost.

Douglas came from West Dulwich in south London. He was the 21-year-old son of Walter and Dorothy Dagger and is now buried at Wevelgem Communal Cemetery.

The others who died were pilot Fl/L Graham Garlick RAFVR, flight engineer Sgt. Frank Mills RAFVR, navigator F/Sgt. Kenneth Stuart RAFVR, bomb-aimer P/O John Morriss RCAF, mid-upper gunner F/Sgt. Roy Barnes RAFVR, and rear gunner Sgt. Thomas Elliott RAFVR .

His name can be found on panel 026.

Sources: Bombers First and Last by Gordon Thorburn/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.