

Sgt. Harry Daggett 1750491 RAFVR

Harry Daggett was the mid-upper gunner of one of two Lancasters lost by 166 Squadron in what proved to be the penultimate raid in the Battle of Berlin.

His aircraft, Lancaster ME636 AS-E, was shot down by a night fighter flown by Oberleutnant Paul Zorner as the bomber stream approached Berlin on the night of 15 February 1944.



The bombers – a record 891 Lancasters and Halifaxes took part in this raid – were routed over Denmark and the Baltic before swinging south to head for Berlin. ME636 was intercepted soon after crossing the coast and crashed between Jabel and Hagenow in northern Germany. It was Zorner's 26th victim as a night fighter pilot. All seven men on board the Lancaster were initially buried at Hagenow but were later reinterred in Berlin War Cemetery. It was one of 43 bombers lost on the raid.

Harry was part of a crew with an above-average age and it is believed they had not been with 166 Squadron at Kirmington for long before the Berlin raid. At the age of 20, Harry was by some way the youngest member of the crew. He was the son of Mr and Mrs C J Daggett of Cheetham in Manchester.

The others who died were the pilot WO George Woodcock-Stevens RAFVR, flight engineer Sgt. Cecil Glen RAFVR, navigator F/Sgt Leslie Donaldson RAFVR, bomb-aimer F/O Harry Miller RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Ronald Potter RAFVR and rear gunner Sgt. Roland Dent RAFVR.

His name can be found on panel 026.

Sources: 166 Association/The Berlin Raids by Martin Middlebrook