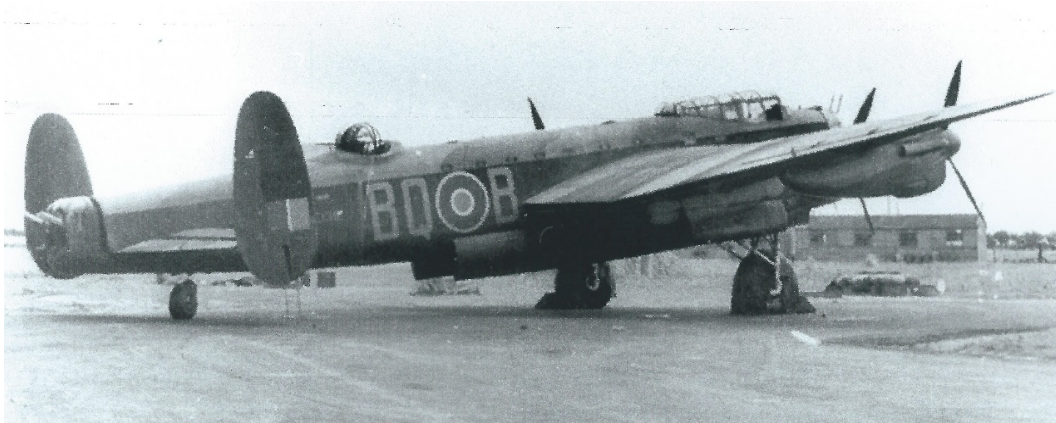


## **Sgt. Leonard Eagles Dagless 948192 RAFVR**



**This 550 Squadron Lancaster took part in two of the Revigny raids**

Leonard Dagless was the Scottish wireless operator in one of ten 1 Group Lancasters lost in an attack on the rail junction at Revigny, east of Paris on the night of 13 July 1944. The raid was a failure, with bad weather over the target leaving many bombers orbiting waiting for instructions.

Leonard's 550 Squadron Lancaster, LL796 BQ-O, was one of those circling the target waiting for instructions to bomb. As they were so doing they were involved in a head-on collision with another Lancaster from 103 Squadron which was flying in the opposite orbit. There were no survivors from either aircraft, the wreckage coming down near the village of Couvonges, near Bar-le-Duc.

LL797 had taken off from North Killingholme at 2137 hours and the collision was seen to occur at 0155 hours. The Lancaster was one of three the squadron lost in the raid and the victims are all buried in Perreause Chateau Franco-British National Cemetery. Ten bombers were lost in total in the attack and it took two further raids over the next few nights to finally destroy the Revigny junction at a cost to Bomber Command of a further 31 Lancasters.

Leonard and his crew were on their 20<sup>th</sup> operation with 550 Squadron. He was the son of Ernest and Bertha Dagless and lived with his wife, Helen, in Falkirk.

The others who died were pilot F/O Walter Boocock RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Geoffrey Sutherland RAFVR, navigator F/O Morris Eckhold RNZAF, bomb-aimer F/Sgt. Alan Mudford RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Malcolm Muir RAF(AAF) and rear gunner Sgt. Trevor Setchfield RAFVR.

His name can be found on panel 026.

Sources: 550 Squadron Association/'Massacre on the Marne' by Oliver Clutton-Brock.

