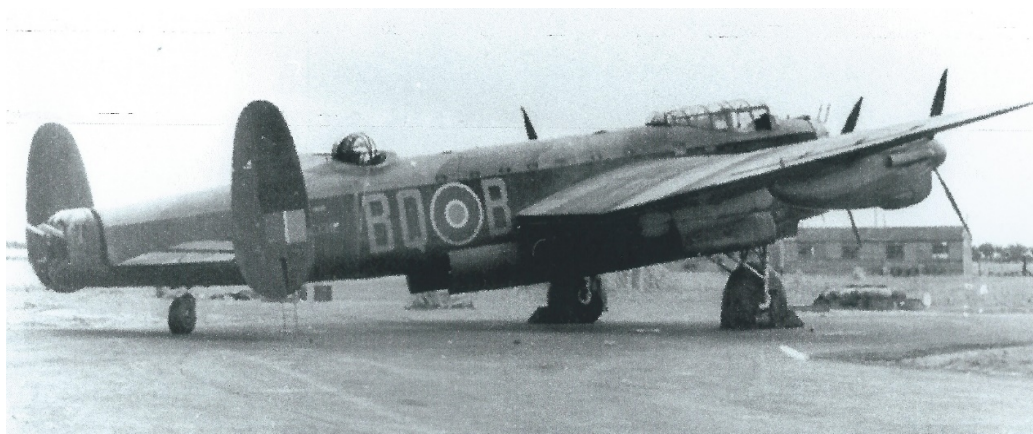


## F/O Morris Charles Eckhold 392026 RNZAF



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

Morris Eckhold was the New Zealand-born navigator 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 some bombers orbiting waiting for instructions. Morris's 550 Squadron Lancaster, LL796 BQ-O, was one of those circling the target waiting for instructions to bomb. Whilst orbiting 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.

LL796 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 of a further 31 Lancasters.

Morris and his crew were on their 20<sup>th</sup> operation with 550 Squadron. He came from Oamaru, North Otago on New Zealand's South Island and was the 26-year-old son of Ernest and Margaret Eckhold.

The others who died were pilot F/O Walter Boocock RNZAF, flight engineer Sgt. Geoffrey Sutherland, bomb-aimer RAFVR, F/Sgt. Alan Mudford RAAF, wireless operator Sgt. Leonard Dagless, mid-upper gunner RAFVR, Sgt. Malcolm Muir RA(AF) and rear gunner Sgt. Trevor Setchfield RAFVR.

His name can be found on panel 031.

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

