



Sgt. Louis Stanley Fiddes 1415512 RAFVR

Louis Fiddes was a young mid-upper gunner in a Lancaster flown by 9 Squadron commanding officer which crashed nearing the German city of Mainz in the early hours of 11 April 1943. It was the final bombing operation of the squadron at the pre-war RAF station at Waddington and the last of eight aircraft lost by the unit in a week.

The aircraft, ED501 WS-R (pictured above), was one of 502 bombers involved in the attack on Frankfurt that night, taking off shortly before midnight on 10 April. Most of the bombs missed the target and 21 Bomber Command aircraft failed to return. There were no survivors in his crew, most of whom were nearing the end of their operation.

Louis was the 21-year-old son of Philip and Louisa Fiddes and came from Barnet in north London. He is buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery.

The others who died were W/C Ken Smith DSO, second pilot Sgt. Allan Stone, flight engineer Sgt. William Thomson, navigator F/O Arnold Turner, bomb-aimer F/O Bernard Smith, wireless operator Sgt. Gordon Taylor RNZAF and rear gunner P/O Roy Pleasance.

His name can be found on panel 035.

Sources: *Bombers First and Last* and *Luck of the Lancaster* by Gordon Thorburn.