Flt. Lt. Donovon John Foster 119550
RAFVR

Don Foster was the pilot of a 550 Squadron Lancaster shot down during a raid on Dusseldorf on the night of 2/3 November 1944.

The loss card for the aircraft suggests the cause of the crash was 'not established' but witnesses were later reported to have seen the aircraft on fire before it looped and crashed into a field close to the railway station in the town of Erkrath, near Dusseldorf.

The bodies of the seven men on board were buried in the cemetery at Grevenbroich but were later exhumed by a US graves registration unit, two being reinterred in the Heverlee War Cemetery in Belgium and the other five in the Rheinberg War Cemetery.

They were flying in Lancaster PD255 BQ-T which left RAF North Killingholme at 1616 hours, one of an impressive 27 Lancasters provided by the squadron for a raid that involved 992 Bomber Command aircraft.

Don's home was in Acton, Middlesex. He was the 29-year-old son of Hubert and Elsie Foster and is buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery.

Those killed with him were the flight engineer P/O Fred Newcombe, navigator Sgt. Sydney Pick, bomb-aimer F/O Harry Gadd, wireless operator Sgt. Philip Kingman, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Jim Leonard and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Victor Morgan.

Don's name can be found on IBCC panel 036.

Illustration: 550 Squadron Association.