

Sgt. Richard Arthur Gaut 2220609 RAFVR

Richard Gaut was the mid-upper gunner of a No. 207 Squadron Lancaster involved in a mid-air collision with another 5 Group aircraft following a successful attack on rail yards at Nevers in France on the night of 15/16 July 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster I ME807, which left RAF Spilsby at 2214 hours for the attack, part of a coordinated plan to block German supply routes to the forces opposing the Normandy bridgehead.

The attack was carried out with great accuracy and no aircraft were lost over the target.

However, on the return leg the 207 Squadron Lancaster collided with another Lancaster, from Waddington-based 467 Squadron, both aircraft crashing in flames near the small village of Lignieres-de-Touraine, near Marnay in the Loire region. The eight crew members on board ME807 were killed along with the seven in the 467 Squadron Lancaster, all fifteen later being buried in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in the village.

Richard was killed on what was his 21st operation with No. 207 Squadron. He came from the Shropshire hamlet of Donnington and was the 19-year-old son of Abraham and Emily Gaut.

The others who died were the pilot F/L George Jones, second pilot F/O Edward Dalglish, flight engineer P/O Barrington Woollard, navigator F/O Frank Tickle RAAF, bomb-aimer P/O Frederick Graham RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Joseph Fellows and 18-year-old rear gunner P/O Michael Cantwell RCAF.

Richard's name can be found on panel 039.

Photographic source: Aircrew Remembered.

