

Sgt. Alfred David Hawkins
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An ancient road between the villages of Belloy and Moyenne in the Oise region of France has now been renamed Chemin du

Lancaster in honour of Alfie Hawkins and his fellow crew members who died on what is understood to be their first operation with 626 Squadron.

He was the flight engineer on board Lancaster LM102 UM-Z2 which was shot down during an attack on marshalling yards in Rheims on the night of 22/23 June, 1944 as the Allies attempted to consolidate the landings in Normandy.

His Lancaster had taken off from Wickenby in Lincolnshire at 2222 hours, one of 221 Lancasters and Halifaxes sent to attack rail targets in Rheims and Laon. The attacks were very successful at a cost of eight bombers.



LM102 crashed and exploded on farmland close to Belloy, killing all on board. Exactly sixty years later villagers renamed the road and erected this plaque honouring the crew, who were all buried in the churchyard 300 metres from this spot.

Alfie was part of an unusual all-sergeant crew. At the age of 28, he was the oldest member of the crew and came from Hanwell in Ealing, Middlesex and was the husband of Dorothy and the son of Henry and Edith Hawkins.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Robert Woolley, navigator Sgt. Frank Goddard, bomb-aimer Sgt. Ernest Lewis, wireless operator Sgt. Herbert Browne, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Percival Lawrence and rear gunner Sgt. Eric Kirby.

His name can be found on panel 047.

Sources: 626 Squadron's Lost Lancasters/Aerosteles,