

Sgt. James Gerrard Hodge 1561655 RAFVR



James Hodge was a Scottish wireless operator killed in a raid on Karlsruhe in April 1944.

He was part of the 626 Squadron crew of Lancaster DV244 UM-L2 that left Wickenby at 2123 hours on the night of 24 April, as part of a force of 637 bombers taking part in what turned out to be a scattered and inconclusive raid. Nineteen aircraft were lost, including three Lancasters from 626 Squadron.

DV244 was reported to have been shot down by a night fighter and crashed at Plittersdorf, south of the target area. There were no survivors and all seven crew members are now buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery.

James came from the coastal village of Cellardyke, near Anstruther in Fife, where he lived with his wife Isabella. He was the 22-year-old son of Alex and Christina Hodge.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Victor Bernyk RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Jack Wilson, navigator P/O George Bainbridge RCAF, bomb-aimer F/O Paul Korbyl RCAF, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. George Davies and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Rowland Crystal.

His name can be found on panel 049.

Source: 626 Squadron Association.