

F/L George Leeson Jones 127237 RAFVR

George Jones was the pilot 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 at the controls 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.

George was on his 22nd operation with the squadron. He was 30 years old and came from Swansea and was the son of William and Mildred Jones. He is remembered on the Mumbles War Memorial.

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

George's name can be found on panel 056.

Photographic source: Mumbles War Memorial.

