

Sgt. Ronald Lankester 1239621 RAFVR



Ronald Lankester was a 19-year-old navigator who died when his Wellington failed to return from a mining operation in the Bay of Biscay in the spring of 1943.

He had joined 166 Squadron at Kirmington on 25 February 1943, a month after the squadron had reformed at what was then a new airfield.

He and his young crew had taken off at 2217 hours on the night of 6 April tasked with laying mines off the port of Lorient. That was the last anyone heard from them, and their aircraft, Wellington III BK299 AS-Q, is presumed to have crashed in the sea.

Ronald is remembered along with his four colleagues on the Runnymede Memorial. He came from the small village of Strang, near Douglas on the Isle of Man, and was the son of Brian and Margaret Lankester. He was part of a well-known and respected family on the island.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Nigel Brown, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Eric Lancaster RAAF, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. Malcolm Lewis and rear gunner Sgt. Ivan Caulton.

His name can be found on panel 061.

Source: 166 Squadron Association.