

Sgt. Ernest George Lewis
1585091 RAFVR



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 Ernest Lewis and his fellow crew members who died on what is understood to be their first operation with 626 Squadron.

He was the bomb-aimer 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.

Ernest was part of an unusual all-sergeant crew. He came from Pembroke Dock in south-west Wales and was educated at the town's grammar school. He was the 21-year-old son of William and Sadie Lewis and is remembered on

Pembroke Dock War Memorial.

The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Robert Woolley, flight engineer Sgt. Alfred Hawkins, navigator Sgt. Frank Goddard, wireless operator Sgt. Herbert Browne, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Percival Lawrence and rear gunner Sgt. Eric Kirby.

His name can be found on panel 063.

Sources: 626 Squadron's Lost Lancasters/Aerosteles,

