

Sgt. Douglas Bowman Mackenzie 1424160 RAFVR



Sgt.



Mackenzie and the graves of the crew of BQ-S

During July 1944 Bomber Command launched three attacks on rail yards at Revigny in eastern France as part of the campaign to cripple the French transport network. Each were costly affairs and Douglas Mackenzie and his Lancaster crew fell victim in the first of these.

He was the navigator of Lancaster III LM647 BQ-S, of No. 550 Squadron, which was shot down during the first of these raids on the night of 12/13 July, a 1 Group attack that cost 550 two Lancasters with a third abandoned out of fuel, while neighbouring 166 Squadron lost four. This was the crew's second operation with 550.

According to Oliver Clutter-Brock's 'Massacre on the Marne', BQ-S was the eighth Lancaster to be shot down, a victim of a night fighter attack, crashing near the village of Vignory, in the Haute-Marne region of northern France. Six of the crew were killed while the mid-upper gunner died shortly afterwards from his injuries.

Douglas, who was 21, was one of two Welshmen in the crew. His home was in Cardiff and he was the son of George and Ida Mackenzie.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Davies, flight engineer Sgt. Alfred Baker, bomb-aimer Sgt. Cyril Pyke, wireless operator F/O Norman Davies, mid-upper gunner Sgt. George Taylor and rear gunner Sgt. Daniel Donoghue. All seven are buried in Vignory Communal Cemetery.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 066.

Photographic sources: CWGC and 550 Squadron Association