

P/O George Millar 177977 RAFVR

George Millar was a young Scottish navigator killed on his 29th and penultimate operation of his tour with 49 Squadron.

He was killed along with his equally-experienced crew during an attack on an underground V1 storage site in northern France. George came from Hawick in the Scottish borders region and was the 22-year-old son of George and Mattie Millar.

The attack was the second in a matter of days in July 1944 on the site of the rocket storage centre at St Leu-d'Esserant, which was completely destroyed by Lancasters dropping 1,000lb bombs (*as pictured below*).



This raid came on the night of 7/8 July on the tunnels that had been used for growing mushrooms before the war. It involved 208 Lancasters of 5 Group, supported by 13 marking Mosquitoes, with the loss of 29 Lancasters and two Mosquitoes. Two of the bombers were from 49 Squadron, including LM541 EA-N.

They had taken off from Fiskerton at 2213 hours and were shot down, crashing near Le Chesne (renamed Marbois in 2016) in the Eure department of northern France. There were no survivors.

The others who died were the pilot F/L George Ball DFC, flight engineer Sgt. Eric Wardman, bomb-aimer P/O George Rae RCAF, wireless operator P/O John Kernahan, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Kirwan DFM and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Gordon Parkinson DFM. All are buried in Le Chesne Cemetery close to a memorial to the crew.

His name can be found on panel 074.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/'Sledgehammers for Tintacks: Bomber Command versus the V1 Menace' by Steve Darlow.