

Sgt. Charles Malachi Murray 535937 RAF

Charles Murray was a 27-year-old flight engineer from Northern Ireland killed in action three days after arriving at a Lincolnshire bomber squadron.

He was part of the crew of 166 Squadron Lancaster PD261 AS-S, which is believed to have been shot down by a night fighter over the target area during a raid on the Polish city of Stettin on the night of 29/30 August 1944. There were no survivors.

Charles and his crew had arrived at 166's base at Kirmington on 26 August and this was their first operation with the squadron. They took off at 2110 hours as part of a force of 402 Lancasters and 1 Mosquito; the total loss for this mission was 23 Lancasters.

He was a regular member of the Royal Air Force and was the son of Patrick and Emily Murray of Acton, in County Armagh. His medals and the telegram telling his parents he was missing are on display in Bagnels Castle Museum in Newry.

Charles is buried together with the other crew members in Poznan's Old Garrison Cemetery (*pictured below*). The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Frederick Dunton, navigator Flt. Sgt. Robert Harding RAAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Trevor Davis, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. David Powers RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Carey and rear gunner Sgt. James Peake.



Charles' name can be found on panel 077.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered/Second World War in Northern Ireland/166 Squadron Association.