

**Sgt. Douglas Albert
Sanderson 1322881 RAFVR**

Douglas Sanderson was a young wireless operator from Essex who was part of a Lancaster crew lost on their third operation, in the summer of 1944.



His No. 49 Squadron aircraft, JB714 EA-K, was one of two lost from the 21 Lancasters the squadron provided for an attack on a railway junction at Etampes, near Paris, on the night of 9/10 June 1944. The raid involved 108 Lancasters as part of a plan to hamper communications following the Allied invasion in Normandy.

After taking off from Fiskerton at 2139 hours, Douglas's Lancaster arrived in the target area only to find the nine marking Mosquitoes were slightly late. The bombers then had to orbit the area and it was during this period that night-fighters managed to shoot down six Lancasters, including the pair from 49 Squadron.

His aircraft crashed near the town of Morigny-Champigny, south of Etampes, and there were no survivors. All seven crew members were later buried in the local churchyard.

Douglas came from the village of Roydon, in Epping Forest, and was the 20-year-old son of Harold and Elizabeth Sanderson.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Tom Smiley, flight engineer Sgt. Bernard Webb, navigator Flt. Sgt. Ian Stuart RAAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Laurence Hinch, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Leslie Rainbow and rear gunner Sgt. Donald Blaikie.

Douglas' name is on panel 094.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command Losses 1944 by Bill Chorley.