

F/O David Winterburn Stewart 152126 RAFVR



A Lancaster prepares to take-off from RAF Elsham

David Stewart was the Scottish bomb-aimer of a 576 Squadron Lancaster shot down by a night fighter over Holland during an attack on the synthetic oil plant at Sterkrade on the night of 16/17 June 1944.

It was to prove a costly night for Bomber Command with 31 of the 321 aircraft taking part failing to return, the majority of them Halifaxes.

David's Lancaster, ME810 UL-K2, had left RAF Elsham Wolds shortly after 2300 hours and was reported to have crashed close to the Deelen night fighter airfield near Arnhem. There were no survivors.

His home was in Bonnybridge, in Stirlingshire, and he was the 27-year-old son of David and Annie Stewart. He is buried along with the other three British members of the crew in Arnhem (Moscowa) General Cemetery.

The others who died with him were the pilot Flt. Lt. George Stockdale RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. Douglas Fabb, navigator F/O Douglas Fuller RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Jim Gray, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Ross Jack RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Edward Morgan.

David's name can be found on IBCC panel 102.

Photographic source: Elsham Wolds Association