

Sgt. George Taylor 1593905 RAFVR



Sgt.
Taylor
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 George Taylor and his Lancaster crew fell victim in the first of these.

He was the mid-upper gunner 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 George was badly injured and died shortly afterwards.

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

His name can be found on IBCC panel 105.

Photographic sources: CWGC and 550 Squadron Association.