

F/O Frank Reginald Tickle 409772 RAAF



The graves of the two crews at Lignieres-de-Touraine

Frank Tickle was the Australian navigator of a No. 207 Squadron Lancaster involved in a mid-air collision with another 5 Group aircraft following a successful attack on rail yards at Nevers in France on the night of 15/16 July 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster I ME807, which left RAF Spilsby at 2214 hours for the attack, part of a coordinated plan to block German supply routes to the forces opposing the Normandy bridgehead.

The attack was carried out with great accuracy and no aircraft were lost over the target.

However, on the return leg the 207 Squadron Lancaster collided with another Lancaster, from Waddington-based 467 Squadron, both aircraft crashing in flames near the small village of Lignieres-de-Touraine, near Marnay in the Loire region. The eight crew members on board ME807 were killed along with the seven in the 467 Squadron Lancaster, all fifteen later being buried in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in the village.

At 34 Frank was the oldest member of the crew. He had completed at least 20 operations and came from the Melbourne suburb of South Yarra where he lived with his wife Phyllis. He was the son of Ephraim and Esther Tickle.

The others who died were the pilot F/L George Jones, second pilot F/O Edward Dalglish, flight engineer P/O Barrington Woollard, bomb-aimer P/O Frederick Graham RCAF, wireless operator Sgt. Joseph Fellows, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Richard Gaut and 18-year-old rear gunner P/O Michael Cantwell RCAF.

Frank's name can be found on panel 107.

Photographic source: Aircrew Remembered.