

## **Flt Lt David John Bain RAF 41243**

John Bain was a Canadian who crossed the Atlantic in 1938 to join the RAF and became an experienced bomber pilot before he was killed when his Halifax was shot down over Belgium.

He was the pilot of Halifax II W7709 LQ-J which was attacked by a night-fighter on returning from a raid on Osnabrück, the bomber crashing into a farm and setting light to the farmer's thatched roof. Of the seven men on board, there were no survivors.



The attack involved 192 bombers on the night of 9/10 August 1942 with just six lost. W7709 had taken off from Topcliffe 23:50 on what was one of 405 Squadron's first operations after moving from Pocklington within the preceding days.

John's Halifax was on the return leg of its sortie when it was intercepted and attacked, crashing at 03:42 in the farm of Mr Van der Steeg and setting fire to his home. He and his family managed to escape, and the thatched farmhouse was severely damaged.

David came from the town of Pincher Creek in the foothills of the Rockies in Alberta and was the 26-year-old son of Margaret Bain. His father, John, was killed in the Western Front with the Canadian Army in 1917, when David was a little over a year old. He was educated in Pincher and then had some time at the Canadian Royal Military College before deciding to go to England and join the pre-war RAF.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt Walter Hill RCAF, observer PO Robert Vaughan, bomb-aimer PO Thomas Calderwood, wireless operator Sgt Thomas Morgan, mid-upper gunner Flt Sgt Francis Gibbons and rear gunner Sgt Henry Gover. All are buried at the Woensel Cemetery in Eindhoven.

David's name can be found on panel 125.

Sources: Canadian veterans/405 Squadron Association/Bomber Command Losses 1942 by Bill Chorley.