

Flt Lt James George Annesley Maguire DFC MiD 47152 RAF

James, known as "Paddy", was born in 1913 in Cavan, Ireland, the son of Capt Leonard Cornwall Maguire RCVS and Alice Mary Maguire. In 1939 he married Ethel Mary Marler in Birmingham, Warwickshire.

James joined the RAF in 1935, and by the outbreak of war he had served as an Armourer and Air Gunner and was in the final stages of Observer training at 4 AOS, West Freugh, Scotland. In November 1939 he was posted to 226 Sqn in Reims, France. After the capitulation of France, James moved with the squadron to RAF Sydenham, Belfast where he flew anti-submarine patrols. The squadron moved to RAF Wattisham, Suffolk in May 1941.

On 18 August 1941 James was injured during an attack on the industrial works in Lille, serious enough to keep him off flying for 6 weeks. Commissioned in October 1941, at the end of November he was posted on to the staff of 13 OTU at RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire, but was quickly back to operational flying on 226 Sqn in March 1942 as Nav/Bombing Leader. Mentioned in Despatches in June 1942, in August 1942 he was awarded the DFC.



On 6 December 1942, 226 Sqn were tasked as part of Operation Oyster, a daylight raid on the Philips radio and valve factory in Eindhoven. The 8th Air Force operated a diversionary raid to Lille using Spitfires as escort. A low level raid in clear conditions led to very accurate bombing and the factory was extensively damaged. The raid was deliberately planned for a Sunday when few employees would have been on site. Full production took 6 months to achieve due to the level of damage. This successful raid was the biggest daylight raid of the war so far comprising 36 Bostons, 12 Mosquitos and 48 Venturas. At 11:35 James, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Swanton Morley in Boston IIIIV V5854 (MQ-S). At 12:54 they crashed into the sea, killing all on board. Two claims were made, they were either hit by Marine Flak or shot down by Uffz. Robert Stellfeld of the 5./JG 1, flying an Fw 190 A-4.

Also killed : FO Norman James Alexander Paton DFM (Pilot); PO James Lester Fletcher RCAF (WOp/AG)

James has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 203

Picture Source: IBCC