

Sgt James Revill Moody 1315980 RAFVR

James was born on 26 January 1924 in Droitwich, Worcestershire, the eldest son of Charles Revill Moody and Edith Ann Moody nee Taylor.

James joined 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire from 419 Sqn in April 1944.

At 22:30 on 18 July 1944 James, operating as one of the Air Gunners, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford in Halifax V LL364 (NF-B) destined for France to drop supplies to the Special Air Service (SAS) who were operating in the area. This was one of two parachute drops expected in the area, the second by a Liberator of the 850th Bomber Squadron, 801st/492nd Bombardment Group, USAAF who were tasked with a drop to the Resistance of the Maquis Camille at Peinture.

Using the Rebecca/Eureka radio navigational system, as the Halifax turned towards the Eureka beacon and crossed over the route for the drop zone (DZ Dick 89), the Liberator turned over a nearby village to line up its run to drop its supplies on DZ Dick 28A. At 01:00 the two aircraft collided in mid air near Marigny-l'Eglise, France some 9 miles south of Avalon, Eastern France. Both aircraft crashed, killing all on board.

The crew were buried by German forces in the nearby cemetery where they remain today.

Also Killed: Flt Lt John Allan Kidd (Pilot); FO Kenneth Robertson Urquhart RCAF (Nav); PO Cyril Frederick Thomas Miles (FE); FS Bernard Stroud (AB); Sgt Charlie Taylor (WOp); Sgt Grayham Bancroft Byrne (AG)

James is buried in Marigny-L'Eglise Communal Cemetery, Nievre, France, the crew are the only CWGC burials in the churchyard.

James is commemorated on Wall Panel 214

Photo Source: Aircrew Remembered

