

FS Bernard Stroud 1315980 RAFVR

Bernard was born on 25 December 1923 in Hereford, Herefordshire, the son of Frederick Ernest Stroud and Sarah Eveline Christabel nee Wooldridge

Educated at Hereford Cathedral School where he was a chorister, aged 18 Bernard volunteered to serve as aircrew in the RAF. After training in Canada, Bernard joined 138 Sqn at RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in February 1944 as an Air Bomber.

At 22:30 on 18 July 1944 Bernard, operating as the Air Bomber, 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); Sgt James Revill Moody (AG); Sgt Charlie Taylor (WOp); Sgt Grayham Bancroft Byrne (AG)

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

Bernard is commemorated on Wall Panel 249

Photo Source: IBCC

