

Flt. Sgt. Derek William Wood 963941 RAFVR



Derek was a Flight Engineer in No. 7 Squadron.

Lancaster ND845 MG-C took off from Oakington at 2222 hours on 19 May 1944 on a night mission to attack the railway yards at Le Mans, France, as one of 112 Lancasters plus 4 Mosquitoes. SOE intelligence had reported the positioning of many V1 flying bombs on the railway rolling stock en route to sites around France. After an initially uneventful flight, and as Master Bomber, Sqn. Ldr. Baker was heard giving directions to the oncoming bomber stream when all communication suddenly ceased. Initially thought to be hit by flak, it now appears the aircraft may have tragically collided with Lancaster JB653 MG-R, the deputy Master Bomber, as at the same instant they also stopped communicating. Although the loss to 7 Squadron was heavy, the mission was deemed successful with much damage being caused to the yards.

Derek is buried at Le Mans West Cemetery, Sarthe, France. Plot 38. 1939-1945 Row C. Joint grave 20.

Flt. Sgt. Derek William Wood – Flight Engineer (killed)
Sqn. Ldr. Philip Robert Coldwell DSO DFM – Navigator (killed)
Sqn. Ldr. John Baker DSO DFC – 2nd Pilot (killed)
P/O Albert Price – Bomb Aimer (killed)
F/O Jack William Walters DFC RNZAF – Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (killed)
F/O Robert Lorne Weatherall DFM RCAF – Air Gunner (killed)
WO Joseph Lamonby – Air Gunner (killed)
Wg. Cdr. James Fraser Barron DSO & Bar DFC DFM RNZAF – Pilot (killed)

He is commemorated on Panel 268

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