James Frank Ineson





Rank: - Flying Officer

Number: - 144953

Service: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 9th Sqdn. (RAF Bardney)

Died: - Lancaster LL787 Crashed near Normee. 04/05/1944 Age: 22 years.

Cemetery: - Normee Churchyard, Marne, France Grave 2.

James Frank was born on 17 June 1921, in Batley, the son of William and Sarah Jeanetta Ineson nee Jackson, who had married on 18 June 1910 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury and lived at 77 Brookroyd Lane, Batley in 1939. William was a foreman cloth fuller and scourer. Ernest was born in 1912.

James attended Batley Grammar School. In 1943 he married Monica Bacon of New Farnley, Leeds. They resided, when he was home at Back Lane, Moor Top, New Farnley, Leeds.

James Frank was pilot of Lancaster LL878 which took off from Bardney, Lincs, at 21.52 hours on 3 May 1944 to bomb a German Panzer unit at Mailly-le-Camp, south of Rheims, France. The bomber was attacked by enemy fighters over the target and crashed in flames near the village of Normee, one of 42 to be lost out of an attacking force of 400 aircraft. The loss rate was the second highest in any raid by Bomber Command. Signals leader was Wing Cdr (later Group Captain) Leonard Cheshire V.C.

F/O Ineson ordered the crew to bail out, but only three parachutes were seen and one of those failed to open. Five of the crew were killed, one escaped back to Britain and the seventh was taken prisoner. The five dead were buried together in the churchyard at Normee, the service being conducted by Father Andre Duchesne, who was also town clerk of Lenharree and active in the French Resistance. The other four were P/O H F McKenzie from Canada, P/O L C Margetts, from Edinburgh, Sgt. H R Warren and Sgt J Wilkinson.

In October 1991 F/O Ineson's niece, Mrs Jennifer Graham, of Batley, made a pilgrimage to Normee with her family, arrangements for the visit being co-ordinated by Frank Rigg, secretary of the Paris branch of the R.A.F. Association. He arranged for the Grahams to meet Father Duchesne, then in his 80's, who conducted the memorial service at the graveside.

James is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the Air Crew Europe star; 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Thanks to Bill Berry