

Royal Air Force **Crash Lancaster LM 477 GI-L** **near Nancy the 25 July 1944**

Motto: "Bellamus noctu" ("We wage war by night").

Badge: A long-eared owl volant affrontée, carrying in the claws a flash of lightning. The design is symbolic of the nocturnal activities of the squadron.

Authority: King George VI, October 1944.

No. 622 Squadron was formed at Mildenhall, Suffolk, on 10th August 1943, as a heavy-bomber squadron in No. 3 Group. Equipped originally with Stirlings, it was reequipped with Lancaster's in December 1943/January 1944. One of its Lancaster's topped the century mark on operations; this was LL885 "J-Jig", a Mark I, which between 30th/31st March 1944 (when it made its first operation-against Nuremberg) and 22nd April 1945 (when it finished with a sortie against Bremen) flew 113 operational sorties.

Raid the 24-25 July 1944 on Stuttgart with these bombardiers : HK568 HK575 KB719 KB740 LL842 LL941 LM142 LM178 LM477 ND560 ND628 ND634 ND922 ND984 NE146 NE175 PA992 PB185 PB265

Peter Vercoe Son of Eric Newman Vercoe and Lilian Bennetta Vercoe of Paraparaumu Beach Wellington New Zealand.

Service details : Flight Sergeant (Pilot) 425805

Date of Death: 25th July 1944 Age 22

Where buried in Cemetery: Essey-Les-Nancy Churchyard, Meurthe-Et-Moselle, FRANCE

Aircraft: Avro Lancaster Mk.III: LM477 GI-L

Unit: 622 (RAF) Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force

Crew :

Pilot : F/Sgt VERCOE Peter (RNZAF)

Flight Engineer: F/Sgt MARSCH Norman (RAAF)

Bomb Aimer: Sgt JEARY G.H. (RAF)

Navigator: F/Sgt PEPPER Douglas (RNZAF)

Wireless Operator Sgt SIMPSON Theophilus (RAF)


Air Gunner: Sgt DUFFIELD Richard (RAF)

Air Gunner: Sgt GRONOW Kenneth (RAF)

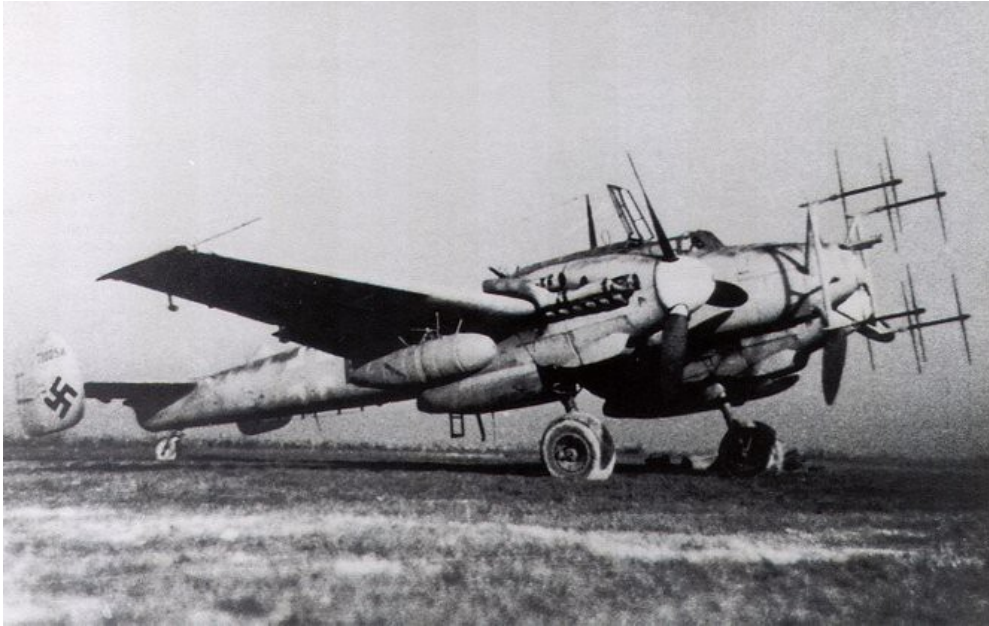
The aircraft took off at 21.55 hrs from RAF Mildenhall on Ops to Stuttgart. It was shot down by fighters ,on his return to England and crashed Route de Essey between Saint Max et Essey. The crew are buried in collective grave at Essey les Nancy except Sgt JEARY was taken prisoner.



Essey cemetery in 2013

4	Breitfeld, Hans Heinrich	Hptm	6	Stab I/NJG-5 (7/44), 9/NJG-5 (8/44), 3/NJG-5	Bf 110	 EP, EK 1 & 2, Night Fighter Operational Clasp	KIC 9 April, 1945; crash landing at Lübeck airfield, cause not given (Bolten). One known victory, a "4 mot" NW of Creil on 5 July, 1944. A 2nd, a "4 mot" N of Chaumont on 15 July, 1944. A 3rd, a "4 mot" at Nancy on 25 July, 1944. A 4th "4 mot" E of Königsberg, and a 5th and 6th "4 mot" W of Königsberg, on 30 August, 1944. Magnus Report & Bolten, 9 victories. Alternate spelling: Breitfeldt (Boiten).
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Le Hauptman BREITFIELD sur un BF 110 de nuit revendique la victoire



Les photos suivantes ont été prises par Maurice GROSSE présent lors du crash
et habitant Saint Max





La population a largement fleuri les tombes des aviateurs, au cimetiere de Essey, malgré l'interdiction

