

BLACK THURSDAY

16/17 December 1943



The Operation

Black Thursday, 16/17 December 1943, came one month into the Battle of Berlin, Bomber Command's all-out attempt to win the war by attacking the German capital and other key cities. But it was not the enemy which caused the mass RAF casualties of Black Thursday, but Bomber Command's perennial enemy – the weather.

On the night of 16 December, the system for getting RAF bomber aircraft safely back to their bases fell apart. The survivors of the very large force of 483 Lancasters and 15 Mosquitoes which had taken part in the bombing raid on Berlin reached England safely only to find that the light mist of the afternoon had turned into a deadly peasouper of a fog, blanketing the country as far up as Yorkshire.

Black Thursday, as the day was soon called, saw the loss of **twenty-five** Lancasters during the Berlin operation but a further **thirty-one** lost due to the fog over England, crashed or abandoned when their crews baled out, or in the case of two unfortunate crews collided over Lincolnshire. Other aircraft—Stirlings, Halifaxes and Lysanders, variously on gardening, training or Special Duties flights—also crashed due to the fog.

In total, Bomber Command suffered **327 deaths** and lost **70 aircraft** on this day. The death toll for the bad weather crashes in England was close to **150**, not counting those who later died of their injuries. 97 Squadron's losses were the heaviest of all.

97 Squadron was a three-flight squadron, meaning that it had **21** operational aircraft and a number of spares, bringing its approximate aircraft strength to 28-30 aircraft. **Nine** of the operational aircraft were lost on Black Thursday: one over Berlin, two to baling-out, five to crashes, and one to damage sustained on the operation and in landing.

A further **nine** Pathfinder Lancasters were lost on operations or due to the appalling weather. 7 Squadron had no bad weather losses, but it can have been of little consolation as they had lost **four** crews on the Berlin operation. 83 and 156 Squadron lost **one** aircraft each. 405 Squadron lost **three** out of the thirteen Lancasters flying that night, one near Marham (where three of the squadron's other Lancasters landed safely) and the other two at Graveley.

The PFF dead for fog-related crashes were **two** from 83 Squadron, **six** from 156 Squadron, **fourteen** from 405 Squadron, and **twenty-eight** from 97 Squadron, **fifty** men in all.

16/17 December 1943 saw the worst bad weather landing casualties in Bomber Command for the whole of the war. They were also by far the highest losses that 97 Squadron ever experienced.

Background

The operation commenced about 1600hrs to bomb the target (Berlin) four hours later and were expected to return around midnight. Of the 328 aircrew who lost their lives that night more were the victims of the weather than enemy action.

This article relates the tragic circumstances of individual crews as they struggled to find their home bases in low cloud and dense fog.

Altimeters were so inaccurate the aircraft struck unseen high ground or even trees. Some rescue attempts were successful, but for most aircrew it was death in a blazing wreck.

Books have been written about Black Thursday but this is my own tribute to those who died in this and other Bomber Command operations in the Second World War.

Images may be subject to copyright.

Most images are hyperlinked to their source.

images of cemeteries do not necessarily relate to any particular grave.



[wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Further reading :

Black night for Bomber Command by Richard Knott.

Bomber over Berlin Nov 1943-March 1944 by Alan W. Cooper

Lancaster DS737-EQ-C – 408 (RCAF) Sqdn. RAF Linton on Ouse -16/12/1943

The crew were initially returning to Linton on Ouse but had been diverted north to land at Topcliffe because of the poor weather at their home base. Given what we now know about the overall poor weather over North Yorkshire this would possibly seem a poor choice by those on the ground at Linton on Ouse. Not surprisingly Topcliffe then re-diverted the aircraft away because of the weather there. The Lancaster was diverted even further north to Leeming, the writer of this webpage recalls reading somewhere that Leeming had then diverted it away yet again (but the source has not been located when compiling this page). It seems very likely that the crew were hopelessly lost while flying in thick fog and their aircraft was slowly running out of fuel by the time the aircraft flew into the ground on the North Yorkshire Moors. The crash occurred some ten miles north-east of Thirsk between the villages of Boltby and Hawnby at 23.30hrs, near the top of Sneck Yate Bank on an area of land known locally as Murton Common and very close to Silver Hill Farm.

<http://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/>

The crew,

Pilot; Flg Off., Russell Stanley CLARK, RCAF, Died of Injury
21/12/43

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Kenneth Roy WOOD, RAFVR, Kia

Navigator; Sgt., Timothy l'Anson DEE, RAFVR , Kia

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Michael E. MARYNOWSKI, RCAF, Kia

W Op/ Air Gunner; Sgt., Leslie Arthur MORAN, RAF, Inj

Air Gunner; F/Sgt., Lloyd John YEO, RCAF, Inj

Air Gunner; F/Sgt., Joseph Omer Emile Jules BOILY, RCAF, Kia

Moran is named as Morgan on Aircrew Remembered website

Lancaster II DS-762 - OW-V - 426 Sqdn. RAF Linton on Ouse -16/12/1943

Failed to return from this operation.

Damaged by a night-fighter and running short of fuel they turned north and bailed out over Sweden.

All the crew landed safely and were interned for the duration.

The crew: *Their role has not been recorded.*

Plt Off., A. DAVIES, RCAF, PoW

Plt Off., R. RICHARDS. RAF, PoW

Plt Off., H.L. GARRIOCK, PoW

Flt Sgt., F. MUDRY. RCAF, PoW

Sgt., R. ENGEL. RAF, PoW

Sgt., E. GEORGE. RCAF, PoW

Flt Sgt., R. GINSON. RCAF, PoW

Lancaster DS779- OQ-Q - 426 (RCAF) Sqdn RAF Linton on Ouse -16/12/1943

DS779 reached the general area of the Vale of York and were in contact with flying control at Linton on Ouse who had told that the the cloud base at Linton was at 800 feet. The Lancaster crew were using the GEE navigation system to locate their base and they then began to let down as they headed there and to hopefully drop through the fog which they presumably believed would clear as they dropped below 800 feet. As it turned out the fog layer a few miles south of Linton on Ouse was not limited to being above 800 feet, around the Wetherby area the fog was down to ground level. A minor incorrect setting in the altimeter gave them no room for error. The aircraft simply descended down through the cloud at a shallow angle until it was flying at ground level, it flew at field level for several hundred yards and broke off all the propeller blades, one of the rudder sections and other parts of the aircraft. The pilot was able to pull the aircraft back into the air and it cleared a line of electricity wires and a row of trees but then the aircraft lost flying speed and it crashed around a mile further on at 23.25hrs. Sadly the five members of the crew were all killed in the crash near Northlands Farm, Hunsingore while the two air gunners further back in the aircraft survived though one appears to have been badly injured because Sgt Duncan Stewart died on 24th February 1944 at Northallerton Hospital and this appears to have been the result of the injuries sustained in the crash at Hunsingore two months earlier.

The crew:

Pilot; WO2., Reginald Donald STEWART, RCAF, Kia

Navigator; Flg Off., Howard Paul MORRIS, RCAF, Kia

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Leslie SALE, RAFVR, Kia

Air Bomber; Flg Off., William HAMILTON, RCAF, Kia

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., John GREENWELL, RAFVR, Kia

Air Gunner; Sgt., Donald Sinclair JAMIESON, RCAF, Injured

Air Gunner; Sgt., D E STEWART, RCAF, Injured, succumbed to injuries, 24/02/1944

Lancaster DS831-QO-N – 432 (RCAF) Sqdn. RAF East Moor - 16/12/1943

DS 831 was shot down by a night fighter between Wijtgaard and Weidum, Friesland.



Six killed , two injured, taken prisoner and survived the war.

Pilot; Flg Off., William Charles FISHER, USAAF / RCAF, KIA

Co-pilot; Sgt., Owen Donald LEWIS, RCAF, PoW

Navigator; WO1., James Stuart BRIEGEL, RCAF, KIA

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Raymond HUGHES, RAFVR, KIA

WOp/Air Gnr; Flt Sgt., Montague A T BRUDELL, RAAF, PoW

WOp/Air Gnr; WO., Raymond Kenneth SAUNDER, RAAF, KIA

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Thomas Walter PRAGNELL, RAFVR, KIA

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Herbert Albert TURNER, RCAF, KIA

Lancaster DS832-QO-K – 432 (RCAF) Sqdn. RAF East Moor - 16/12/1943

Flt Lt., William Watson Strachan from 432 Squadron was attacked by a JU-88, this was claimed destroyed.

F/O H. Hatfield RCAF and crew, flying Lancaster II DS-832 - QO-K, bailed out near base due to poor weather and no fuel. Their Lancaster crashed near Thornaby.

The crew, all safe:

Flg Off., H. Hatfield, RCAF

F/Lt., J. Allen RCAF

Sgt., A. Phillips RAF

Flg Off., J. Higgs RCAF

Flg Off., G. Smith RCAF

Sgt., W. Poole RAF

Sgt., R. Hutchinson RAF

Flt Sgt., A. McGregor RCAF

All landed safely with one crew-member slightly injured.

Lancaster II, DS835-KO-K – 115 Sqdn. RAF Witchford, 16/12/1943

Crashed at Kruisberg Dune near Heemskerk,
Netherlands.

Cause of crash possible engine failure on its first
operational flight with only 4 hours flying time
recorded. (Exploded in mid air).

All buried at Heemskerk.



Protestant Churchyard Heemskerk

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Norman Thomas NEWTON, DFC., RNZAF

Navigator ; Plt Off., Ernest John H. DOWNS, RAFVR

Flight Engineer ; Sgt., Marcus SEATTER, RAFVR

WOp/ Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Islwyn LEWIS,

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Geoffrey Arthur RAY, RAFVR

M U Gunner ; Sgt., Alfred George COWDREY, RAF

Rear Gunner ; Sgt., Ronald HAWKINS, RAFVR

Lancaster II, DS837-OW-L - 426 (Thunderbird) Linton on Ouse, 16/12/1943

Crashed near Yearsley, north of York, on return.
All those killed were buried in Harrogate (Stonefall)
Cemetery.



Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery.

The crew:

Pilot; Sqn Ldr., Thomas Matthew KNEALE, RCAF

Navigator; Plt Off., George Macdonald JONES, RCAF

Flt Engineer; Plt Off., Robert Philip MARKS, RAFVR

WOpr/Air Gunner; Plt Off., Maurice Milton PRILL, RCAF

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., James MACKAY, RCAF

Air Gunner; Plt Off., Angus Augustus JOHNSTON, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., G C FOSTER, Inj.

Lancaster II, DS846-OW-X, - 426 Sqdn. Linton on Ouse, 16/12/1943

P/O L. Archibald RCAF and crew, flying Lancaster II DS-846 coded OW-X, failed to return from this operation.

6 crew were killed and one POW after being shot down by a Nightfighter.



Hanover War cemetery

The crew, six killed , one interned:

Pilot; Plt Off., Lewis Percival ARCHIBALD, RCAF

Navigator; Plt Off., Joseph Leonidas R. R. LACHANCE, RCAF

Flt Engineer; Sgt., Raymond ATKIN, PoW

WOp/Air Gunner; Plt Off., Norman Byng MORRISON, RCAF

Air Gunner ; Plt Off., Harold James HURLEY, RCAF

Air Gunner; WO2., Jack Dunbar NEWCOMBE, RCAF

Bomb Aimer; Plt Off., J. L. WILSON, RCAF

Halifax II, DT669 - 1662 HCU, RAF Blyton, 16/12/1943

Plane crashed when wing tip hit ground. The aircraft had departed Blyton for a long-range night cross-country NAVEX. Whilst on approach to land at the end of the sortie, the aircraft crashed at 2335. All six crew - five of whom were Australians were killed



St Laurence's church, Corringham

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Garnault Mervyn VAUTIER, RAAF

Navigator; Sgt., Robert Edward BOTTLE, RAFVR

Navigator; Flt Sgt., John Ellis FINDLEY, RAAF

Wireless Operator; Flt Sgt., Edward HOSKINGS, RAAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Eric John STRAWBRIDGE, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Noel Richard TOY, RAAF

Lancaster III, DV173-AR-? – 460 (RAAF) Sqdn. RAF Binbrook, 17/12/1943

Took off 1625, 16 Dec 1943, from Binbrook. Crashed
00: 17, in bad weather into a field at Normenby,
near Caistor, Lincolnshire.

The crew: one fatality, one injured.

Air Gunner; Flg Off., Hedley Howard GARMENT, RAFVR. Killed

Sgt., D DIXON, Injured

Sgt., J. DAVIES, RTD

Plt Off., C.E. HANSON, RTD

Flt Sgt., R. MANSFIELD, RTD

Sgt., W. F. H. McINTYRE, RTD

WO1., M. STAFFORD, RTD

Roles unknown

RTD = Returned to Duty

Lancaster III, DV238-KM-M – 44 (Rhodesia) Sqdn. RAF Dunholme Lodge, 16/12/1943

At 1621hrs aircraft took off on bombardment mission to Berlin. Crashed near Diepholz, cause unknown. They are buried in Hanover War Cemetery.



Hannover War Cemetery

The crew:

Flight Engineer, Sgt., John Charles BLACKMORE

Air Gunner; Sgt., Bernard CHEW

Navigator; Plt Off., Thomas Bernard MELIA

Pilot; Plt Off., Arthur Thane MOODIE

Pilot; Flg Off., Donald Albert ROLLIN

Air Gunner; Sgt., Reginald STANDING

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Eric James TOCHER

Are buried in Hanover War Cemetery

L Barker interred Stalag 4B Muhlberg (Elbe)

Lancaster III, DV293-WS-Y, 9 (IX) Sqdn. RAF Bardney, 16/12/1943

After bombing the Lancaster was heading away from Berlin when it was involved in a mid-air collision with a Lancaster from 619 Squadron.

They are buried in Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery

[\(See Slide 29\)](#)



Berlin War Cemetery

The crew, all killed:

Air Gunner; Sgt., Raymond John BARONI, RCAF

Pilot; Plt Off., Richard Anthony BAYLDON, RAFVR

Flt Engineer; Sgt., Francis Sidney COPE, RAFVR

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., Edward EGAN

Navigator; Flg Off., Bernard OTTER, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Arnold RICHARDSON, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., John Kendall WIDDOP, RAFVR

Lancaster I, DV299-SR-K2 – 101 Sqdn. RAF Ludford Magna. 16/12/1943

Lost without trace.

Remembered on the Runnymede
memorial

The crew, missing, KIA:

Pilot; Plt Off., Peter Ewan HEAD, RAF

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Robert Alexander WILSON, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Harry STREET, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Wilfred WELBY, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Donald James GIBSON, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ronald BETTS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Henry Rose LINTERN, RAFVR

Special operator; Flt Sgt., Wilfred Malvern GREEN, RAFVR



Runnymede memorial

Lancaster I, DV300-SR-W – 101 Sqdn. Ludford Magna, 16/12/1943

Attacked by a night fighter and exploded over farmland in Holland, crashing near the town of Lemmer.

Buried in Lemsterland (Lemmer) General Cemetery



The crew, all KIA:

Flight Engineer; Sgt., John Edward CLARKE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Donald Bruce HARVEY, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., John IRELAND, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Eric Ronald E. JORDAN, RAFVR

Pilot; Flt Lt., Ronald Ernest MACFARLANE, RCAF

Special operator; Flg Off., Lorne Edgar THOMPSON, RCAF

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Frederick Ronald WESTALL, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Leonard Dinsdale WILSON, RAFVR

Lancaster I, DV342-UL-G2 – 576 Sqdn. Elsham Wolds, 16/12/1943

Aircraft took off at 1627hrs. Aircraft at 2008hrs was shot down by Hptm. Walter Borgers of Stab III/NJG5. At the time the aircraft was being flown at estimated 10,000ft. It was observed to burst into flame and then explode a minute or so later. Wreckage from the aircraft fell over a wide area. One of the engines fell in Ritterguts-Strafle. Another fell in Verbindungsweg. Two of the crew dressed in blue were found in Bitterguts Strasse, Lichtenberg. Both airmen were wearing parachute harnesses but neither had any sign of the parachute.
Remembered on the Runnymede memorial



Runnymede memorial

The crew, all KIA:

Pilot; Flg Off., Ronald Stenhouse McARA, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Jack Leslie BARRETT, RAF

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., Eric RUSSOM, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Geoffrey L. BLACKMORE, RAAF

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Cyril CHAPMAN, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Albert Alfred HARRIS, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Malcolm George WESTERN, RAAF

Halifax V , EB185 - 1667 HCU. Faldingworth, 16/12/1943

Training mission and not connected with the Berlin raid.

At 23:25, shortly after take off, EB185 crashed at Newton Ings Farm, Newton by Toft, near the airfield.



Faldingworth Airfield memorial

The crew, all KIA:

Pilot; Sgt., Reginald Tarbat STONEMAN, RAFVR

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Hugh Matheson TAIT, RCAF

Wireless Op; Flt Sgt., Kevin Frederick WIGHTMAN, RAAF

Flight engineer; Sgt., Harry POOLE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Allan Reid CAMERON, RCAF

Air Gunner/ W Op; Sgt., Jack PENNINGTON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Leslie Robert COX, RAFVR

Halifax V, EB208-OO-R - 1663 HCU

RAF Rufforth, 16/12/1943

Training- night flying exercise not connected to the Berlin Raid.
Emerged from cloud and it is suggested that the pilot became disorientated.
Crashed between York and Knaresborough.

The other six crew members were all injured but survived, but have not been identified.

Navigator; Flg Off., Leslie FLETCHER, RAFVR

Lancaster I. ED411-AS-H2 – 166 Sqdn. RAF Kirmington, 16/12/1943

Shot down; crashing at Diepholz, near Osnabruck.

Buried in Hanover War Cemetery



Hannover War Cemetery

The crew, all KIA:

Pilot; Flg Off., Peter Walter R POLLETT, RAFVR

Navigator; Flg Off., George DRAKE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator ; Sgt., Eric SPEIRS, RAFVR

Flight Engineer ; Sgt., Fred Robert SQUAIR, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Frederick Francis CLARKE, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ralph Colin CLIFFORD, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles CUSHING, RAFVR

Lancaster III, ED951-CF-A – 625 Sqdn. RAF Kelstern, 16/12/1943

Crashed in very poor visibility on return, the aircraft coming down at Gayton-le-Wold, near Louth.

Book of Remembrance, St Faith's church, Kelstern



The crew, killed:

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., George Arthur DRAYCOTT, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Sidney Alan TAYLOR, RAFVR

Injured, Role not recorded:

Sgt., F.R. JOHNSON, Injured

Sgt. D. PASCOE, Injured

Sgt., G.A. RICHARDS, Injured

Flt Lt., G.E. SHANNON, Injured

2Lt., G.E. WOOLLEY, USAAF, Injured

Lancaster III, EE141-EM-P – 207 Sqdn. RAF Spilsby, 16/12/1943

Shot down after a running battle with a night fighter
in which both gunners were killed.
Crashed at Hemsdorf.

Remembered on the Runnymede memorial



Runnymede memorial

The crew, killed:

Air Gunner; Sgt., Robert James STONE, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ernest John TAKLE, RAFVR

Survived, Role not recorded:

Flt Lt., R.J. ALLEN, RAFVR, PoW

Flt Sgt., J. A. BRINDLE, RAFVR, PoW

Sgt., D.J. PEPALL, RAFVR, PoW

Plt Off., R.H. STEPHENSON, RAFVR, PoW

Sgt., W.J. VOWLES, RAFVR, PoW

Lancaster III, EE188-WS-B - 9 (IX) Sqdn. RAF Bardney, 16/12/1943

Last heard by Bardney ATC at 23:48, 16/12/1943,
calling on W/T.

Crashed at Salzbergen 7 km NW of Rheine.

Buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flg Off., Ian Campbell B. BLACK, RAFVR

Navigator; George Ernest McTAGGART, RCAF

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Albert Elvin BAUMANN, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Edward Lionel BUTTON, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., George BROTHERS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Norman Ellis ADAMS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Douglas Travell GORDON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Gilbert George PROVIS, RAFVR

Stirling III, EE888- HA-K - 218 (Gold Coast) Sqdn. RAF Downham Market, 16/12/1943

Mining in French coastal waters off la Pallice.
Lost without trace.

Remembered on the Runnymede memorial



Runnymede memorial

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Dennis WILLIAMS, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Maurice James SMITH, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Alexander Colin ORME, RAF

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles Cecil TOMS, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Plt Off., John Alexander TAYLOR, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Hugh CAMPBELL, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Albert Frederick HUGHES, RAFVR

Stirling III, EF163-JN-L - 75 (New Zealand) Sqdn, RAF Mepal, 16/12/1943

Mining in French coastal waters off la Pallice.
Crashed, returning to base, in poor visibility onto
farmland at Sutton, Cambridgeshire.
Possibly as a result of a mine that had failed to
release adversely affecting the aircraft's centre of
gravity.

Askew	Seaton Hirst (St. John) churchyard
Savage	Pendlebury (St. John) churchyard
Warner	Bootle Cemetery
All others	Cambridge City Cemetery



Cambridge City Cemetery

The crew, seven killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Colin John KINROSS, RNZAF

Navigator; Flg Off., Ralph Francis JENKIN, RNZAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Raymond ASKEW, RAFVR

WO/Air Gunner; Willis Arthur SAVAGE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Ronald Harry EMMERSON, RAAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., John Albert WARNER, RAFVR

Survived:

Air Gunner; Sgt., J. WARNER, Injured

Halifax III, HX296-HD-? – 466 (Australia) Sqdn. RAF Leconfield, 16/12/1943

Training exercise and not connected to the Berlin raid.

Collided with a tree while trying to make an emergency landing on a farm at Watton, Yorkshire. The aircraft had not long been in the air when the starboard outer engine burst into flames. The fire quickly spread to the whole of the starboard wing.

Angus	Consett Blackhill Cemetery
Gribble	Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery (below)
Roynon	Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery



The crew, killed:

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Charles William ANGUS, RAFVR

Navigator; Plt Off., Edward Henry GRIBBLE, RAAF

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., Edward John ROYNON, RAFVR

The crew, Injured: Role unknown

Plt Off., G.R. Bermingham, RAAF, Injured

Sgt., F.C. Brown, RAFVR, Injured

Plt Off., J.E. Evans, RAAF, Injured

Sgt., G.E. Kent, RAFVR, Injured

Lancaster III, JA853-MG-L – 7 Sqdn. RAF Oakington, 16/12/1943

Shot down by a night-fighter and crashed on farmland NNE of Lemmer, Holland.

Buried in Lemsterland (Lemmer) General Cemetery



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; WO., Wallace Arthur WATSON, RAAF

Navigator; WO., William Maitland WATERMAN, RAAF

WOp/Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., John BUTTERWORTH, RAAF

Flight Engineer; Flt Sgt., Raymond Edgar HEDGES, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Charles Lloyd ROBINSON, RAAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., James HURST, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Reginald Douglas MCWHA, RAAF

Lancaster III, JA867-PG-X – 619 Sqdn. Woodhall Spa, 16/12/1943

Collided with a 9 Squadron Lancaster (DV293) after leaving the target area, both aircraft crashing in a wooded area near the town of Eberswalde-Finow, around 30 miles north-east of Berlin.

[\(See Slide 15\)](#)



Berlin War Cemetery

The crew, killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Glen Benson LONEY, RCAF

Navigator; Flg Off., Henry Andrew DE VRIES, RAFVR Flight

Engineer; Flt Sgt., John GRAY, RAF

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Max GENNIS, RCAF

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., Leslie BANKS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Daniel CORBITT, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Robert Francis DEARDEN, RAFVR



Lancaster III, JA963-OF-Q – 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 16/12/1943

Believed to have been lost over the target.

All buried in Berlin 1939 - 1945 War Cemetery.



The crew, killed:

Pilot; Flt Lt., Rowland Ernest HANDLEY, RAFVR

Pilot; Flt Lt., David James BRILL, RAFVR

Navigator; Flg Off., Norman Gregor McINTYRE, RAAF

WO/Air Gunner; Sgt., Harry CHAPPELL, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., John STONE, RAF

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Robert BUTLER, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Ernest John BATTLE, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flg Off., Gordon James LITTLE, RCAF

Lancaster III, JB216-GT-W - 156 Sqdn. RAF Warboys, 16/12/1943

Lost without trace with its highly-decorated and experienced crew.

Remembered on the Runnymede memorial



Runnymede memorial

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Lt., Charles Oscar AUBERT, DFM, RAAF

Pilot; Flt Sgt., William Starkey FISHER, RAFVR

Navigator; Sqn Ldr., Ronald HADLEY, DFC, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Flt Lt., John Frederick SAMUEL, DFC, RAAF

WOOp/Air Gunner; Flg Off., Robert Sidney SMITH, DFC, RAAF

Bomb Aimer; Flt Lt., Norman Thomas POULTON, DFM, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Lt., Leslie John POWELL, DFC, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Lt., Theodore TRILSBECK, DFC, RCAF

Lancaster III, JB369-LQ-D, 405 (RCAF) Sqdn. RAF Gransden Lodge, 16/12/1943

Crashed near Ely, Cambs., but erroneously named on Yelling crash memorial. (below)



The crew, six killed, one survived:

Pilot; Flg Off., Burns Alexander McLENNAN, RCAF

Navigator; Flg. Off., Walter F. SHEPPARD, RCAF

Flt Engineer; Sgt., Hubert Leonard CORNWELL, RAFVR

W.OP/Air Gunner; Sgt., Eric HALLIWELL, RAFVR

Air Bomber; Sgt., G. R. SCHNEIDER, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., M. F. V. ROOBROECK, RCAF

Rear Gunner; W.O., S.C.H. NUTTING D.F.M., survived

Lancaster III, JB477-LQ-0 - 405 (Vancouver) Sqdn. RAF Gransden Lodge, 16/12/1943

Crashed on approach, at 2 minutes to midnight on 16/12/1943.
A memorial was placed at the scene but the wrong crew is named on it.
See crew of JB 369. (previous slide)



The crew, four died, three survived:

Pilot; Flt Lt., W C. ALLEN. RCAF, died of injuries 28/12/1943

Navigator; Flg Off., Douglas H. STAMERS, RCAF, killed

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., C M COLLIER, RCAF, killed

M/U Gunner; Sgt., Gerald L. STRANG, RCAF, killed

Flt Engineer; Sgt., A E S KIFF, survived

Tail Gunner; Sgt., J C EGAN, survived

W Op/ Air Gunner; Sgt., K S JOSLYN, survived

Lancaster III, JB543-MG-J – 7 Sqdn. RAF Oakington, 16/12/1943

Shot down by a night-fighter and crashed at
Wilsum, close to the Dutch border.

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery



Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

The crew, five killed, two survived and interned:

Flt Sgt., Ronald Robert McMILLAN,

Sgt., Alfred Arthur TUCKER,

Plt Off., Geoffrey TYLER,

Sgt., Clifford Reginald UNDERHILL,

Sgt., William Primrose WILSON,

Flt Sgt., A. SMILLIE, PoW

Sgt., D. WOOLFORD, PoW

Lancaster III, JB545-EA-O – 49 Sqdn. RAF Fiskerton, 16/12/1943

Intercepted by a night fighter soon after crossing the Dutch coast and shot and crashed at Sonnega south of Leeuwarden.
All buried in Weststellingwerf (Wolvega) General Cemetery.



Weststellingwerf (Wolvega) General Cemetery

The crew all killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Gordon Lennox RATCLIFFE, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Edward HOLLOWAY, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., William Thomas REES, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Wilfred Robert DAY, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Albert Edgar MARSLAND, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Bede James KING, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Ricardo LOSA, RCAF

Lancaster III, JB552-MG-K – 7 Sqdn. Oakington, 16/12/1943

Crashed at Werlte, west of Cloppenburg.

All buried in Sage War Cemetery



Sage War cemetery, Oldenburg, Germany

The crew, all killed:

Navigator; Sqn Ldr., Arthur GIBSON, DFC, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Alfred Henry HARTSHORN, RAFVR

WOp/Air Gunner; Flg Off., Terence W. JACKSON-BAKER, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Ian Roy MACDONALD, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Plt Off., Arthur William OSBORN, RAFVR

Pilot; Flt Lt., John Russell PETRIE, DFC, RNZAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Clifford James SEERY, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB560-HW-N – 100 Sqdn. RAF Grimsby, 16/12/1943

The Lancaster had been damaged in a battle with a night fighter but Wg Cdr. Holford insisted on letting other aircraft land first before his aircraft hit high ground near Kelstern. He died from exposure after being thrown from the shattered cockpit and landing in a snow drift.

Holford	Cambridge City Cemetery
Wareham	Cambridge City Cemetery
Mason	Winchcombe (Greet Road) Cemetery
Whybrow	Over (St. Mary) Churchyard
Wunderley	Salford (Agecroft) Cemetery



Cambridge City Cemetery

The crew, five killed, two injured:

Pilot; Wg Cdr., David William HOLFORD, DSO, DFC, RAF

Navigator; Plt Off., Harold Baxter WAREHAM, RCAF

Bomb Aimer; Plt Off., Robert Edward MASON, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Joseph WUNDERLEY, RAFVR

Air Gunner; W O., Horace WHYBROW, RAFVR

Flt Sgt., D F BOLINBROKE, Injured

Sgt., R. MACKAY, Injured

Lancaster III, JB596-HW-H - 100 Sqdn. RAF Grimsby, 16/12/1943

Crashed at Hatcliff Top near Barnoldby-le-Beck, a couple of miles from the airfield while trying to land in thick fog. The rear gunner, Frederick Taylor, had noticed that they were very low as they regained the shoreline, since he was able to see the breakers despite the fog. He also recalled that some of the instruments were broken due to flak damage sustained while over the target. The aircraft struck the rising ground at a shallow angle, attempted to climb but then struck pine trees with one wing and simultaneously struck a farmhouse with the other. The aircraft then stalled, struck the ground again and slid for several hundred yards before coming to rest. Some incendiaries which had hung up caught fire, setting light to the aircraft.

Three survivors, all seriously injured according to the Squadron Record of Events, were pulled from the burning wreck by an off-duty fireman, Andrew Thompson Bell, as he was walking home from duty. He received the King's Commendation for Bravery for his selfless act (gazetted 27 June 1944). All three survived their ordeal: both Sgt. Frederick Taylor (Rear Gunner) and Sgt. Bernard Phillips (Mid-upper Gunner) returned to the squadron in April 1944 and completed their tours whereas Sgt. Leslie Noyes (Navigator) returned to the squadron after six months but never flew again.

A memorial stands at the site of the crash, erected by Roger Stephenson who lived and worked on the farm and recovered fragments of JB596 for years after the incident while working the land. He has also created a small museum to 100 Squadron and JB596 in particular, in Waltham Windmill, the museum of rural life.

The crew, four killed, three injured:

Pilot; Flg Off., Robert Laval PROUDFOOT,
Wireless Operator; Sgt., Bernard HEATON,
Flight Engineer; Sgt., Sidney David VIGGERS,
Bomb Aimer; Sgt., John BAMFORD,
Navigator; Sgt., L. NOYES, Injured
Air Gunner; Sgt., B. PHILLIPS, Injured
Air Gunner; Sgt., F. H. TAYLOR, Injured

[See next slide \(39\)](#)

Memorial to four 100 Sqdn. Crews crashed in the area, 16/12/1943

HW-F, JB678 17/12/1943

Sgt; Gilbert Charles DENMAN
Sgt; Ivan Arthur REDMAN
Sgt; Alfred Henry JOHNSON
Sgt; Hubert Leslie BLACKWELL
Sgt; James William CHRISTMAS
Sgt; Raymond Gordon READ
Sgt; Clarence Burdett WALLACE, died of his injuries 8th January 1944

HW-H, JB596, 16/12/1943

Flg Off., Robert Laval PROUDFOOT,
Sgt., L. NOYES, serious
Sgt., Sidney David VIGGERS,
Sgt., John BAMFORD,
Sgt., B. PHILLIPS, serious
Sgt., F. H. TAYLOR, serious
Sgt., Bernard HEATON,

HW-Q, JB674, 17/12/1943

Flt Sgt., Allen James KEVIS,
WO., William Henry HARRIS, MiD
Sgt., Derick Shand WATSON,
Flt Sgt., James Richard BATEMAN,
Sgt., Robert Myles GAFFNEY,
Sgt., Thomas Edward CAIN,
Flg Off., Reginald A. VAN WALWYK, DFM

HW-N, JB560, 16/12/1943

Wg Cdr., David W. HOLFORD, DSO, DFC
Plt Off., Harold Baxter WAREHAM
Sgt., Joseph WUNDERLEY
Plt Off., Robert Edward MASON,
Sgt., R. MACKAY, serious
W O., Horace WHYBROW
Flt Sgt., D F BOLINBROKE, serious

Some names and details on the memorial (right) are inaccurately recorded. The above are assured accurate. Checked against CWGC.



Lancaster III, JB638-ZN-G – 106 Sqdn. RAF Metherringham, 16/12/1943

Shot down, crashing somewhere between Achmer and Bramsche, near Osnabruck.

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery



Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

The crew, killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Colin Harrison STORER, RAFVR

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Eric Granville GRUNDY, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Flt Sgt., James COULTON, RAF

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Frederick William KITE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Roy Edward HACKETT, RAFVR

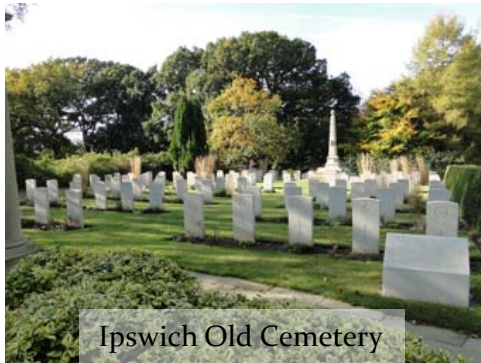
Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles FRANKISH, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Maurice Jack MARTIN, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB639-AS-S 166 Sqdn. RAF Kirmington, 16/12/1943

On return found much of the area shrouded in fog and crashed at Grange Farm, Barton-on-Humber, the Lancaster just missing the farmhouse and clipping a hayrick before hitting the ground.

Brown	Ipswich Old Cemetery
Williams	Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery
Perry	Cambridge City Cemetery
Griffin	Hove New Cemetery
Thompson	Cambridge City Cemetery
Inglis	Brigg Cemetery
Smith	Romford Cemetery



Ipswich Old Cemetery

The crew all killed:

Pilot; Plt Off., Arthur Edward BROWN, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Henry Albert WILLIAMS, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Leslie Dennis PERRY, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Norman Nowell GRIFFIN, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Charles George THOMPSON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., David Wilson INGLIS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Edward Victor SMITH, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB656-MG-D, 7 Sqdn. RAF Oakington, 16/12/1943

Take-off at 16:17 for an operation to Berlin. JB 656 was one of four aircraft from the Squadron that failed to return from the mission.

Shot down by night fighter pilot Lt. Heinz Rolland of the 12./NJG 1, flying a Bf 110 G-4 from Bergen airfield; and crashed at Stompetoren, Holland.

Buried in Oterleek (Stompetoren) Churchyard



Oterleek (Stompetoren) churchyard

The crew, six killed, one survived:

Air Gunner; Sgt., William Robert BUNTAIN, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Henry Bernard BUSHELL, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flg Off., Clive Prosdocimi LUTHER, RAAF

Pilot; Flg Off., Francis William RUSH, RAAF

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., William Verdun SCOTT, RAAF

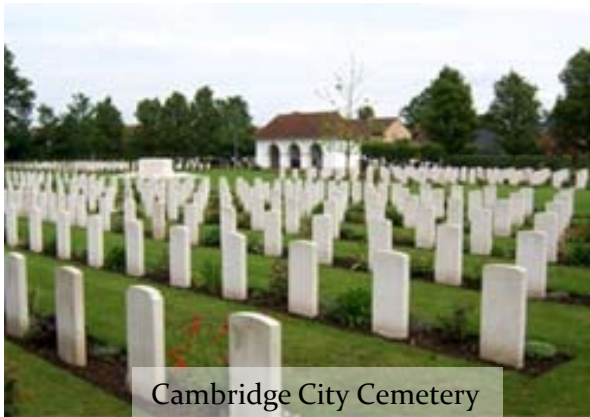
Navigator; Sgt., Kenneth WIGHTMAN, RAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., J. S. OGG, evaded capture

Lancaster III, JB657-AR-? - 460 (Australian) Sqdn. RAF Binbrook, 16/12/1943

Found the airfield shrouded in fog on return before clipping a tree and crashing into a wood at Market Stainton on the Lincolnshire Wolds.

All buried in Cambridge City Cemetery



Cambridge City Cemetery

The crew, all killed:

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Harold George DEDMAN, RAAF

Navigator; Flt Sgt., William Kevin HALSTEAD, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Charles Gordon HOWIE, RAAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., John McKENZIE, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Reginald Albert MOYNAGH, RAAF

Wireless Operator; Flt Sgt., Harry Harcourt PETERSEN, RAAF

Pilot; Flg Off., Francis Archibald RANDALL, RAAF

Lancaster III, JB658-PM-? 103 Sqdn. RAF Elsham Wolds, 17/12/1943

Shot down by flak on the approach to Berlin,
crashing in open country at Doberitz.

Buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery
Or remembered on the Runnymede Memorial



Berlin War Cemetery

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; WO., Hugh CAMPBELL, Pilot; RAAF

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Matthew HARTLEY, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Philip William ALDERTON, RAF

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Thomas Watson MOORE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Denis McGRATH, RAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., William Henry CHAMBERS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles O'NEILL, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB670-PM-F - 103 Sqdn. RAF Elsham Wolds, 16/12/1943

Minutes after take-off collided with a 576 (LM322) Squadron Lancaster from Elsham over Ulceby, a few miles east of the airfield. The collision took place at 1639 hrs.



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Valentine RICHTER, RAFVR

Navigator; Flg Off., Charles Reginald JAQUES, RAFVR

Wireless Op./Air Gunner ; Sgt., Peter COOPMAN, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Frederick Stanley COPPING, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Thomas Leslie KAY, RAAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Francis Andrew FURRIE, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Cyril Walter PLAMPTON, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB715-PH-U – 12 Sqdn. RAF Wickenby, 16/12/1943

On return, the Lancaster crashed at Hainton on the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Burial places

Ross	Cambridge City Cemetery
Walker	Whitehaven Cemetery
McDowell	Cambridge City Cemetery
Clarke	Sunningdale (Holy Trinity) Churchyard
Aldiss	East Dereham Cemetery
Broome	Bishop's Castle (St. John' Baptist) Churchyard
Whitley	Throop United Reformed Church



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Hugh Robert ROSS, RAAF

Navigator; Flt Lt., Arthur WALKER, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Flt Sgt., Harold Russell McDOWELL, RAAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Frederick George CLARK, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Harry Derek ALDISS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Alfred Thomas BROOME, RAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ronald Alfred WHITLEY, RAFVR

Lancaster II, LL676-EQ-E - 408 (Goose) Sqdn. RAF Linton on Ouse, 16/12/1943

It is possible that aircraft crashed at Heyrothsberge, Germany, according to German reports.

No known grave.

Remembered on the Runnymede memorial



Runnymede memorial

The crew, all killed:

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Claude Andrew BESSE, RCAF

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Ted Charles GIERULSKI, RCAF

Flight Engineer: Sgt., Michael MAHER, RAF

Pilot; Flt Lt., William John MAITLAND, DFM, RCAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Roland PETTITT, RCAF

Wireless Op./Air Gnr; Sgt., John James ROBERTSON, RAFVR

Navigator; WO2., Joseph Evans SAUNDERS, RCAF

Lancaster I, LM307-GP-T – 1661 HCU

RAF Winthorpe, 16/12/1943

Unconnected with the Berlin Raid.
Training/practice, night circuits. Crashed
minutes after take-off at South Muskham,
near Newark-on-Trent.

Eager	Oxford (Botley) Cemetery
Lawrence	Leicester (Saffron Hill) Cemetery
Woolcock	Plymouth (Ford Park) Cemetery
Hampson	Oxford (Rose Hill) Cemetery
Austin	Leeds (Hunslet New) Cemetery
Baldwin	Oxford (Botley) Cemetery
Dillon	Oxford (Botley) Cemetery



Oxford (Botley) Cemetery

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flg Off., William Hedley EAGER, DFC, RCAF

Navigator; Sgt., Laurence Bert LAWRENCE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Roy Henry WOOLCOCK, RAFVR

Flight Engineer: Plt Off., Kenneth Clifford HAMPSON, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., William Stanley AUSTIN, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Robert William BALDWIN, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Philip DILLON, RAFVR

Lancaster III, LM332-UL-B2, 576 Sqdn. RAF Elsham Wolds, 16/12/1943

Collided with 103 Sqn Lancaster III JB670 PM-F
and crashed at Ulceby, Lincs.



The crew, all killed:

Wireless Op./Air Gn ; Sgt., John Hamilton CALDWELL, RAF

Navigator; Sgt., George Gordon CRITCHLEY, RAFVR

Flight Engineer: Sgt., Stanley Victor CULL, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Peter Martin ELLIS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Joseph William ROSS, RAFVR

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Frederick Roy SCOTT, RAAF

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Brian Price WICKS, RAAF

*Aircraft number varies as LM322 in some records but these
are erroneous and should be disregarded.*

Lancaster III, LM385-AS-N, 166 Sqdn. RAF Kirmington, 16/12/1943

Returned safely from Berlin only to crash at Canada Lane, Caistor, trying to find a gap in the fog and low cloud.



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Stanley Frederick MILLER, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Henry George HINE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Flt Sgt., John Henry MURPHY, RAAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Terence RUDDEN, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Bruce Wismer HANEY, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ward William ALLEN, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Henry Edwin MILES, RAFVR

Lancaster III, LM389-SR-Y – 101 Sqdn. RAF Ludford Magna, 16/12/1943

On ABC duties. Crashed into high ground at Eastrington, near Selby on return attempting to land in fog. *ABC refers to "AirBorne Cigar", special radio-wave jamming equipment.*

Cooper	Cambridge Crematorium
Custance	Highgate Cemetery
Hayden	Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery
Rye	Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery
Spelman	Manchester (Gorton) Cemetery
Davis	Charfield (St. James) Churchyard



Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery

The crew, six killed, two injured:

Pilot; Plt Off., Norman Maylin COOPER, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Robert Corrie CUSTANCE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., John Gregory HAYDEN, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Robert Kenneth RYE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Reginald William SPELMAN, RAFVR

Air Gunner; WO., Herbert Percy DAVIS, RAF

Sgt., W.O. Ross, Injured

Sgt., J.K. Watson, Injured

WO, H.P. Davis, died of injuries the following day, 17/12/1943

Lancaster III, LM424-CF-B -625 Sqdn. RAF Kelstern, 16/12/1943

Shot down on approach to Berlin, crashed at
Wetschen, near Diepholz.

All buried in Hanover War Cemetery



Hannover War Cemetery

The crew, six killed, one injured:

Pilot; Plt Off., Donald BAKER, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Plt Off., Gilbert Ernest ADAMS, DFC, RAF

Navigator; Plt Off., George William BATCHELOR, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Clifford ROBINSON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Lt., William Dennis CRIMMINS, DFC, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Kenneth WATMOUGH, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., W H Pallett, RAF PoW

Halifax V, DK206-MA-V – 161 Sqdn. RAF Tempsford, 16/12/1943

S.O.E. Operation, Wheelwright 50, to France. Returned early due to poor weather. Flew into trees at Capel Green, just a mile from the runway, while attempting to land at Woodbridge airfield, Suffolk.

Operation Wheelwright was a network in the area of Toulouse. Operated from November 1942 to September 1944.



The crew, three killed, three injured, two agents:

Pilot; Flt Lt., Stanley Nicholson GRAY, RAFVR

Navigator; Flg Off., Leslie Howard THOMAS, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Flt Sgt., Peter Austin FRY, RAF

Sgt., ? Betts, role unknown, Injured

Flg Off, ? Craven, role unknown, Injured

Plt Off., ? Shine, role unknown, Injured

The two agents which were being transported, were uninjured.

Lancaster II, DS831-QO-N - 432 (Leaside) Sqdn. RAF East Moor, 16/12/1943

Shot down by a night-fighter and crashed south of Leeuwarden, Holland.

Other fatalities were buried in Leeuwarden (Huizum) Protestant churchyard.



Leeuwarden (Huizum) Protestant churchyard

The crew, six killed two taken prisoner:

Pilot; Flg Off., William C. FISHER, USAAF

Navigator; WO1., James Stuart BRIEGEL, RCAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Raymond HUGHES, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Thomas Walter PRAGNELL, RAF

Air Gunner; WO., Raymond Kenneth SAUNDERS, RAAF

Air Gunner; WO., Herbert Albert TURNER, RCAF

Wireless Op./Air Gnr ; Flt Sgt., Montague A T BRUDELL, PoW

2nd Pilot; Sgt., Owen Donald LEWIS, PoW

The pilot, originally joined RCAF under service number R/119605. Transferred to USAAF but continued to fly with RCAF whilst awaiting transfer to USAAF and was killed in action 16/12/1943. He is buried in Neuville-en-Condroz American cemetery.

Both PoWs survived the war.

Stirling III, EE888-HA-K - 218 (Gold Coast) Sqdn. RAF Downham Market, 16/12/1943

Gardening - mining in French coastal waters
off la Pallice.
Lost without trace.



Runnymede memorial

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Dennis WILLIAMS, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Maurice James SMITH, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Alexander Colin ORME, RAF

Wireless Op./Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles Cecil TOMS, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Plt Off., John Alexander TAYLOR, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Hugh CAMPBELL, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Albert Frederick HUGHES, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB117-OF-C, 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 17/12/1943

97 Squadron lost eight Lancasters in crashes on their return due to fog.

JB117, crashed NE of Graveley airfield, Huntingdonshire.

Scott	Cambridge City Cemetery
Peek	London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery
Collishaw	Nottingham Southern Cemetery
Foxcroft	Cambridge City Cemetery
Irvine	Cambridge City Cemetery
Hope	Cambridge City Cemetery
Parrott	Liss (St. Mary) Churchyard <i>(below)</i>



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Ian Macdonald SCOTT, RAAF

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Samuel Joseph PEEK, DFM, RAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Charles William COLLISHAW, RAFVR

Wireless Op; Flt Sgt., Kenneth Edgar FOXCROFT, RAAF

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Douglas Raymond IRVINE, RCAF

Air Gunner: Sgt., Clifford Lionel HOPE, RCAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Sidney George PARROTT, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB119-OF-F – 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 17/12/1943

97 Squadron Lost eight Lancasters in crashes on their return.
Crashed on return to base, at Two Pots Farm, opposite the main gate.

Colson	Willesden New Cemetery
Mackenzie	Cambridge City Cemetery
Pratt	Clitheroe Cemetery (<i>below</i>)



The crew, three killed, four injured:

Bomb Aimer; Flt Lt., William Alfred COLSON, DFM, RAFVR

Pilot; Sqn Ldr., Donald Forbes MACKENZIE, DFC, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Plt Off., John Towler PRATT, DFM, RAF

Flt Sgt., A Hunter, Injured

Flt Sgt., K L Kirby, Injured

Flt Sgt., W A Lang, Injured

Flt Sgt., R F Marshall, Injured

The roles of the injured are not recorded

Lancaster III, JB176-OF-K - 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 17/12/1943

97 Squadron Lost eight Lancasters in crashes on their return.

Crashed near Highfield Farm on return to base.

Thackway	Killinghall (St. Thomas) Churchyard
Powell	Wakefield Cemetery <i>(below)</i>
Grant	Cambridge City Cemetery
Grundy	Bradford (Undercliffe) Cemetery
Lawrence	Cambridge City Cemetery



The crew, five killed, two injured:

Pilot; Flg Off., Edward THACKWAY, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Jack POWELL, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Leslie Kenneth GRANT, RCAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., George GRUNDY, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Robert Anthony LAWRENCE, RAFVR

Wireless Operator; Sgt., P H MACK, Injured

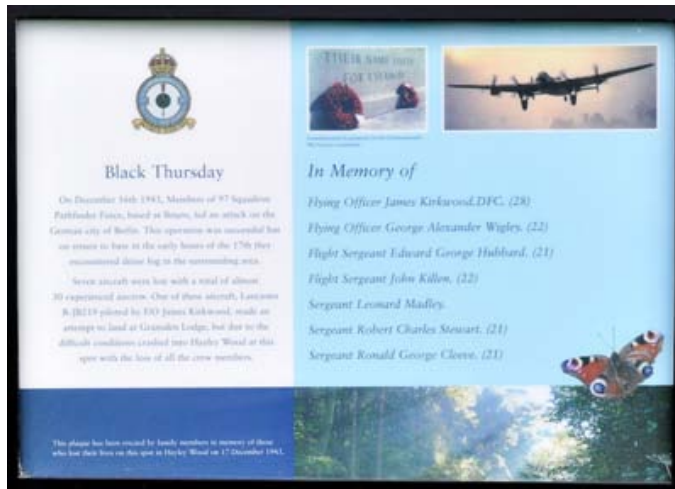
Air Gunner; Sgt., Leslie Norman John LAVER, injured.

(Died in ND421, 14/01/1944)

Lancaster III, JB219-OF-R - 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 17/12/1943

97 Squadron Lost eight Lancasters in crashes on their return. This is the only one with a dedicated memorial.

Crashed in Haley Wood, to the south of Gransden, Cambridgeshire.



The crew, all killed:

Pilot; Flg Off., James KIRKWOOD, DFC, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., Robert Charles STEWART, RAFVR

Wireless Op./Air Gunner; Sgt., Ronald George CLEEVE, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Flt Sgt., Edward George HUBBARD, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., George Alexander WIGLEY, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., John KILLEN, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Leonard MADELEY, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB243-OF-P - 97 Sqdn. RAF Bourn, 17/12/1943

97 Squadron Lost eight Lancasters in crashes on their return.

Bourn being fogbound the aircraft was diverted to Graveley.

Crashed near Graveley airfield, Hunts.

Deverill	Docking (St. Mary) Churchyard <i>(below)</i>
Brown	Belfast (Dundonald) Cemetery
Cosgrove	Cambridge City Cemetery
Farr	Windsor Cemetery
Penfold	Worthing (Durrington) Cemetery
Russell	Epsom Cemetery



The crew, six killed, one injured:

Pilot., Sqn Ldr., Ernest Alfred DEVERILL, DFC*, AFC, DFM, RAF

Navigator; Flg Off., John Thomas BROWN, RAF

W Op./Air Gnr; Plt Off., Ralph CROSSGROVE, DFM, RNZAF

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Francis Roy FARR, RAFVR

Air Gunner; WO., Donald Jamieson PENFOLD, DFM, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Flt Sgt., Alexander RUSSELL, RAF

Air Gunner ? : WO., James BENBOW, DFM, RAF, Injured

***DFC and bar**

Lancaster III, JB282-GT-W - 156 Sqdn. RAF Warboys, 17/12/1943

Crashed SW of Sutton, Cambridgeshire on return leg.

Watkins	Llanharan and Peterson Joint Cemetery
Reeve	Cambridge City Cemetery
Watson	Long Eaton Cemetery
Hadlow	Poole Cemetery
Beever	Holmfirth (Holy Trinity) burial ground
Crouch	Cambridge City Cemetery



Holmfirth (Holy Trinity) burial ground. © [RosalieAnn](#)

The crew, six killed, one injured:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., William Humphrey WATKINS, RAF

Navigator; Sgt., Charles Henry REEVE, RAFVR

Wireless Op./Air Gunner; Sgt., John Alan WATSON, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Hubert Alfred HADLOW, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Joe BEEVER, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Ernest Walter CROUCH, RAFVR

Rear Gunner; Sgt., L. F. DARLISON, Injured

Lancaster III, JB344-OL-K – 83 Sqdn. RAF Wyton, 17/12/1943

Crashed and caught fire attempting to land at Wyton in poor visibility.



RAF Wyton Memorial Gardens © Richard Flagg

The crew, two killed, five injured:

Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles Clifford REID, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Vincent Gregory TANKARD, RAAF

Injured:

Air Gunner; Flt Sgt., Lawrence Edward Faithorn, survived, later killed in Lancaster ND854, 14/08/1944

Wireless Operator; Sgt., John Henderson, survived, later killed in Lancaster ND584, 14-08-1944

Pilot; Plt Off., Francis Eric McLean, DFC, survived, later killed in Lancaster ND584, 14-08-1944

Flt Sgt., R A Lindsay, injured, survived

Sgt., H. Day, injured, survived

Lancaster III, JB373-DX-N - 57 Sqn. RAF East Kirkby, 17/12/1943

Aircraft took off at 1625hrs. Aircraft advised by w/t that it was homebound. Known to have ditched in the North Sea.



Runnymede memorial

The crew, six killed, one rescued:

Pilot; Plt Off., John Walter HINDE, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., William James BELLINGER, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flg Off., Harry CLARK, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Donald Frederick FAULKNER, RAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., Arthur William WATSON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Donald Frederick BUTLER, RAFVR

WOp/Air Gnr; Flt Sgt., Charles Henry T HURLEY, Rescued. RTD, later killed in Lancaster NN696, 22/06/1944

Lancaster III, JB481-LQ-R - 405 (Vancouver) Sqdn. RAF Gransden Lodge, 17/12/1943

Aircraft crashed at 01:30 hours near Marham, Norfolk, when returning from operations, owing to lack of fuel and bad weather conditions and having been diverted because of worsening conditions over Gransden Lodge.

Bessent, Dobson, Mienert and Saunders are buried in Cambridge City Cemetery.
Corrigan in Dundee (Balgay) Cemetery. *(below)*



The crew, five killed, two injured:

Air Gunner; Sgt., Henry Roberts BESSENT, RCAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., William CORRIGAN, RAFVR

Wireless Op./Air Gnr; WO2., Warren Lee DOBSON, RCAF

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Victor MIENERT, RAAF

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Harold Max SAUNDERS, RCAF

Pilot; Flg Off., E B DREW, RCAF, seriously injured

Air Gunner; Sgt., L A McCRAE, unharmed, killed in Lancaster ND507, 03/06/1944

Lancaster III, JB658-PM-? – 103 Sqdn. RAF Elsham Wolds, 17/12/1943

Shot down by flak on the approach to Berlin,
crashing in open country at Doberitz.

Campbell, Chambers and Moore



Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery

Alderton, Hartley, McGrath and O'Neill



Runnymede Memorial

The crew, all killed:

Pilot; WO., Hugh CAMPBELL, RAAF

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Philip William ALDERTON, RAF

Air Gunner; Sgt., William Henry CHAMBERS, RAFVR,

Navigator; Flt Sgt., Matthew HARTLEY, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., Denis McGRATH, RAF

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Thomas Watson MOORE, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., Charles O'NEILL, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB674-HW-Q – 100 Sqdn. RAF Grimsby, 17/12/1943

Returned safely from Berlin only to collide head-on with another 100 Squadron Lancaster (JB678) as both circled the airfield looking for a break in the fog.

[See slide 39](#)

The crew all killed:

Bomb Aimer; Flt Sgt., James Richard BATEMAN, RCAF

Air Gunner: Sgt., Thomas Edward CAIN, RAF (AAF)

Wireless Operator; Sgt., Robert Myles GAFFNEY, RAFVR

Navigator; WO., William Henry HARRIS, RAF

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Allen James KEVIS, RAFVR

Air Gunner: Flg Off., Reginald A. Van WALWYK, DFM, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Derick Shand WATSON, RAFVR

Lancaster III, JB678-HW-F – 100 Sqdn. RAF Grimsby, 17/12/1943

Aircraft took off at 16:46hrs. Following mission on return, in circuit collided with Lancaster III JB674 HW-Q of 100 Squadron. Both aircraft falling to earth at 0040hrs near Grimsby.

[See slide 39](#)

The crew, 6 killed, one injured:

Bomb Aimer; Sgt; Hubert Leslie BLACKWELL, RAFVR

Wireless Operator ; Sgt; James William CHRISTMAS, RAFVR

Pilot; Sgt; Gilbert Charles DENMAN, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt; Alfred Henry JOHNSON, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt; Raymond Gordon READ, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt; Ivan Arthur REDMAN, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt; Clarence Burdett WALLACE, RCAF, died of injuries 08/01/1944

Halifax V, LK899-MA-T – 161 Sqdn. RAF Tempsford, 17/12/1943

Clipped a wooden radar receiver mast at RAF Bawdsey and crash-landed in the shallows of the River Deben, near Felixstowe Ferry.

F/O McMaster was thrown clear but was knocked unconscious and suffocated when he landed face-down in the gluttonous mud.



The crew, one killed , two injured, four OK:

Pilot; Flg Off., D R HARBOROW, DFC, Injured

Plt Off., CHARLTON (role unknown)

Sgt., GASKIN (role unknown)

Sgt., TWEEDLE (role unknown)

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Henry Charles WALTON, injured. *Later killed in Halifax LL182 when it collided with another Halifax (GD272) while in an ASR mission over the North Sea, 23/01/1944.*

Air Gunner; Sgt., John Anderson WHYTE. *Later killed in Halifax GD272 when it collided with another Halifax (LL182) while in an ASR mission over the North Sea, 23/01/1944.*

Navigator; Flg Off., Wilson Frederick McMASTER, DFM, RAFVR, killed, Buried in Colchester Cemetery (*left*)

Halifax V, LL115-NF-A – 138 (Special) Sqdn. RAF Tempsford, 17/12/1943

Special Operations Executive- Operation
Detective 3 for France.

Encountered very bad weather on return and
crashed into trees at Capel Green, whilst
attempting to land at Woodbridge airfield,
Suffolk.



The crew, five killed, 3 injured:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., John George WATSON, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., John Robert HODDINOTT, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Norman Montague GILLIS, RCAF

Wireless Op./Air Gunner; Sgt., George OSBORNE, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Herbert Donald KING, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Plt Off., James PEARCEY, RCAF, injured

Air Gunner; Sgt., I. SCAELLENBERG, RAFVR, Injured

Air Gunner; Sgt., W F SUTHERLAND, RAFVR, Injured

Halifax II, LW280-NF-K – 138 Sqdn. RAF Tempsford, 17/12/1943

Special Operations Executive-
Operations, Marc I, for France.
Crashed into the sea off Harwich.



The crew, four killed, three saved

WOp/Air Gunner; Sgt., James Johnstone HANNAH, RAFVR

Flight Engineer; Sgt., Tom Bailey HAWKES, RAFVR

Navigator; Sgt., John LYNCH, RAFVR

Bomb Aimer; Sgt., Robert MARSHALL, RAFVR

Saved:

Pilot; Flt Sgt., Thomas Morgan THOMAS, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., John Keith Robert VINCENT, RAFVR

Air Gunner; Sgt., James Albert VICK, RAFVR.

All three were later killed in Halifax V (LL307 NF-J) on
03/06/1944, on Special Operations Executive- Operation
Roderigo 1 and Osric 77, for Belgium, when they were shot
down and crashed on the Dutch island of Tholen.

Lysander IIIA, V9367-MA-B – 161 Sqdn. RAF Tangmere, 17/12/1943

Special Intelligence Service- Operation Diable, for France, to recover two agents.
Crashed into a field just short of the runway and burst into flames.

The two agents, a man and a woman, were able to make good their escape from the aircraft after the crash.

The pilot:

Flt Lt., James McAllister McBRIDE, RAFVR
buried in Chichester Cemetery.



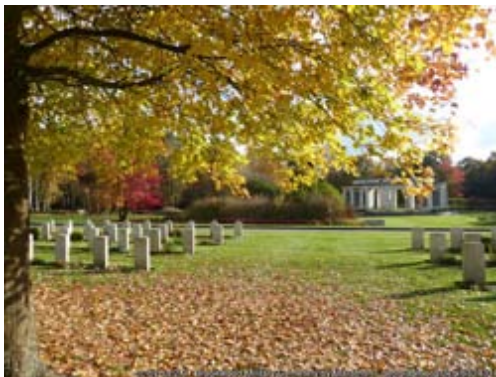
Chichester cemetery ©Basher Eyre

Lysander IIIA, V9674-MA-K – 161 Sqdn. RAF Tangmere, 17/12/1943

Special Intelligence Service - Operation Diable,
for France, to recover two agents.
Crashed while trying to land at Ford airfield,
Sussex.

One of the agents died in the crash and the other
died of his injuries the following day.

Hankey	Crowhurst (St. George) Churchyard
Kohan	Brookwood Military Cemetery (<i>below</i>)
Tayar	Chichester Cemetery



The crew and passengers all killed:

Pilot; Flt Lt., Stephen Alers HANKEY,

Agent, Albert KOHAN, Codename "Berthel "

Agent, Jacques TAYAR, Codename "Cazenave"

Both agents had the following awards:

Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur,

Compagnon de la Liberation,

Croix de Guerre avec palme,

Medaille de la Resistance.

Fog Investigation and Dispersal Operation, FIDO

The device consisted of two pipelines situated along both sides of the runway and through which a fuel (usually the petrol from the airfield's own fuel dump) was pumped along and then out through burner jets positioned at intervals along the pipelines. The vapours were lit from a series of burners, producing walls of flame. The FIDO installation usually stored its fuel in four circular upright tanks built at the edge of the airfield.

When fog prevented returning Allied aircraft from locating and seeing their runways to land, they would be diverted to FIDO equipped aerodromes. RAF night bombers which were damaged on their missions were also diverted to FIDO airfields due to the need to make certain they could land when they arrived.

Before the introduction of FIDO, fog had been responsible for losses of a number of aircraft returning from operations. Often large areas of the UK would be simultaneously fog-bound and it was recommended procedure in these situations for the pilot to point the aircraft towards the sea and then, while still over land, for the crew to bail-out by parachute, leaving the aircraft to subsequently crash in the sea. With raids often consisting of several hundred aircraft, this could amount to a large loss of bombers. *(Abridged from Wikipedia)*

RAF Blackbushe/Hartford Bridge

RAF Bradwell Bay

RAF Carnaby – Emergency Landing Ground

RAF Downham Market, Norfolk

RAF Fiskerton

RAF Foulsham

RAF Graveley

RAF Ludford Magna

RAF Manston – Emergency Landing Ground

RAF Melbourne

RAF Metherringham

RAF St Eval

RAF Sturgate

RAF Tuddenham

RAF Woodbridge – Emergency Landing Ground



Lest We Forget