

Sgt. Leslie Francis Abel 1615651 RAFVR

Leslie Francis Abel was the son of Mr and Mrs F L Abel of Hammersmith, London, born in 1923.

He was a Sergeant flight engineer with Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 207 Squadron, based at RAF Spilsby.



He and his crew took off from RAF Spilsby on 20 January 1944 at 2011 hours in a Type 1 Lancaster, R5895 EM-B, on a mission to Magdeburg. The plane was shot down by a night fighter and crashed at Dannigkow, killing all crew members on 21 January 1944.

12 Mosquitoes and 22 Lancasters also bombed Berlin as a diversionary raid, but the German controllers were not fooled and night fighters were sent out to intercept. Visibility was excellent, with the night proving very costly to Bomber Command as 12 aircraft were lost between Magdeburg and the German coast and 30 more in a raging battle over Magdeburg.

The bodies of the crew were recovered from the wreckage and interred in a communal grave at Dannigkow. They were later exhumed by the Missing Research and Enquiry Unit, identified and re-interred at Berlin War Cemetery on 2 June 1947.

Leslie Francis Abel's gravestone is inscribed with the words, IN LOVING MEMORY. MOTHER, BOB, MARIE AND VALERIE. "GOD'S WILL BE DONE."

The rest of the crew who were Killed In Action

Sgt. Ronald Arthur Blake Boydon
P/O Jack Montague Read
Flt. Sgt. Eric Clark Clunas
F/O Charles Travers
F/O Robert Walter Sharp
Sgt. Ronald Codling

Photo from "Aircrew remembered" website.

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