

**F/O Mark Leslie  
Abramson J/15627  
RCAF**

Mark Abramson was the Canadian air bomber of a 576 Squadron Lancaster shot down during a mining operation over Denmark in May 1944.

He was part of an experienced crew under the command of F/O Ernie Presland DFC, who was on the 17<sup>th</sup> operation of his second tour.



Their task on the night of 15/16 May was to drop mines in the Great Belt off the

eastern coast of Denmark. They were flying on board Lancaster I ME726 UL-X2, which was intercepted by a night fighter in the target area and, in the ensuing battle, part of the tail broke away. The bomber came down in the hamlet of Gamtofte, east of the small coastal town of Assens.

The bomber crashed into the gardens of some farmworkers' houses, starting a fire. One of the mines then exploded, wrecking other nearby houses and damaging the local church. The Lancaster had been carrying a crew of eight and all died and were later buried in Assens New Cemetery. A second Lancaster from 576's sister squadron at Elsham, 103, was lost on the same operation.

Mark was 30 and came from Ottawa. He was the son of Louis and Dora Abramson.

The others killed with him were pilot, second pilot P/O Albert Slade, flight engineer Sgt. Alan Knapp, bomb-aimer F/O Charles Ashcroft, wireless operator Sgt. Benjamin Hudson, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Robert Leatham and rear gunner Sgt. Arthur Wright DFM.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 001.

Illustration source: Elsham Wolds Association.

