

Sgt. Peter Ackland
2220646 RAFVR



Peter Ackland was a 21-year-old Lancaster flight engineer from Birmingham who was killed along with the rest of his crew during a raid in central Germany just seven weeks before the war ended.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster LM260 LE-S of 630 Squadron which was one of six lost in the raid on the city of Würzburg on the night of 16/17 March 1945. It was a bombing raid which destroyed an estimated 90 per cent of the city and killed up to 5,000 people.

He and his crew were taking part in their 13th operation with 630, their Lancaster being one of 225 from 5 Group which carried out this devastating attack. They had taken off from East Kirkby at 1737 hours and are believed to have been shot down four hours later, crashing near the village of Moos.

Peter came from the Birmingham residential suburb of Northfield and was the son of Alfred and Margaret Ackland. He and his crew were buried locally but were later reinterred in Durnbach War Cemetery.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Donald Plumb, navigator Flt. Sgt. Arthur Michaels, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. John Croucher, wireless operator Sgt. Roy Jeffery, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Kenneth Greenfield and rear gunner Sgt. John Baker. All had joined 630 Squadron in January 1945 and were killed six weeks after the first of their 13 operations.

His name can be found on panel 001.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.