

**F/O George Ainsworth
145718 RAFVR**



George Ainsworth was a wireless operator in a Pathfinder squadron lost when his aircraft was shot down during a raid on Berlin.

He was part of the crew of the commanding officer of 83 Squadron, W/C Raymond Hilton, when their Lancaster received a direct hit from flak during its approach to Berlin on the night of 23 November 1943. The aircraft, JB284 OL-C, crashed at Doberitz, on the outskirts of the city. There were no survivors and all seven on board are now buried in Berlin War Cemetery.

The aircraft had taken off from Wyton in Huntingdonshire at 1730 hours, among the first of 385 Lancasters heading for Berlin in the developing campaign against the city. His pilot was a vastly experienced bomber pilot with 'at least' 64 operations to his credit and had previously served on the 8 Group staff under Air Marshal Don Bennett before taking over 83 Squadron three months earlier. The crew also included a bomb aimer who had also served on the Group staff and a rear gunner who was the 83 Squadron gunnery leader.

The others who died were pilot W/C Raymond Hilton DFS, DFC and Bar, flight engineer Flt. Sgt. Frederick Burton-Burgess, navigator Flt. Sgt. Stanley Davis, bomb-aimer S/L Alexander Chisholm DFC, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Bertram Tucker DFM and rear gunner F/L John Crebbin DFC.

His name can be found on panel 1.

Sources: The Berlin Raids by Martin Middlebrook/Google.