

P/O Oscar Jacob Albrecht J/92032 RCAF



The Swiss graves of the crew members of LL750

Oscar Albrecht was the 39-year-old mid-upper gunner of an ABC-equipped Lancaster of 101 Squadron at RAF Ludford Magna. On the night of 27/28 April 1944 he joined the crew of WO Bert Noble for an operation to Friedrichshafen, close to the German-Swiss border, a centre for tank production for the German army. The raid by 322 Lancasters was deemed to be an 'outstanding success' although 18 of the 322 Lancasters taking part were shot down; the majority after they had bombed. Two of those were from 101.

WO Noble, who had already been mentioned in dispatches twice, headed a crew of eight – ABC Lancasters carried a 'special operator' to jam Luftwaffe fighter frequencies. On 27 April 1944 they took off from Ludford at 2140 hours, in Lancaster LL750 SR-P, for the long trip south. At 0219 hours on 28 April 1944, after successfully bombing, the aircraft was intercepted at around 20,000 feet by a fighter flown by Hptm Gerhard Friedrich and it exploded.

Two of the crew members were blown clear but the other six died when the Lancaster crashed in thick snow at Alp Grappelen, across the Swiss border. All six are buried in St Martin's Churchyard in Vevey, close to Lake Geneva. The two survivors, flight engineer Sgt. R K Bridges and bomb-aimer F/O H S Prowse RCAF, were briefly interned by the Swiss.

Oscar Albrecht was the husband of Julia and the son of Louis and Elizabeth Albrecht of Toronto, Canada.

Killed with him were the pilot WO B B Noble, navigator F/O J R Burton, wireless operator Sgt. W G Anderson, special operator Sgt. M G Smith and rear gunner Sgt. F H Bathmaker.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 001

Photographic source: Aircrew Remembered