

**P/O Clifford Leslie Eldridge  
Allen 170941 RAFVR**



At the age of 22, pilot Clifford Allen was the joint oldest member of a Lancaster crew whose aircraft was shot down over Germany.

Clifford and his young crew were on their seventh operation with 630 Squadron when their Lancaster, ND657 LE-W, was among 811 bombers involved in what was the final raid of Bomber Command's Battle of Berlin.

ND657 had taken off from East Kirkby at 1907 hours on the evening of 24 March 1944 and was homebound when it was attacked by a night-fighter over western Germany and crashed near the town of Meppen, close to the Dutch border. The only survivor was the navigator, Flt. Sgt. Tony Leyva.

The crew had joined 630 squadron in February and flew their first operation together on the night of 24 February 1944, against Schweinfurt. The six men who died are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

Clifford came from the small town of Stainforth, near Doncaster and was the son of Leslie and Amy Allen. His name can be found on the war memorial in Church Street in Stainforth.

The others who died were the flight engineer P/O Kenneth Peacock, bomb-aimer P/O William McMeekan RCAF, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Alexander McCormick, mid-upper gunner P/O Leslie Ingell RCAF and 19-year-old rear gunner Sgt. Roy Bourne.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Doncaster War Memorials.