

F/O Ronald Allin 113902 RAFVR

Ron Allin was a navigator in a Lancaster which crashed in the sea off Plymouth after hitting a cable from a barrage balloon attached to a ship moored off the breakwater.

His aircraft, Lancaster III ED450 EA-G, of 49 Squadron, was returning from a raid on Lorient on the night of 13/14 February 1943. According to reports, the Lancaster had been damaged during the raid and had headed back across the Channel planning to land at the fighter airfield at RAF Harrowbeer, nine miles from Plymouth.

However, the low-flying Lancaster hit the thick steel cable and broke up and crashed in the sea, just off the breakwater at the entrance to Plymouth harbour. No trace of the seven men on board was ever found. Wreckage from the crash (pictured here)



was later discovered by divers and some pieces were recovered in 1975.

The aircraft had taken off from RAF Fiskerton at 1859 hours to join a force of 466 bombers which took part in the heaviest attack on the French port during the war. ED450 was one of seven that failed to return.

Ron and his wife Ivy, and young family, lived in Carlton, near Nottingham and he was the 31-year-old son of John and Lydia Allin.

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Gifford Miller, flight engineer Sgt. Stanley Young, bomb-aimer Sgt. William Noble, wireless operator Sgt. Kenneth Hands, mid-upper gunner Sgt. William Halsall and rear gunner Sgt. Francis Allen. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/The Ships Project/Plymouth Herald.

