

P/O Peter Lancelot Andrewes 148330 RAFVR



A crew photograph with the names carefully added, Kirmington 1944. Peter Andrews is standing, far left

Bomb-aimer Peter Andrewes and his crew were among the most experienced members of 166 Squadron when they were lost during a raid on the Nordstern synthetic oil plant at Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr on the night of 12/13 June 1944.

It was their 22nd operation together, all but one of them in the aircraft in which they were killed, Lancaster Mk III ND399 AS-R. He and his crew had joined 166 at RAF Kirmington early in March and in the intervening period had flown on some of the toughest operations of the war for Bomber Command. These included Berlin, Nuremburg, Frankfurt twice and Mailly-le-Camp.

They left Kirmington at 2232 hours and were on their way home after a highly successful raid when they were caught by a night fighter over Holland and crashed near Apeldoorn, killing all seven on board. They were among 21 members of 166 Squadron killed on this raid.

Peter was 22 and came from Beckenham in Kent. He was the son of Harry and Winifred Andrewes and is buried with the rest of his crew in Apeldoorn General Cemetery.

Those killed with him were the pilot P/O John Kirton, Irish flight engineer Sgt. Jim Coogan, navigator F/O Jack Lockheed RNZAF, wireless operator Sgt. Alfred Brazier, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Fred Spencer and rear gunner Sgt. Cecil McClean.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 002.

Photographic source: 166 Squadron Association.