

Flt. Lt. Clifford Harold Armour 142201 RAFVR



Clifford Armour was an Australian-born Lancaster pilot whose aircraft was shot down off the Dutch coast as the bomber stream was heading for a costly raid on Leipzig on the night of 19/20 February 1944.

He was the pilot of Lancaster JB710 LE-W of 630 Squadron, which was one of several that were lost before reaching the Dutch coast, as night-fighters assembled to attack some 823 bombers heading for the attack on aircraft factories in Leipzig. Some 78 Bomber Command aircraft were lost during the raid, two of them from 630 Squadron.

JB710 had taken off from East Kirkby, one of 17 from the squadron, at 0026 hours and is believed to have been shot down a few miles off the island of Ameland a little over an hour later, JB710 being the second victim of Oblt Heinz Vinke's Bf110 in just 45 minutes. No bodies were ever recovered.

Clifford was 32 and had been born in Sydney but moved to London in the 1930s where he worked in the West End theatrical business. He lived in Streatham and, before enlisting, held a private pilot's licence.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. John Byars, navigator F/O Harold Kidd, bomb-aimer F/O John Cross, wireless operator Sgt. Ronald Giles, mid-upper gunner P/O Leslie Young and rear gunner Sgt. George Griffiths. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 003.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.