

## **Sgt. Eric Atkinson 2216077 RAFVR**

Eric Atkinson was the flight engineer of a young Lancaster crew killed early in their tour of operations in a raid on Berlin.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster DV190 UM-B2, of 626 Squadron, which was shot down by flak in the early hours of 2 January 1944, crashing at Gardelegen, midway between Wolfsburg and Berlin. There was only one survivor, the flight engineer Sgt. J Edwards, who was badly injured in the process of escaping from the aircraft.

DV190, an ex-12 Squadron Lancaster, was one of 28 lost in the raid, which was part of Bomber Command's sustained assault on the German capital in the winter of 1943-44.

Eric came from the Yorkshire town of Mirfield and was the son of Charles and Clara Atkinson.

The others killed were the pilot Sgt. Ernest Berry, bomb-aimer Sgt. Ronald Doull, wireless operator Sgt. Stanley Henderson, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Victor Trayler and rear gunner Sgt. John Waters.

His name can be found on panel 004.

Sources: Tom Bint, 626 Squadron Association/Aircrew Remembered.

