

Sgt. Albert Ernest Bachelor 1800174
RAFVR



Albert Bachelor was the mid-upper gunner of one of two Lancasters from 576 Squadron lost during a raid on the rail yards at Aachen on the night of 24/25 May, 1944.

He and his crew had left RAF Elsham Wolds shortly before midnight as part of a force of 442 aircraft sent to destroy rail communications in Aachen as part of the 'Transportation Plan', aimed at disrupting communications between Germany and the Channel coast prior to the D-Day invasion.

They were flying in Lancaster I LM120 UL-T2 which had successfully bombed before it was intercepted by a night fighter flown by Oblt Helmut Gaul and shot down, crashing 'with tremendous force' close to the Oleftalsperre Reservoir near Eupen-Schieden.



Later only three bodies, including Albert's, were recovered and buried locally before being reinterred in the Rheinberg War Cemetery while the other four are now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Albert, who was 21, came from Tonbridge in Kent and was the son of Ernest and Alice Bachelor. He was a former pupil of the Judd School In Tonbridge. He and his crew had joined 576 Squadron from 1656 Heavy

Conversion Unit at Lindholme in April and the Aachen raid was their sixth operation during their short time at Elsham.

Those killed with him were the pilot P/O George Langford, flight engineer Sgt. Geoffrey Shutt, navigator WO Eric Mason, bomb-aimer Sgt. Raymond Dickinson, wireless operator Sgt. Kenneth Hodgkinson and rear gunner Sgt. George Cooper.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 004.

Photographic source: Annie Halliwell.