

Sgt. Albert Ronald Bailey 1603676 RAFVR



Albert Bailey (far left) with five of his crew at Kirmington

On the night of 19/20 February 1944, 166 Squadron at Kirmington provided 19 of the 823 heavy bombers sent to attack the eastern German city of Leipzig. Only 15 of them made it back – three were shot down and a fourth badly damaged as it made an emergency landing at RAF Manston. 166's losses were amongst 78 Lancasters and Halifaxes lost by Bomber Command on this ill-fated raid.

The mid-upper gunner of one of the 166 Squadron victims, Lancaster I ME627 AS-Z, was 26-year-old Albert Bailey who lived in Maidenhead, Berkshire, with his wife Helen.

His aircraft is believed to have been one of those shot down by night fighters and he is buried with the rest of his crew in Berlin War Cemetery.

Those who died with him were the pilot Flt. Sgt. Roy Kingston RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Roy Mercer, navigator Flt. Sgt. Max Foster RAAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. George Campbell, wireless operator Sgt. Stanley Gardiner and rear gunner Sgt. Desmond Dennehy.

They had been together at 166 Squadron since 14 January and in those few weeks had completed four major operations, three of them to Berlin and a fourth to Magdeburg.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 004.

Photographic source: 166 Squadron Association.