

## **Sgt. John David Baker 1867772 RAFVR**

John Baker was a 19-year-old Lancaster rear gunner from Ipswich who was killed along with the rest of his crew during a raid in central Germany just seven weeks before the war ended.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster LM260 LE-S, of No. 630 Squadron, which was one of six lost in the raid on the city of Würzburg on the night of 16/17 March 1945. It was a bombing raid that destroyed an estimated 90 per cent of the city and killed up to 5,000 people.



He and his crew were taking part in their 13<sup>th</sup> operation with 630, their Lancaster being one of 225 from 5 Group that carried out this devastating attack. They had taken off from East Kirkby at 1737 hours and are believed to have been shot down four hours later, crashing near the village of Moos.

John was the son of Thomas and Dora Baker and, after completing his education, worked for Ransome and Rapier Ltd, major manufacturers in Ipswich and before enlisting he had served in the Ipswich Home Guard. He and his crew were buried locally but were later reinterred in Durnbach War Cemetery. Roy is also remembered on the Ransome and Rapier war memorial in Bourne Park, Ipswich.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Donald Plumb, flight engineer Sgt. Peter Ackland, navigator Flt. Sgt. Arthur Michaels, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. John Croucher, wireless operator Sgt. Roy Jeffery and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Kenneth Greenfield. All had joined 630 Squadron in January 1945 and were killed six weeks after the first of their 13 operations.

His name can be found on panel 005.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Ipswich War Memorials.