

## **Sergeant Eric Albert Berrett 1181332 RAFVR**

Eric Berrett was a Lancaster wireless operator who was killed when his aircraft was shot down over Holland in the summer of 1942.



He was part of the crew of Lancaster L7567 which was intercepted by a night fighter, outbound during a raid on Nuremburg on the night of 28 August 1942. The aircraft was one of the two first Lancasters lost by No. 49 Squadron, which went on to suffer another 100 losses before the war ended. His aircraft was one of the first to be supplied to Bomber Command with 44 Squadron at RAF Waddington before being transferred to 49 Squadron.

The aircraft took off from RAF Scampton at 2130 hours, one of 10 from the squadron. It was reported to have been intercepted shortly after 2300 hours, the night fighter attacking unseen from the rear. The Lancaster was immediately badly damaged and the mid-upper gunner seriously wounded before the pilot gave the order to bale out. However the aircraft quickly went out of control and crashed; the flight engineer and navigator managed to get clear but the other five on board were killed.

Although unconfirmed, it is reported that this Lancaster went down either at Mook (Limburg), 11Km. S of Nijmegen, or at Maasbracht (Limburg) 10 Km. SW of Roermond, Holland. All five who died are now buried in Mook War Cemetery (Coll. grave IV. C. 10).

Eric lived in Faversham in Kent with his young wife, Edith, and was the 22-year-old son of Albert and Rosa Berrett.

The others who died were the pilot F/O John Lowie RNZAF, bomb-aimer Sgt. Reginald Dobson RAAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Norman Mitchell RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. William Peirce RAAF.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 008.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Aviation Heritage Museum/Bomber Command Losses 1942 by Bill Chorley/Avro Lancaster: The Definitive History by Harry Holmes.