

**Sergeant Robert William Berry 1865875**  
**RAFVR**



Teenage mid-upper gunner Robert Berry was one of six members of No. 49 Squadron killed during an attack on Duisburg on the night of 21/22 May 1944.

He and his crew were on their ninth operation with the squadron on the raid, which involved 510 Lancasters at the same time as another 97 aircraft were laying mines in Kiel Bay.

Nineteen aircraft from 49 Squadron had left RAF Fiskerton in Lincolnshire, 12 of them heading for Duisburg. His Lancaster, LM539 EA-D, was attacked by at least one night-fighter and caught fire, the bomb-aimer managing to escape by parachute before it went out of control. LM539 crashed near the town of Roosendaal in Holland where the six men who died are now buried (Roosendaal-En-Nispen General Cemetery, Row 2. Grave 4).

Robert was one of two 19-year-old gunners in the crew. He came from East Ham in London and was the son of William and Alice Berry.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Henry Carrington RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Ronald Coleman, navigator Sgt. Joseph Hales, wireless operator Sgt. Ronald Hill and rear gunner Sgt. Lawrence Foulkes. The one survivor was Flt. Sgt. S Silver RAAF.

His name can be found on IBCC panel 009.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.