

Flight Sergeant Ronald William Bishop
1334892 RAFVR



Ronald Bishop was a young bomb-aimer who was killed in a daylight bombing raid on an oil storage depot in the summer of 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster LM269 LE-I from No. 630 Squadron, which was hit by flak during an attack on the port of Bordeaux on 18 August 1944.

His aircraft was one of nine from 630 Squadron taking part in the attack by 64 No. 5 Group Lancasters and five Mosquitos. It was the only one lost.

After leaving RAF East Kirkby in Lincolnshire at 1542 hours on what was their 17th operation, Ronald's aircraft was in formation over the target when it was hit by anti-aircraft fire, later crashing near the village of St-Crepin, near Rochefort.

He died alongside the American-born navigator P/O Gordon Bullock RCAF and both were later buried in St. Crepin Communal Cemetery. Ronald came from Brighton and was the 22-year-old son of William and Alice Bishop.

The surviving crewmembers were pilot P/O John Bolton, flight engineer Sgt. C Goodman, bomb-aimer Sgt. William Dunbar, mid-upper gunner Sgt. J Gurney and rear gunner Sgt. W Hunt, all of whom evaded capture. Bill Dunbar was to be killed in a flying accident in March 1945 while serving as an instructor in the No 1 Radio School; John Bolton remained in the RAF and was killed in an air crash in 1951.

Ronald's name can be found on IBCC panel 009.

Sources: 630 Squadron Association.