

**Flying Officer Ronald
Charles Blythe 133459
RAFVR**

Ronald Blythe was a young navigator killed when his No. 49 Squadron Lancaster was shot down on his seventh operation during an attack on Cologne in the summer of 1943.



His aircraft, Lancaster ED785 EA-A, was intercepted by an Me110 night-fighter and shot down into the Scheldt estuary near Flushing. It was the night of 16/17 June 1943, and only one of the eight men on board - the wireless operator - survived. Six of those killed, including Ronald, are now buried in Flushing Northern Cemetery (Row F. Grave 25).

His was one of nine Lancasters from 49 Squadron which had left RAF Fiskerton to take part in the raid, which involved 202 Lancasters and Halifaxes. Fourteen were lost, including two from 49 Squadron.

Ronald came from Lewes in Sussex and was the 20-year-old son of Charles and Ada Blythe.

The others who died were the Sqn. Ldr. George Storey, second pilot Sgt. Harold Buttery, flight engineer Sgt. George Underlin, bomb-aimer Sgt. William Waring, mid-upper gunner Flt. Sgt. Myrl Bunn RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. Harold Buttery. The surviving wireless operator was Sgt. Maurice Webb RCAF.

Ronald's name can be found on IBCC panel 010.

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