

Sergeant George Rex Boden 1695305 RAFVR

George Boden was a Lancaster rear gunner from Staffordshire whose aircraft was shot down over the North Sea during a mining operation in the last few hours of New Year's Eve in 1944.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster PB894 LE-A of No. 630 Squadron, based at RAF East Kirkby in Lincolnshire. It was one of two aircraft from the squadron which had left at 1620 hours to join a small force of 26 aircraft laying magnetic mines in the Kattegat, off Denmark.



Several night-fighters were sent to intercept and one, flown by Hauptmann Eduard Schröder, claimed to have shot down PB894 at around 2100 hours into the sea around 35 miles north-west of the Danish town of Hanstholm. There were no survivors from George's crew. (By the end of the war, Hauptmann Schröder would shoot down 25 Allied aircraft).

George and his crew had joined 630 Squadron early in September and this was their 16th operation, the third laying mines. He was the 22-year-old son of John and Margaret Boden and lived in Hednesford in Staffordshire with his wife Beryl.

The others who died were the pilot P/O Edward Thomas, flight engineer Sgt. David Jones, navigator Flt. Sgt. William Marshall, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Eric Leese, wireless operator Flt. Sgt. Joseph Jones and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Bernard Phillips. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial (panel 273).

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

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/Aircrew Remembered.