

**Sgt. Robert  
Arthur  
Boothman  
1048079 RAFVR**



Robert Boothman was a young wireless operator in a Lancaster which exploded during an attack on Leipzig in the early hours of 4 December 1943.

His No. 625 Squadron Lancaster I, DV392 CF-Q, had only been delivered from the manufacturers a few days earlier. It was one of seven Lancasters from the squadron which joined a force of 527 bombers to attack the city in the east of Germany.

Twenty-four bombers were lost, including DV392 in which five men were killed, including Robert. Only the Southern Rhodesian pilot S/L Edward Moody and navigator, P/O R Jacobs, survived after being blown clear. It is believed they were attacked by a night fighter and exploded in mid-air near Hanover

Robert's aircraft was just the third lost by 625 since its formation at RAF Kelstern at the beginning of October. His home was in Accrington in Lancashire and he was the 22-year-old son of Fred and Florence Boothman.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Martin Boylan, bomb-aimer Sgt. Jack Earle, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Owen Kent and rear gunner WO Richard Reid. All are buried in Hanover War Cemetery (grave ref. 8. A. 1).

Robert's name can be found on IBCC panel 011.

Sources: 625 Squadron records/625 Squadron Association.