

**Flt. Sgt. Anthony
Ellis Bowman
435772 RAAF**



Anthony Bowman was a young Australian mid-upper gunner who was killed along with the rest of his crew when their Lancaster crashed into a hill in Leicestershire a month before the war in Europe ended.

He was one of six Australians and one Englishmen who died flying in Lancaster ND949 LE-Z (*pictured above*). They hit a hill near the village of Foxton, near Market Harborough at 0310 hours on 9 April 1945 as they returned from a bombing raid on a synthetic oil refinery near Leipzig. They had been diverted due to bad weather and it was later believed either a faulty or wrongly-adjusted altimeter led to the crash.

ND949 had taken off from RAF East Kirkby at 1800 hours the previous night, for the attack which destroyed the Molbis refinery at Lutzkendorf, one of the last supplying fuel to German forces.

Anthony and his crew were on their fourth operation with No. 630 Squadron after joining it in January. His home was in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray, and he was the 23-year-old son of Thomas and Emma Bowman. He is buried in Botley Cemetery, Oxford (Plot H/1. Grave 192).

The others who died were the pilot F/O Colin Richardson RAAF, flight engineer Sgt. Bernard Gibbons (who was also a qualified pilot), navigator Flt. Sgt. Herbert Burton RAAF, bomb-aimer F/O Robert Martin RAAF, wireless operator F/O William Forrester RAAF and rear gunner Flt. Sgt. Frederick Howlett RAAF.

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

Sources: 630 Squadron/Australian Virtual War Memorial.