

Sgt. George Ernest Boxer
1501911 RAFVR

Twenty-one-year-old George Boxer was an experienced rear gunner who died along with four of his crew after being shot down during a raid on Dusseldorf.

He and his No. 49 Squadron crew (pictured along with ground crew) were on their 20th operation with the squadron when they took off from RAF Fiskerton for the raid in the late afternoon of 3 November 1943.



George's Lancaster, ED438, was part of a force of 589 heading for Dusseldorf to deliver an attack which caused extensive damage to the city.

His aircraft was approaching Cologne when it was attacked by a night fighter and subsequently exploded. Two of the crew (and a second pilot flying for battle experience) managed to get clear, but the other five died in the crash. All were buried locally before being reinterred in Rheinberg War Cemetery (grave ref. 2. H. 10).

The others who died were the pilot Flt. Lt. Cecil Thomas, navigator P/O Bill Clutterbuck, bomb-aimer F/O Colin Ross and mid-upper gunner Sgt. Herbert Minns. The three survivors were second pilot P/O J Teager, flight engineer Sgt. Norman Panter and wireless operator Sgt. W Payne.

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

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/Bomber Command Losses 1943 by Bill Chorley.