

Sergeant Alfred John Bristow 1811837 RAFVR



The wreckage of what is believed to be Lancaster PM-T being inspected by German civilians near Paderborn

Twenty-year-old Alfred Bristow was the rear gunner in a No. 103 Squadron crew at RAF Elsham Wolds in late 1943 and the early part of 1944.

He was part of the crew of WO Frank Law, and by late February they had completed six operations, four of them to Berlin. On the night of 19/20 February their Lancaster, ND408 PM-T, was part of a force of 833 aircraft sent to attack the eastern German city of Leipzig. It was a disastrous night for Bomber Command with 78 aircraft being lost, including four from 103 Squadron. One of them was ND408, the Lancaster crashing in thick snow near Paderborn after probably being hit by flak and, it is believed, attempting a crash-landing. Five of the crew were killed including Alfred.

He was the son of Alfred and Alice Bristow of Bethnal Green, London.

The others killed were the pilot, navigator Flt. Sgt. K W Flowers, wireless operator Sgt. R S Johnstone and the mid-upper gunner Sgt. A H Daines. The flight engineer, Sgt. D C Bell, and the bomb-aimer, Sgt. C J D Baldwin, both became prisoners-of-war after baling out.

All those who died at buried in Hanover War Cemetery (Joint grave 16. D. 11-12).

Alfred's name can be found on IBCC panel 013

Photographic source: 103 Squadron Association