

**Sgt. Wilfred Henry
Broadmore 1437834 RAFVR**

Londoner Wilfred Broadmore was a young flight engineer who was killed along with five of his crew when their aircraft was shot down on their 18th operation.

His No. 625 Squadron Lancaster III ND641 CF-T fell victim to a night-fighter flown by Luftwaffe ace Oblt. Martin Drewes over Holland on the evening of 24 March 1944. His was one of 57 bombers lost on the raid, three of them from 625.

Wilfred's Lancaster was one of 17 from the squadron which had joined a force of 811 bombers on what was the final major attack of Bomber Command's 'Battle of Berlin'. Spanning the autumn, winter and early spring of 1943/44, the battle cost the RAF in excess of 600 aircraft.



ND641 had taken off from RAF Kelstern in the Lincolnshire Wolds at 1820 hours on 24 March on their 18th operation (plus their five 'aborts' for mechanical problems). It was intercepted deep into Holland and crashed near the small village of Tubbergen, close to the German border. The only survivor was the Canadian bomb-aimer, WO2 Frank Magee (pictured bottom left above) who was taken in by the Dutch resistance and evaded capture until the country's liberation by the Allies.

Wilfred is pictured top right in this crew photograph during the deep snow which covered Kelstern in January 1944. He came from East Ham in London where he lived with his young wife, Joan, and was the 21-year-old son of James and Ada Broadmore.

The others who died were the pilot WO2 John Owen RCAF, navigator Sgt. John Lavender, wireless operator Sgt. Percival Simpkin, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Harry Nixon RCAF and rear gunner Sgt. William Clark. All are buried in the Roman Catholic Church cemetery in Tubbergen (grave 6).

Wilfred's name can be found on IBCC panel 013.

Sources: Aircrew Remembered – Jack Albrecht/625 Squadron records.