

Sgt. Leslie Alfred Broomfield 1398296
RAFVR



Leslie Broomfield was a young London-born Lancaster wireless operator who was killed over Germany along with his crew during their second operation in 15 hours.

He was part of the crew of Lancaster PD283 LE-G from No. 630 Squadron which had taken off for an attack on Darmstadt at 2044 hours on the evening of 11 September 1944. Earlier in the day, Leslie and his crew had taken the same Lancaster to France for an attack on German troop concentrations around the port of Le Havre, taking off that time at 0540 hours.

The Darmstadt raid was his crew's 14th operation together since joining the RAF East Kirkby-based squadron in July. PD283 was claimed by two Luftwaffe night-fighter pilots, one of 12 Lancasters lost during the attack by 226 Lancasters and 12 Mosquitos which devastated the city.

PD283 crashed in a wooded area near the village of Schmidthackenbach, west of the Rhine, killing all seven men on board. They were buried locally before being later reinterred in the Rheinberg War Cemetery (Coll. grave 8. D. 6-10).

Leslie came from Walthamstow where he lived with his wife, Eleanor, and was the 22-year-old son of Edward and Alice Broomfield.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Charles Faulkner, flight engineer Sgt. Robert Cranefield, navigator Sgt. George Lawrie, bomb-aimer P/O Donald Boyd RCAF, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Thomas Riley and rear gunner Sgt. Ronald Quinn.

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

Sources: 630 Squadron Association/IBCC.