

Sgt. Reginald William Brown 658431 RAF

Reg Brown was a young bomb-aimer who was killed along with all but one of his crew on their first operation.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED469 EA-A from No. 49 Squadron, was shot down near Hanover during a raid on Berlin on the night of 29/30 March 1943.

The raid involved 317 bombers, with 49 Squadron's take-off from RAF Fiskerton being delayed by bad weather. The squadron sent 12 Lancasters to take part in the attack. Three were flown by crews on their first operation; only one of those made it back to their base in Lincolnshire.

Reg's aircraft was intercepted at around 18,000 feet near Neustadt at 0326 hours by a night-fighter flown by Oblt. Hans Krause. They were shot down and crashed near the village of Eilvese, north-west of Hanover. The only survivor was the rear gunner, Sgt. George Jones, who suffered a broken leg and other injuries which led to him being repatriated by the Germans.



Reg Brown's home was in Ilford in Essex and he was the 22-year-old son of William and Amelia Brown.

The others who died were the pilot F/O George Mabee RCAF, flight engineer Sgt. James Cross, navigator Sgt. Walter Carr, wireless operator Sgt. Alexander McClaren and mid-upper gunner Sgt. John Jewell. All are buried in Hanover War Cemetery, grave ref. 12. D. 19.

Reg's name can be found on IBCC panel 014.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/IBCC/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.